

# KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Cow pasture decisions must be made according to law

Land use matters are tricky. When the City Council hears certain types of land use applications, we sit as judges and have to weigh all facts provided to us against a strict set of criteria and State statutes. The state requirements the city and the council must follow are the result of decades of land use planning and litigation, preserving our farm and forest lands and planning the space for cities through the management of land inside our urban growth boundaries.

from the  
mayor's  
desk



Cathy Clark

city council made on the Herber family's desire to develop their land. I would love to engage in discussion about this topic, as I'm sure many of my fellow councilors would. However, we can't discuss the issue just yet. The vote on Monday was to direct staff to bring back the matter in ordinance form so that we can formally vote on the proposed zone changes that were requested of us. All discussion has been in the public setting of

our council meetings to make sure everyone can read the same materials we do and hear the same discussion we hear. We need to be sure that all discussion continues to take place only in open meetings. So, until that vote has been taken, the city council simply can't discuss the matter, not even among ourselves, or receive any information that hasn't already been submitted to the formal record. After the final vote has been taken, however, I and the other councilors will be free to discuss with Keizer citizens why we chose to vote the way each of us did. I can only ask your patience for a little while longer and I promise, we will be willing and available to visit with you.

(Cathy Clark has been mayor of Keizer since January 2015.)

Perhaps our most important job in these types of issues is to ensure we work to be fair and impartial in our evaluation of land use proposals, striving to create an even playing field to weigh the proposal against all other development proposals within the city, and then to weigh those proposals against what is best for the entire city at present and into the future. People who own property within the city have rights to do what they want with their land within established guidelines that meet state land use goals and adopted city comprehensive plans, zoning and development regulations.

That means we continue to face decisions on how our city will change and plan how that will happen. I understand that many Keizer residents don't like the decision the

## This veteran will honor anthem

To the Editor:

First, thanks to Gene McIntyre for his remarks in last week's *Keizertimes* (*Protests during national anthem*, Sept. 23). I would like to add just one item regarding the United States Code having to do with rising, removing your hat and standing at attention for the playing of the national anthem. Legislation passed by Congress a few years ago modified the code to permit veterans to present the hand salute for all appropriate occasions. Note, it would permit, not require the salute.

On a personal note, I have been reluctant to salute for most occasions because my time in the Air Force was between conflicts. However, due to the recent activities of a few, I have decided to begin the practice when in public. And I would urge other veterans to do the same. I think it would show that we outnumber the complainers.

Wayne A. Moreland  
Keizer

## Thank you community

To the Editor:

McNary High School's Band Day was a huge success!

The band was out in full force on Sept. 10 collecting refundable cans, bottles and monetary donations. One hundred and fifteen band members, over 25 parent volunteers, the entire band booster staff and the amazing members of our beloved Keizer community came together to support the students of

letters

the McNary Band in a one-day rush to collect two semi-trailers full of cans and over \$7,000 in monetary donations. This year was an amazing show of support from our community, we surpassed the amount of donations we have received in the past and again filled to trailers. You helped us hold another successful Band Day.

One student said "This is fun, do we do this every weekend?"

