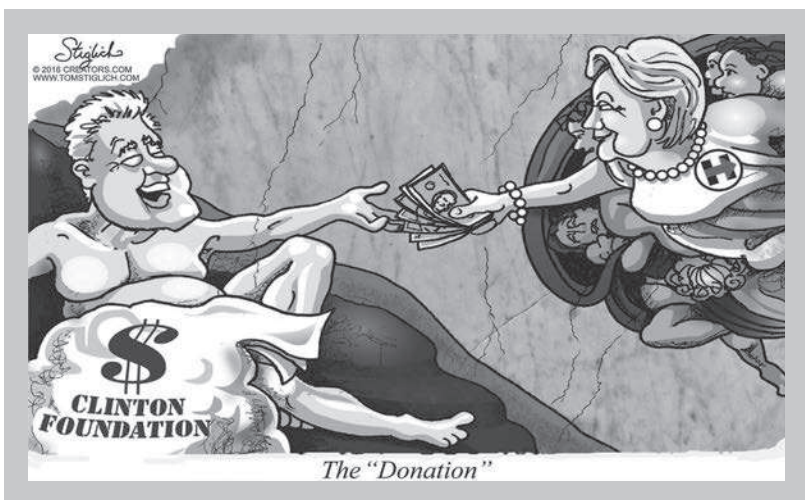


KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM



Build new, maintain old

Things are really perking up in Keizer these days with new construction and installations.

Ground has been broke at Schoolhouse Square to build a replacement for the space now occupied by Starbucks and Mr. Video+Games. A new Starbucks building was just completed on River Road just south of Chemawa Road.

Construction continues apace at the east end of Keizer with Bonaventure's new senior living facility and a new apartment complex. Initial work is being done in Keizer Station for the city's second hotel—a Holiday Inn Express.

Taco Bell on River Road is getting a complete overall.

McNary High School has a refurbished gymnasium floor thanks to the McNary Athletic Booster Club.

Keizer's second mural will be dedicated next month. The 140-foot long mural depicts our community's favorite event: the Iris Festival Parade. We are scratching our heads over the inclusion of Albert Einstein holding an apple (apples were Isaac Newton's thing)—it must be an art thing we regular people don't understand.

Regarding dedications, the roundabout at Chemawa Road and Verda Lane will officially open to traffic on Sept. 2. We suspect the roundabout will be a major topic of discussion in Keizer for the first few weeks as opinions of support and derision are expressed.

It is good to see these improvements and additions to the city. Bonaventure's retirement facility will add new jobs in-city that are desperately needed.

Jobs will also be added when tenants are found for the former Roth's Fresh Market site at Schoolhouse Square and the empty spaces at Creekside Center at River Road and Lockhaven Drive.

Keizer can take a giant employment leap forward if it can navigate

editorial

an expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary north of the city. The focus of any UGB expansion should be on commercial development that would attract the types of businesses that will create good paying jobs. Expansion of the urban growth boundary will, undoubtedly, be the major issue the city council tackles over the next four to five years. The issues of growth and urban growth boundary expansion should be a major topic during this fall's city council campaigns.

It should be the never-ending effort of the city and its leaders to position Keizer as a desirable place to do business. New buildings, new traffic control and pretty murals will only go so far.

Until, or unless, the UGB can be expanded we need to work with what we have. That includes assuring that our main thoroughfares are clean and inviting. A good example is the recent upgrade of Martinez Tires at River Rd. and Manbrin Dr. It's not easy to make that kind of business look pleasing, but they've done it. The effort to revitalize and beautify River Road has been a hit-or-miss proposition. There are too many examples of unkempt landscaping or buildings in need of maintenance. A recent example

A city is more than just the people who live there. It is also the totality of its infrastructure and the ambiance of the community. Leaders—both public and private—should take a critical look at our main streets and try to see it through the eyes of a potential business and job creator.

