

KeizerOpinion

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The end of a parade

It was exciting in 2011 when the Festival of Lights Holiday Parade migrated from Salem to Keizer. We have the Miracle of Christmas lighting display in the Gubser neighborhood. We have the annual Keizer Iris Festival parade.

Having the Lights parade come to Keizer was a beautiful feather in our civic cap. Unfortunately, nothing lasts forever. Parade organizers announced this week that the Festival of Lights Parade is no more. After 25 years the dedicated volunteer Cheryl Mitchell decided it was time to step back, enjoy life and travel the world with her husband.

Organizing the parade (one of the largest light parades in the United States) is practically a full-time volunteer endeavor. Once one year's parade is finished, planning for the next parade begins almost immediately.

editorial

Though there will be no Festival of Lights Parade this December, we hope to see a volunteer, an organization or a company pick up the banner and resurrect it for future years.

A holiday parade such as this should not go away without a fight. It draws spectators from around the region which makes it a good marketing tool for the city and it is good for businesses along the parade route that work to take advantage of the large crowds.

A lighted holiday parade is not inexpensive nor easy to stage. Our community has the experience and knowledge to put on one of the state's largest parades (Iris Festival). Who will step up to put their experience to work on a holiday parade? —LAZ

A detrimental proposal

By KAYLI HANLEY

Agriculture. A way of life that dates back to America's Founding Fathers. It is not only a lifestyle that allows people to produce food, it is a lifestyle that allows people to care for the land in such a way that the land is brought to its fullest potential. In Eastern Oregon, some groups seek to designate 2.5 million acres of Oregon land into a national monument. This is a move that would be devastating to the ranchers and community of Malheur County.

Jerome Rosa, executive director for Oregon Cattlemen's Association, elaborated on why this designation would hurt Oregon ranchers.

"In essence, it could devastate the local economy, their businesses, their culture and their children's future. The designation would establish additional restrictions that would affect or eliminate their ability to ranch in that area," he said.

Ranchers who live in the area aren't fully sure what to expect, but looking at other monument designations, things don't look good.

"I don't have a clue what will happen," said past OCA President and current Malheur County rancher Bob Skinner. "They tell you it's not going to affect ranching, but historically (monument designations)

guest column

are a disaster." Skinner said he cannot find anywhere where a monument designation has been a success story for ranching.

He said the designation also brings concern for how future wildfire management through the Range Land Fire Protection Association (RFPA), a group largely made up of local citizens and ranchers, will occur. "We are the front line for fire suppression. If history repeats itself, we suspect RFPA's won't be able to access the roads needed to fight wildfires easily," Skinner said.

Several efforts are in progress to try and stop the monument designation in Malheur County. "OCA is working with local ranching groups, a public relations group, and with state and federal legislatures to prevent the monument designation," Rosa said.

Meanwhile, those in Malheur County brace themselves for the possibility of a designation that would threaten their way of life. "Cattle is the number one industry in Malheur County," Skinner said. "If we take a bunch of cattle out of the county, it's going to devastate its economy. It will have an impact on the state."

(Kayli Hanley is the communications director for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.)

Thank you, Uptown Music

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Keizer Community Food Bank, I want to wish Paul Elliott and the Uptown Music staff a happy anniversary for 25 years of service to the music community in Keizer and the Salem area.