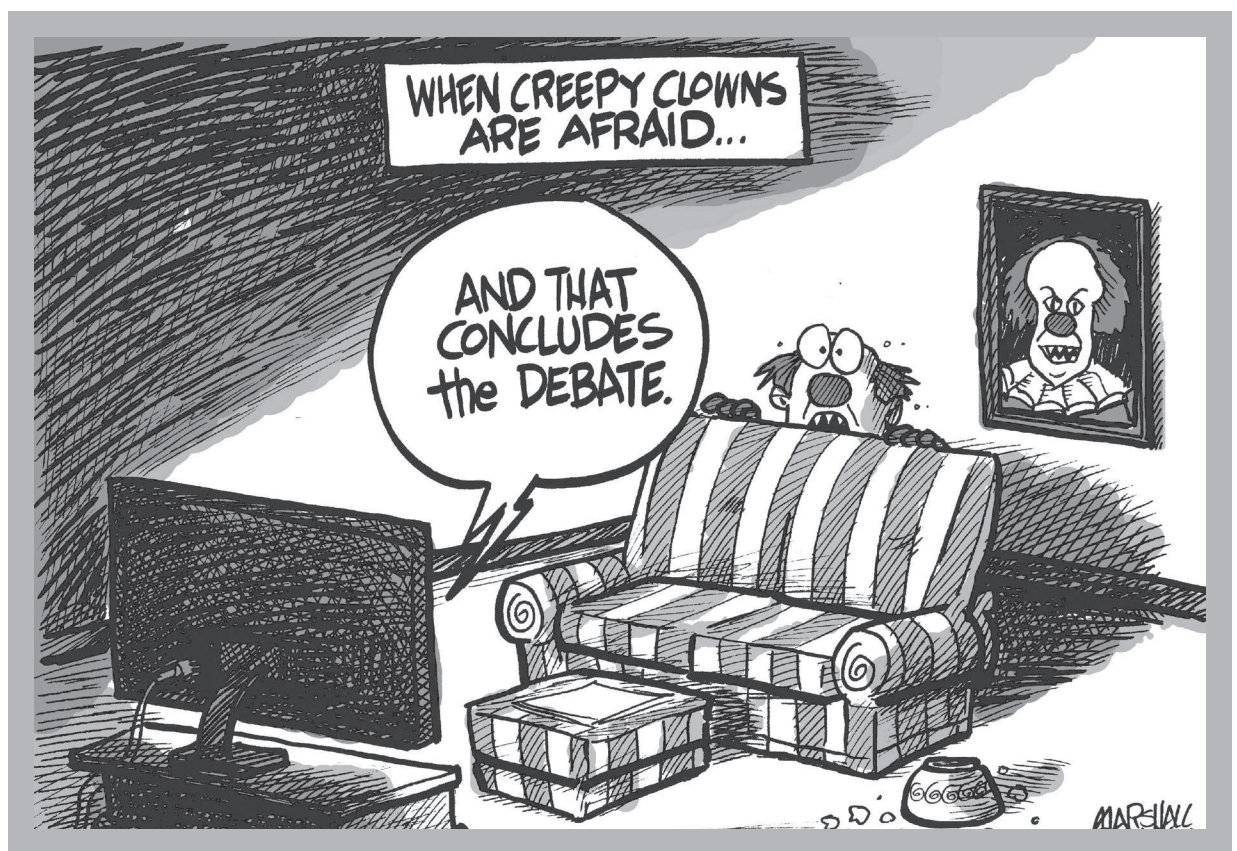
The band students of McNary High School begin in early August getting music and drill ready for the marching season. They consistently work hard though the entire year to build their musical skills and talents and to support our fellow student athletes at the football and basketball games. They themselves compete for the state band championship and at the individual state solo and ensemble championships each year. The funds we collect on Band Day keep the tradition of musical excellence achievable. With all the expenses we face to keep the program running your support on our Band Day, and even the fireworks booth and Jazz Night fundraiser we hold each year, is vital to our success. So from our musical hearts to your giving nature please accept our thanks. Keizer is an "dream come true" community to work in, musically serve and live.

Jennifer Bell, band instructor  
McNary High School

## Share your opinion

Email a letter to the editor (300 words) by noon Tuesday.

Email to:  
publisher@keizertimes.com



## Donald Trump clings to deception

By MICHAEL GERSON

There is a story from the history of professional wrestling in which a manager named Freddie Blassie comes to the edge of the ring and, while the referee is distracted, breaks a cane over the head of the opposing wrestler. After the match an interviewer asked Blassie, "Where's that cane of yours?" He replied, "What cane? I didn't have no cane!"