Keizer is perking up with all the changes and improvements but let us be sure we are perking up what we have now. Keizerites love their community. How can we get stakeholders to love the community in which they do business enough to beautify and maintain the public face of Keizer—its commercial core.

—LAZ

One-party rule not good

I hope that you've had as good a summer as I have had. For many of the 20 summers the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes have been here, I was the public address announcer including this summer. I'm a huge Los Angeles Dodgers fan so as you can imagine, it's been very hard to root for future San Francisco Giants. I bring this up because it reminds me a little bit of politics. I am a Republican and not ashamed to say so (nor should you in whatever party or non-party you are a part of).

I have to say in all honesty, I not only root for the Dodgers to win, but hope for the Giants to lose. Is that how I feel about politics? Sort of. Of course I don't want people themselves to lose, but I feel strongly that the Republican ideas for making Oregon a better place are the way to "win." I feel just as strongly that the Democratic ideas are not always the best way for Oregon to "win" and after these past two years, I'm even more convinced of that regarding the minimum wage hike, paid sick leave, low carbon fuel standard, universal background checks and more. They might sound like lofty ideas but in reality they hurt more

from the capitol

Rep. BILL POST



than they help. The best way to make Oregon successful is to even out "the playing field" by having the Oregon House be closer in Republicans and Democrats and not the current huge amount of difference in numbers. Now one might say that I would like to see those number swing to my advantage, but truthfully, anyone who knows me well knows that I was a huge fan of the 30-30 tie the House had several years ago. I am hoping that the people of Oregon will see that we need equal representation from both sides of the aisle. We can work together, root for each other, and get a lot more done in the process. In the long and short sessions of 2015-16, over 800 bills became law. Out of those new laws, only about 6 percent were solely chief sponsored by Republicans. I've spoken to people from both sides of that aisle and not found anyone that thinks that is a good representation of all of Oregon. So, as you think about the elections in the next few months, I'd like you to think about that illustration.

Is that what you want for Oregon? (Bill Post represents House District 25. He can be reached at 503-986-1425 or via email at rep.bill.post@state.or.us.)

Cheap populism helps no one

By MICHAEL GERSON

With defeat now the likely outcome for the Republican presidential nominee, the blame shifting has begun early and in earnest.

To some partisans such as Sean Hannity, the responsibility for the expected loss—as well as for Hillary Clinton's Supreme Court picks and "whatever illegal immigrants do"—lies with Never Trump conservatives. Whether or not Hannity is the sharp-knife in the drawer (a matter of recent controversy), he leaves Occam's razor rusty from disuse.

Isn't it more likely that Republicans are losing because their candidate has committed enough gaffes to torpedo 10 campaigns? Because he has premised his appeal on prejudice? Because he displays no appreciation of constitutional values and offers himself as a strongman? Because he has no knowledge of, or interest in, public policy? Because he is an erratic narcissist with a compulsive need to crush and humiliate his critics? Holding Never Trump forces responsible for all this is akin to blaming the spectators in Lakehurst, New Jersey, for the Hindenburg disaster. The pointing and gawking did not cause the flames.

For the record, I am in favor of the Davos set becoming more sensitive to the struggles of their countrymen. But all these fat cats at Coca-Cola, Monsanto, Pfizer and Microsoft deserve at least a bleat in response. They are leading participants in an economic system—with its global supply chains, freely moving capital and rapid innovation—that, during the last 20 years, has taken about a billion people out of

other views

extreme poverty around the world. This is arguably the greatest humanitarian achievement in history. With this economic

growth has come miracle drugs, vaccines, improved sanitation and better agricultural technology. Global life expectancy in 1960 was 52.5 years; today it is 71.4. In the early 1930s, American life expectancy was about 60—what it currently is in Malawi. Now American life expectancy is nearly 80. The United States has benefited from being the most engaged and adaptable economy in this global system—selling goods in other countries, and buying goods (cars, smartphones, clothing) that have dramatically improved the daily lives of nearly every American. But rapid economic change has also laid waste to whole industries and the communities sustained by them, resulting in toxic stress and terrible suffering. Since the 1940s, American manufacturing output (as a percentage of GDP) has been remarkably stable. But manufacturing employment has fallen by about two-thirds (as a percentage of the U.S. workforce). This is not so much the result of CEOs making a quick buck on outsourcing as a reflection of automation and global competitive pressures.