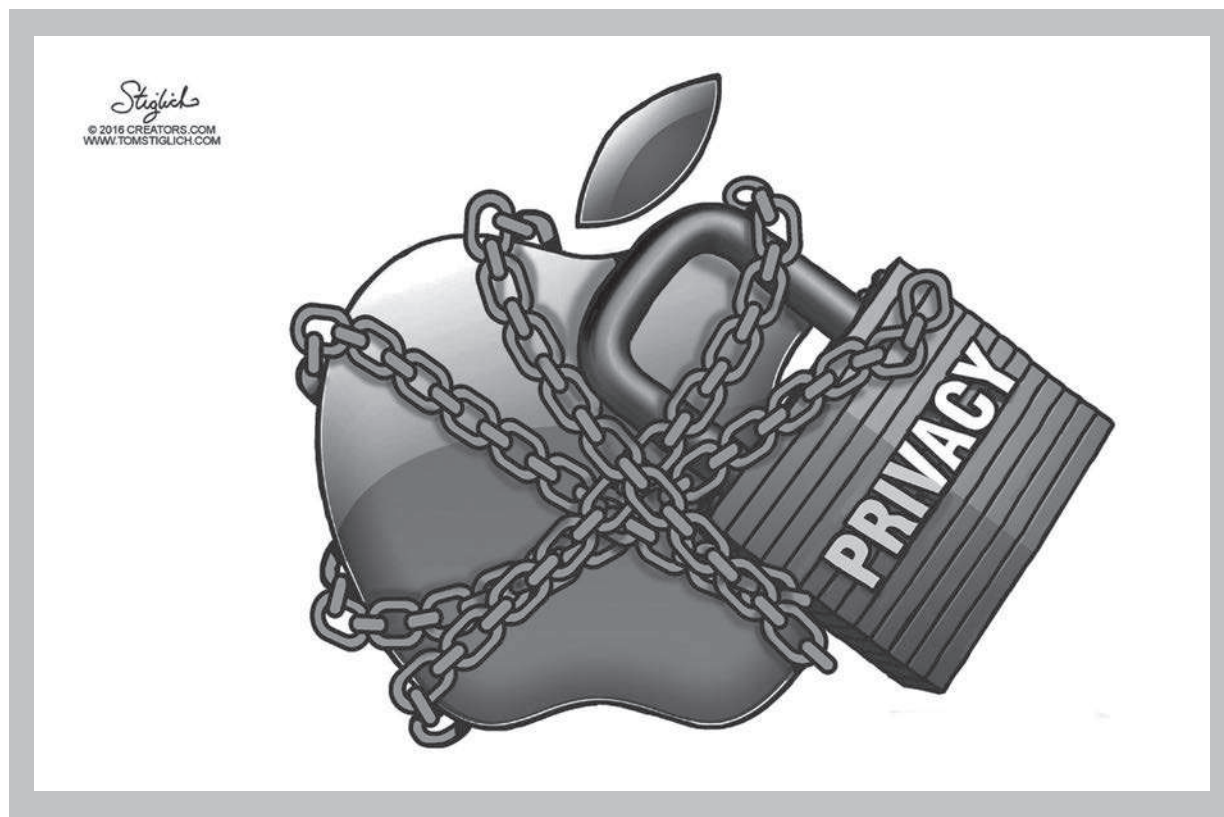
Also extended kudos for making their celebration party a fund raiser for the KCFB. Because of Uptown

letters

Music's good will and the generosity of the music community, the food bank received more than \$900 and 200 pounds of food to put on the pantry shelves. That's a song worth singing!

Thanks Uptown for your sustaining support of our food ministry and the ongoing fight against hunger.

**Curt McCormack, Director
Keizer Community Food Bank**



Trump's destructive nationalism

By MICHAEL GERSON

The main focus of Donald Trump's media coverage has been his populist disdain for elites. But his main focus has often been a strident version of American nationalism.

Trump has offered this explanation of his own ambitions: "The reason I'm thinking about [running for office]," he told the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in 2011, "is that the United States has become a whipping post for the rest of the world. ... I deal with people from China, I deal with people from Mexico. They cannot believe what they're getting away with."

It is difficult to discern a foreign policy in Trump's oeuvre of rambling, extemporaneous speechmaking and Twitter pronouncements. He usually communicates without a hint of actual argument. But there is some consistency to his various statements.

Trump believes that American allies in Europe and Asia have become free riders that should defend themselves and pay their own way. He calls the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty unfair. In exchange for the protection of South Korea, he argues, "we get practically nothing." Mexico is "ripping us off" and purposely sending us criminals. It must be compelled to pay for a continent-wide wall. Trump proposes to "tax China for each bad act" and has raised the possibility of a 45 percent tariff. Vladimir Putin, in contrast, should be given a free hand in the Middle East to go after Sunni radicals and other opponents of the Syrian regime. And America should focus on killing terrorists as well as targeting their families for murder, apparently on the theory that war crimes are a demonstration of super-duper toughness.

other views

As Trump's political prospects have improved, we are required to give these foreign policy views more serious

analysis, which is more than Trump himself has done. When pressed on such issues in debates and interviews, he is utterly incoherent. A man who confuses the Kurds with the Quds (Iran's expeditionary military force) hasn't the slightest familiarity with current events in the Middle East. And it feels like we have, so far, explored only the fringes of his ignorance.

But it is the theory behind Trump's threats that is particularly dangerous. He is not an isolationist, in the Rand Paul sense. He is more of a Jacksonian (in Walter Russell Mead's typology)—preferring a strong America that is occasionally roused to kill its enemies but then returns home and avoids entangling international commitments. America, in this view, should vigorously pursue narrow national interests and seek to be feared rather than loved.

This conception of America's international role was common, before America had a serious international role. A Gallup poll from 1937 showed that 70 percent of Americans thought their intervention in World War I had been a mistake. In early 1940, as German intentions of conquest were clear, less than 10 percent thought America should send its military abroad.

But this view of America is as relevant to current affairs as political events in ancient Rome. "The great need today isn't to 'beat' core allies such as Mexico and Japan, while working with Vladimir Putin," George

Mason University's Colin Dueck explains diplomatically. "On the contrary, the urgent need is to constrain aggressors such as Putin while supporting core U.S. allies like Mexico and Japan."