During the last political year, life has imitated professional wrestling. Those expecting such antics from Donald Trump during the first presidential debate were not disappointed. When confronted with his claim that global warming was a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese, Trump replied, "I did not [say it]." He did. When Trump's claim that he could not release his tax returns because of an IRS audit was exposed as false, he still insisted on it. When charged with saying that he could personally negotiate down the national debt, he said this was "wrong." The charge was right. When Trump's transparently deceptive claim to be an early opponent of the Iraq War was debunked, he doubled down in a babbling defense citing Sean Hannity as the ultimate arbiter.

It is not surprising that Trump inhabits his own factual universe, in which truth is determined by usefulness and lies become credible through repetition. What made the first presidential debate extraordinary was not the charges that Trump denied, but the ones he confirmed.

When Hillary Clinton claimed he didn't pay any federal income taxes, Trump said: "That makes me smart." When Clinton accused Trump of defrauding a contractor out of money he was owed, Trump responded: "Maybe

## Stop blaming PERS for money problems

A number of Oregonians chronically grouse about and wring their hands over the cost of PERS as causing all the state's fiscal problems. However, fairness and law reigned and the Oregon Supreme Court shot down the plan to cut PERS retirees' benefits due established and continued by contractual obligations.

But when it has come to raising taxes on those most able to pay by their business profits, the Oregon legislature ducks and covers. Meanwhile, Oregon's corporate minimum tax is ridiculously low. It's been stuck at a pathetically low \$10 since 1931. This level was at one time even an embarrassment to Oregon's business community.

In 2009, during the Great Recession that hammered the state's finances, the Oregon corporate lobby stepped up with a couple of tax proposals. Led by Associated Business Industries (AOI), a business coalition proposed a flat minimum tax on all corporations—C-corporations and S-corporations—with a plan that called for a minimum tax of \$300 a year, regardless of a company's profits.

Another group, Oregon Business Association (OBA), recommended charging S-corporations a flat \$250 regardless the level of sales or profits. For C-corporations this group proposed a sliding scale starting at \$250 per year and capping at \$25,000 based on corporate in-state sales, not profits or taxing gross receipts.

The legislature adopted OBA's idea, playing a bit with the details. For S-corporations, the legislature set the minimum tax at \$150, obviously less than what AOI and OBA sought. For C-corporations, the legislature wanted a sliding scales minimum tax, starting at \$150 and going up to \$100,000 for corporations with \$100 million or greater in Oregon sales.

The legislature's plan was opposed

other  
views

he didn't do a good job and I was unsatisfied with his work." When Clinton criticized Trump for casual misogyny and for

calling women "pigs," Trump brought up Rosie O'Donnell and said, "She deserves it." When Clinton recalled a Justice Department lawsuit suit against Trump for housing discrimination, he dismissed it as "just one of those things."

When Clinton attacked Trump for coddling the Russians, Trump attempted to excuse them of hacking, shifting the blame toward obese computer geeks. When Clinton accused Trump of betraying American allies, Trump answered: "We defend Japan, we defend Germany, we defend South Korea, we defend Saudi Arabia, we defend countries. They do not pay us. But they should be paying us. ... We cannot protect countries all over the world, where they're not paying us what we need." Rather than affirming the importance of NATO, or reassuring our Pacific partners, Trump reduced America's global role to a protection racket, run by a seedy executive who admits to cheating contractors when he is "unsatisfied with [their] work."

During the debate, the points scored against Trump were damaging. But the points he ceded would disqualify any normal politician, in any normal presidential year.

Trump has made some political gains over the last few weeks through greater discipline—speeches from teleprompters, carefully selected me-

dia interviews, no news conferences, a Twitter account in the hands of others. But the candidate has internalized none of this. He might as well have sung *I Gotta Be Me* as his opening statement in the debate. It was Trump unplugged, and often unhinged.