Our political system has been negligent in helping millions of Americans adapt during a period of rapid economic change. But those on the

left and right who promise to reverse the process of globalization are economic charlatans. Their main policy response—tariffs and other forms of protectionism—is a proven path to trade wars and global recession, which hurt the vulnerable most. Conservative economics offers three positive alternatives: Provide a growth-oriented economic environment (including opportunities to sell overseas). Give workers the education and skills to succeed in a modern economy. And subsidize the wages of lower-skill jobs to provide a decent living.

Who are the obstacles in pursuing such policies? On the latter two, it is not globalized elites; it is more likely to be conservative ideologues. Thirty American CEOs at Davos would come up with several ideas to improve, say, educational standards. Thirty members of the House Freedom Caucus would oppose all of them on principle. In fact, conservative populists are now working along with education unions to undermine rigorous education standards, apparently on the theory that educational failure is acceptable so long as local officials do the failing.

The response to these economic arguments from populists is usually ad hominem: *Of course an elitist would say something like that.* Which is particularly annoying coming from conservative elites, who are embracing the cheapest form of populism, involving no intellectual energy, no policy innovation and no actual help for those in need. The poor deserve better tribunes. (Washington Post Writers Group)

Restructure school chief's job

There are matters about which I feel like shouting, "There's got to be a better way!" For example: the way we spend our tax money on our local schools, in this instance, the Salem-Keizer School District.

One reference in particular has to do with the apparent knee-jerk need by members of the school board to raise the salary of the superintendent. Now really, what has this relatively new person in the job done accomplished to warrant an increase in direct pay salary of \$17,000 from the current \$204,000 to \$221,000 per annum plus all the retirement benefits and other perks provided her and other large district superintendents these days?

Much of the need to raise superintendent salaries has to do with the mindless need to keep up with other districts. This false premise is an effort to scramble, like the old "keeping up with the Joneses," leads most of us to reach for a barf bag. In the first place, how many public employees among us have any basis for an 8.25 percent raise? They do not, specifically when available money remains scarce for everything that's truly important. Just one priority is enough money in mid-Willamette Valley treasuries to hire sufficient numbers of police officers in the state's cities and counties to keep after the ever-swelling number of the criminally-minded. Multiple other examples of public money needs can be readily cited, the homeless and their deprived children just one.

Now, take a little time to consider the S-K superintendent's situation. The public school district here pro-

gene h. mcintyre

vides a rather large building, conveniently located directly off Lancaster Drive in which the superintendent occupies a huge private corner office on the second floor with an outer office connected to hers where at least three direct subordinates serve her every bidding. Then there is the remainder of the building, housing many a specialist whose job one should be to aid the district's learners but who figuratively spend a lot of their time bowing and curtsying in the direction of the superintendent's office and far too often, it's been concluded, work mostly to make her look good.

Which brings up another point. It is believed from this writer's experience and observations that the modern day school superintendent would better serve the K-12 students in the district if the person holding the job were appointed by her/his peers to that job as a temporary assignment every two years. Superintendents under the current order of things get far too deep into the politics of keeping their job and trying thereby to move to a higher paying job within the nation's education establishment, as our most recent superintendent did, or another larger district as others have done. At that point, all the throwing of raises, perks and more salary, to compete with Portland, etc. to keep them in Salem-Keizer, receive a variation of the Bronx cheer.