Less gently put, Trump would be a president who could not reliably tell America's enemies from its friends. He contemplates actions like weakening American security assurances to South Korea that might invite war (recall the outcome in 1950 of Secretary of State Dean Acheson's implication that South Korea was outside America's "defensive perimeter"). Trump promises actions—like forcing the Mexican government to fund the great wall of Trump—that are, in the formal language of international relations, loony, unhinged, bonkers. His move to impose massive tariffs against China would earn derisive laughter at the World Trade Organization; if he persisted anyway, it might blow up the global trading order and dramatically increase tensions in Asia.

A Jacksonian role for America is positively dangerous in a world where many threats—terrorism, pandemic disease, refugee flows, drug cartels—emerge in failed states and hopeless places. It has never been more evident that the success of America depends on an expanding system of free trade, free markets, democratic governance and strong alliances—upheld, in Asia, Europe and elsewhere, by American security guarantees.

Trump's version of American nationalism without reference to American principles is Putinism by another name. And it is just one more way that Trump would sully the spirit of the nation he seeks to lead.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

Will we see more citizen militias?

One supposes that Oregonians sleep more peacefully these nights knowing that not only have the occupiers of the wildlife refuge in Harney County given up the site, most of them are in jail and under indictment over their 41-day siege. Nevertheless, it'd be a whole lot more reassuring if we knew that the present moment brought us to a place where the militia movement had been stopped; unfortunately there are many more militias out there to threaten our security and safety than there are members of ISIS and other external organizations that seek to do us no good.

Citizen militias are just the youngest of the major right-wing anti-government movements in the U.S., although it arguably has seared itself into the American consciousness as few if any other a so-called fringe movement has. Militia was incorrectly linked to the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 but thereby became a household name. However, if those folks were not linked to Oklahoma City, they have been associated with other bombing plots, conspiracies and serious violations of the law. Their extreme anti-government ideology, devotion to conspiracy theories without factual connections, and fixation with and purchase of excessive weaponry and paramilitary organization, lead them to behave in ways that arouse concerns on the part of public officials, law enforcement and the public at large.

The extreme right has long held a special fascination with paramilitary groups. They existed before the second World War while the militia movement now has tied with Posse Comitatus which developed a grand conspiratorial view of American history and government, one that stood with the idea that the legitimate gov-

gene h. mcintyre

ernment had been taken over by conspirators and replaced with a illegitimate, tyrannical government. Hence,

Posse members believed that the people had the power and responsibility to "take back" the government by force, using arms to do so.

What turned their idea of what's good and right into reality in the early 1990s were several events that made angry people on the extreme right out of them, sufficiently large enough to start a new movement. The events that angered them included the election of Bill Clinton, the Rodney King riots, Ruby Ridge (1992), Waco (1993) and the North American Free Trade Agreement. Critical to what's happened since, to the extreme right these were examples of a government run amok and one willing to stop at nothing to destroy those people who refused to conform. These matters provided a rebirth to several extremist movements, from Christian Identity activists to sovereign citizens and the militia movement organized to prevent another Ruby Ridge.

Many militia members and leaders are gun-rights activists who fear imminent gun confiscation as well as those who maintain a fascination with government conspiracies. The combination of anger at the government, fear of gun confiscation and susceptibility to great conspiracy theories is what has formed the core of the militia movement's ideology. Criminal activity remains more or less constant with militia members getting themselves in trouble with the law on a fairly regular basis. The occupiers and the laws

they broke when they gathered and took over the federal refuge in Harney County is what one might refer to as "par for the course" with these folks.

The U.S. Constitution was designed in an effort to establish and maintain a democracy. It works reasonably well and most Americans prefer its continuation versus a bunch of ill-informed and easy-to-bamboozle hoodlums, the likes of which the militia movement represents. Apparently there's no turning these people into responsible, law-abiding citizens because of their belief in guns for everyone, no matter their lack of sanity, and that the U.S. government is owned and operated only by those persons who want to take all freedoms away and incarcerate accordingly.

It might be helpful to show them how good they've got it compared to living in most other countries on our planet. Yet, whatever rant and rave is appropriate, such effort to reform them will not change the mindlessness and ignorance of these people. Law enforcement did not head directly into them, like was done at Waco and Ruby Ridge, because it would only reinforce their hatred of our government and their acting out as has been proven in Harney County. So, the only way found in these United States to deal effectively with this kind of government-hater is to hit them in the pocketbook real hard (the reported costs related to the 41-day occupation in Harney County are at least \$3.3 million) and incarcerate them for long periods in hopes that, given time to reflect on their foolishness, (although I'm not counting on it) a measure of better sense will occur.

(Gene H. McIntyre's column appears weekly in the *Keizertimes*.)



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