Past debate criticism has looked for hints and signs to determine losers—a candidate, say, looked impatiently at his watch or sighed in an off-putting way. Rhetorically, Trump drove a high-speed train filled with fireworks into a nuclear power plant. He was self-absorbed, prickly, defensive, interrupting, baited by every charge yet unprepared to refute them. During his share of a 90-minute debate, he was horribly out of his depth, incapable of stringing together a coherent three-sentence case. The postmodern quality of Trump's appeal culminated in an unbalanced rant claiming, "I also have a much better temperament than she has." An assertion greeted by audience laughter. And Trump concluded his performance by praising himself for his own grace and restraint, during an evening that showed him to be nasty, witless and deceptive. It should now be clear to Republicans: Vanity is his strategy.

Trump's defenders will charge his critics with elitism. The great public, it is argued, gets Trump in a way that the commenting class does not. But this claim is now fully exposed. The expectation of rationality is not elitism. Coherence is not elitism. Knowledge is not elitism. Honoring character is not elitism. And those who claim this are debasing themselves, their party and their country.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

gene h.  
mcintyre

in the form of Measure 67 to which AOI was adamantly against while OBA stayed on the sidelines. Some will remember that Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved Measure 67 in spite of a massive campaign of misleading information put out by the business community.

The business community is at it again with misinformation on which they're willing to spend gobs of money on a 4-page, colorful, slick and shiny piece, that arrived in Oregon voter mailboxes on September 20: No expense was spared.

Meanwhile, the under funding of our schools goes on and on and the state is unable to address the needs of Oregonians and PERS retirees continue to be given the blame for all things fiscally evil in the state of Oregon. Hence, that minimum tax issue is out there for consideration again. Measure 97 has the promise of transforming Oregon's schools, health and senior services, boosting the business climate and quality of life here.

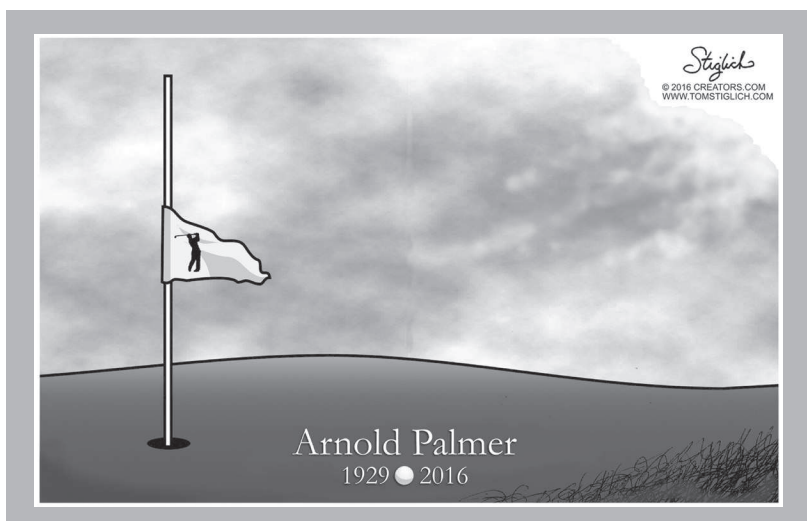
Measure 97 would amend the minimum tax, increasing it strictly on C-corporations with Oregon sales greater than \$25 million a year and only on the sales above that big business level. And this is an important and

relevant piece of information: No small business will pay the updated minimum tax.

As things stand, large corporations like Bank of America, Comcast, and Walmart, view the current capped minimum tax as nothing but a small bother. They know that Oregon has the lowest business tax level in the U.S. and, with CEO and executive pay in the stratosphere, they want to keep things just the "tidy" money way they are. Further, they care little to nothing about what happens to the people of Oregon as long as money can be made off us.

If our state worked as an every-vote-counts democracy then the legislature would work for all of us. Unfortunately for working folks, those with the big bucks, the corporations and others who have excessive means can buy our legislators. The only way we common folks can help ourselves is by getting together to vote in favor of Measure 97 and do so by not believing the false predictions that a tax increase will be passed on to the public in the form of higher prices. How so? Because competition at the counter still best sells goods and services.

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



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