Keeping a lid on what's already

above a very reasonable salary at the hiring outset, an amount almost everyone in the mid-Willamette Valley would love to appreciate for themselves and their families, is the job of the local school board. But these folks have, with few exceptions, run for a school board position promising to pay scrupulous attention to taxpayer concerns when, almost as soon as they're elected, become something akin to lap dogs. I've been aware over the years that any board member who did not go along with the interests and objectives of the superintendent will soon find himself to be an ugly intruder who, it is surmised, walks out muttering: Nothing's going to change here, I may as well sell pet rocks.

The basic problem is that in most political activities, and our public schools have become mostly political institutions, and, incidentally, learning centers, is that the wrongs like excessive superintendent pay, mainly underway in Oregon for the last 50 years, have been institutionalized and therefore as difficult to get rid of as a patch of English ivy, a crabgrass infestation, or Asian carp. Mainly, school districts have become rigor mortised and can't move because those persons in the central office have too much to lose should their excessive paychecks and power be adjusted to sensible levels so they fight with all their might to retain the status quo and, unfortunately to the dire need of a quality learning environment in our public schools, prevail.

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

Measure 96 is big boost for veterans

By PAUL EVANS

This November, Oregonians have an unprecedented opportunity to assist our veterans who struggle to return and reintegrate into our communities. Ballot Measure 96 represents the most consequential investment in veterans' outreach and services in Oregon history. It is imperative we make the most of this opportunity: it is imperative that we all stand up for all those who have stood for us.

The unfortunate reality we face is that America has not kept faith with the troops we send into war. We embarked upon a global campaign without a clear plan for victory, a means of sustaining our efforts, or a system to care for those we sent. These choices leave lasting consequences. Every day over twenty veterans accept suicide as their fate. Of these wounded warriors, at least one served in Afghanistan or Iraq—or both.

We have a significant number of homeless veterans: in Oregon at least 5,000 veterans must search for a safe place to sleep each night. Each year we witness an increasing number of incarcerated veterans, and we have a growing schism between the society that sent troops to war and the men and women struggling to survive.

guest opinion

Too few understand the real price of combat.

We are currently engaged in three conflicts, and our military members face multiple deployments and significant long-term stresses resulting from their time in uniform. We know the social costs associated with our fourteen years of military operations greatly impact the social services arena. We can help our military families and our veterans by unlocking significant capacities within the state social safety net for vulnerable non-veteran populations.

Current data suggests more than 240,000 Oregon veterans are not recognized within the US Department of Veterans' Affairs structures and systems. This means existing healthcare and transportation activities, among others, are funded at the level of the number of veterans recognized: approximately 100,000 of 350,000. Through targeted outreach as well as providing seed funds for leveraging available federal programming, the state of Oregon can make an historic investment in veterans' care with the

passage of Ballot Measure 96.

Ballot Measure 96, which I co-authored with legislators from across the aisle, will help our veterans access and acquire the services and support they have earned. This measure, which received unanimous bipartisan support in the legislature, provides voters with the opportunity to set aside 1.5% of unencumbered lottery revenue for veteran outreach and programs. Existing programs return an excess of \$257 for every \$1 invested. The \$18 million this measure will provide will help us unlock as much as \$4 billion in federal benefits, health care, and services for military families in each and every district throughout Oregon.

This year you can commemorate Veterans' Day knowing that you acted. Your involvement matters. Your voice and vote can and will transform the lives of military families and veterans throughout Oregon. Together we will demonstrate our resolve to serve those who served us. And together we will begin the process of restoring faith with our veterans.

(Paul Evans of District is the state representative for Salem 20.)

Keizertimes

Wheatland Publishing Corp. • 142 Chemawa Road N. • Keizer, Oregon 97303
phone: 503.390.1051 • web: www.keizertimes.com • email: kt@keizertimes.com

Lyndon A. Zaitz, Editor & Publisher

SUBSCRIPTIONS

One year: \$25 in Marion County, \$33 outside Marion County, \$45 outside Oregon

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Publication No: USPS 679-430

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:

Keizertimes Circulation
142 Chemawa Road N.
Keizer, OR 97303

Periodical postage paid at Salem, Oregon