

# KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Yes, Keizer is safe

By CATHY CLARK

Are we safe? I have heard that very sincere question many times as we have read reports of crimes committed at our local businesses this week.

Our police chief has stated that folks in our community who do not live a high risk lifestyle, i.e. drug dealing, sex-trafficking, theft, or gangs, are not the people involved in the shootings that have caused us concern and demanded resources from our police staff. We live on the Interstate 5 corridor and that impacts the kinds of crimes that occur. But those crimes get solved. Our police staff—patrol, detectives, traffic safety, community response, school resource, evidence and records, and K9—get the job done well.

We have a strong community. We care about each other and are aware of what is going on around us. We say something when the circumstances look wrong. We take active measures to secure our loved ones and our property. We have Neighborhood Watch, neighborhood and homeowners groups looking out for each other. We have city police, county sheriff deputies and state troopers living in our neighborhoods. As prudent, reasonable, and responsible people, we have taken many of the steps necessary to create a generally safe community.

Can we do more? Yes.

Crime prevention means we take the time to secure our properties, train our family members and employees on proper security measures, get to know our neighbors, maintain situational awareness, and get involved in our community. Creating a safe community also means locking doors, windows and cars, mowing the lawn, fixing broken windows, having proper lighting, and both noticing and reporting when something looks out of place. It also means maintaining a well-trained, equipped, and properly

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column

staffed police force.

Our city is founded on volunteerism, but this is one area where we have never chosen a DIY approach. We have wonderful volunteers working in the office and serving as Reserve Officers. But to provide us all with the services we need, we have chosen to have a professional police department. That requires a lot of resources to do it right. It's a very complex business, requiring staffing around the clock, every day of the year. 24/7. And when an officer is sick, has to go to court to testify, or is on leave to care for a family member, we have to be able to continue providing the services our citizens demand and deserve. The budget we just passed does that, using the tax dollars you have entrusted to us in the most responsible, cost-effective manner we can.

But, Keizer has grown. And the resources we currently have available are never going to be enough to staff our force at the optimum level for our growing community. Our permanent tax rate of \$2.08/\$1000 was set in 1992 and was never meant to provide the services we stretch to provide already.

It is time for us to come together as a Keizer community to talk about public safety. Not out of fear for what has happened, but out of our civic responsibility to make reasoned decisions for our community safety. Together, we need to decide what level of policing we want to provide and are willing to fund, and how those funds will be raised.

We have the opportunity to set the course for Keizer into the future. Ultimately, we each have a part to play in being safe. Our proud, volunteer spirit in Keizer means that we accept that responsibility. Are we safe? Yes, I believe that we are. Let's work together to keep us that way.

(Cathy Clark is mayor of Keizer.)

## American experiment 240 years on

On Monday July 4, America celebrates her 240th birthday, Independence Day. That day is one of the greatest days in human history.

When a struggling colony threw off the shackles of an overbearing government and said "we are free" by declaring its independence and then at the cost of thousands of lives, defended that independence. Two hundred-forty years later, we celebrate with fireworks, picnics, parades and time with friends and family, and that is all fantastic but I hope that we will all take a moment to look back and reflect on the cost of "independence" and consider our gratitude for those great men we call our "Founding Fathers" who took this movement so serious that they were willing to sacrifice all that they had including their lives.

This "experiment" that is America is still evolving, still learning and still growing and it is, and forever will be, the greatest nation the world has ever known. The United States of America has helped more people, assisted more nations and protected the world more than any nation before and it is with great love and respect for this country that I write this. I am proud to be called an American.

from the  
capitol

By BILL POST

There is one person here in Keizer, whom I would like to tell you about who has special significance to Independence Day. Mr. Paul Wagner is my friend and fellow member of my church. We have found that he is Oregon's oldest living World War II veteran. His birthday is July 4; he will be 104 this year. He fought in the war then spent a long career in business and has touched many lives over this last century. He's one of my heroes and to bring this full circle back to Independence Day, without men like Paul, this "experiment" called America, might have failed. I honor and cherish him every time I get to see him.

So, this Independence Day, go to St. Paul and watch a parade. Or go to Keizer Rapids Park and have a picnic. Go to the Volcanoes game and enjoy "America's Pastime" and fireworks or just spend time in the backyard with your family but whatever you do, remember how we achieved this independence and have a wonderful Fourth of July.

(Bill Post represents House District 25. He can be reached at 503-986-1425 or via email at rep.billpost@state.or.us.)



## Learning from Britian's crisis

By E.J. DIONNE JR.

Elites are in trouble. High levels of immigration are destabilizing our democracies. Politicians who put their short-term political interests over their countries' needs reap the whirlwind—for themselves but, more importantly, for their nations.

Citizens who live in the economically ailing peripheries of wealthy nations are in revolt against well-off and cosmopolitan metropolitan areas. Older voters lock in decisions that young voters reject. Traditional political parties on the left and right are being torn asunder.

One of the few good things about Britain's vote to leave the European Union is the rich curriculum of lessons it offers leaders and electorates in other democracies.

History is unlikely to be kind to British Prime Minister David Cameron. Last week's referendum was not the product of broad popular demand. Cameron called it to solve a short-term political problem and get through an election. His Conservative Party was split on Europe and feared hemorrhaging votes to the right-wing, anti-Europe, anti-immigrant UK Independence Party.

Cameron figured that kicking his troubles down the road by promising a future plebiscite on Europe could make them go away. Instead, he turned a normal electoral challenge into a profound crisis that could lead to the breakup of his country while threatening Europe's future. The devastating complaint of Martin Schulz, the president of the European parliament: "A whole continent is taken hostage because of an internal fight in the Tory Party."

For all the Union Jacks hoisted at Leave rallies, the nationalism behind this was English, not British. England voted to get out of the EU, Scotland overwhelmingly to stay. Northern

other  
views

Ireland also favored Remain, while Wales split narrowly for Leave, its more English parts voting like England.

Suddenly, for Scots who want their country to be independent, their nationalism becomes a form of pro-European internationalism. To stay in Europe, they have to escape Britain. Northern Ireland's status is now also in doubt.

Don't trash democracy or the voters. Where complicated choices are involved—and Brexit defines complexity—leaders in representative democracies need the guts to make hard calls and submit themselves to voters afterward. They should not use referendums purely to evade responsibility.

In fact, now that this road has been opened, real democrats should demand a second referendum on the terms of an exit deal. On Thursday, voters bet that the unknown would be better than the known. They should get to vote again on the full implications of what they set in motion.

The European idea was killed in part by right-wing Tories who think they can turn their island into a free trade, low-regulation paradise. But it was also battered in traditionally Labour-voting industrial areas far away from a happy and generally prosperous London that voted overwhelmingly to stay. A partial tally of the discontent: 68 percent Leave in Barnsley; 70 percent in the authority that includes Grimsby; and 62 percent in South Shields' borough.

Emma Lewell-Buck, the Labor parliamentarian who represents South Shields and supported Re-

main, was right to say that UKIP leader Nigel Farage "whipped everyone up into a frenzy with his hateful language."

Ethno-nationalism is on the rise across Europe and this vote will only intensify the trend. But in so many nations, including our own, technological change, globalization and financialization force the left-out to stare at prosperity from a great distance. In their justified frustration, they often see immigration as of a piece with the other changes in the world that they deplore.

Responsible officials should always be ready to denounce racism. But their job description also requires them to provide realistic policy answers to quell the rage. If center-right and center-left politicians fail to do this, their parties will remain suspect.

Yet if Britain's vote is understandable, it's also a cause for sadness. It's a vote against a more open world and a rejection of the idea that democracies can actually gain power by pooling sovereignty and seeking goals in common.

The Leave campaign used slogans very familiar to Americans, including variations on "Take Our Country Back" and "Britain First." These resonated with older voters who backed Leave by big margins. Younger Britons, who voted strongly to stay in Europe, will be shackled for many years to a result their elders imposed on them.

Friends of open societies have been slapped in the face by citizens who are themselves retaliating for having been knocked around and ignored for too long. Across Europe and in the United States, politicians can either respond to these cries of protest or face something worse than Brexit.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

## Election won't unjam political gridlock

Many Americans say they're unhappy with the way the U.S. government is being run and demand wholesale changes. Whatever the individual views among us, it's argued here that we should be the beneficiaries of at least two healthy parties where there are center-right and a center-left choices. The center-right some say should stand to offer market-based solutions to global warming, gun control, fiscal policy, free trade and its impacts, and reassuring insights for the challenges of foreign policy where atomic weapons can get into the hands of madmen.

What's happened in 2016 is that the center-right party has become ethically challenged and downright dangerous by playing on the ignorance and fears of many Americans. Within its membership are anti-government Tea Party followers who want to end all public programs while cutting taxes on the wealthy, members of big oil who are determined to crush efforts at renewable fuels, global-warming deniers, and working any and all means to bring America's middle class to their knees along with our nation's 225-year struggle to establish and maintain a democracy.

In a head-long rush to establish an ideology based on Spartan conditions for most Americans, they have thrown their support behind a presidential candidate who's devoid of policy knowledge, refuses to do his homework, uses racial and ethnic slurs to attack a well-respected federal judge because the judge won't do his bidding, has made fun of hand-

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icapped Americans, ignores the First Amendment that guarantees religious freedom and promises to ban all Muslims, says he'll build a wall across the U.S. southern border at Mexico's expense, end treaties with tried and true U.S. allies, condones "the bomb" for scary maniacs and absolute dictators, and refuses to correct the chronic use of fiction in his public pronouncements.

Meanwhile, GOP leaders find their man to be acceptable if not the making of a great leader. House of Representative Speaker Paul Ryan drags his feet with reservations about him yet says he'll vote for Trump. John McCain was too tough to break under the torture of the North Vietnamese but now accepts Trump. Marco Rubio called Trump "a con man" while Trump referred to him as "Little Marco" but all that's ignored now with Rubio's endorsement. Chris Christie has become valet to a man who tells a bald-faced lie about Muslims cheering in New Jersey when the twin towers fell. Then, too, an entire column could be written on the number of Republicans originally confessing repulsion regarding Trump but are nowadays aboard the Trump bandwagon and will vote accordingly.

Then, too, regarding Hillary, millions say they do not trust her, remembering examples of alleged wrongdoing over the years of her

career in public jobs. Meanwhile, she has many among her colleagues who've endorsed her but her main competitor, Bernie Sanders, is loved and followed because they believe he's honest and trustworthy, a person in the Oval Office, unlike Hillary, who will actually try hard to get done what he has advocated in his campaign promises. Thirteen million Democrats voted for Bernie in the primaries versus 17 million for Hillary with 45 percent of Bernie supporters at this writing not committed to voting for Hillary. Further, away from cameras, Hillary's reported to be a person who apparently does not like to interact with her fellow Americans.

In what looks to be a very long four months until Election Day on November 8, it's surmised that the eventual winner may be he or she who chooses a likeable, known-to-be-trusted running mate. Meanwhile, voting for either presumptive candidate presents a problem for this voter in a contest generating lack of enthusiasm. In a fantasy of wishful thinking, it's dreamed we had the prospect of a leader in whom the American public held in high regard and possessed the leadership skills to be followed by a majority in both parties. Unfortunately, what's anticipated in a win by either contender is a deadlocked Congress with nothing consequentially getting done in Washington again for the next four years.

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



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