

# KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

## Boost academics

Athletics at McNary High School has a club of boosters—a non-profit organization comprised mainly of parents of the students who play sports. The choir and band programs also have organized boosters. Boosters not only support the programs but are also a big source of fund raising.

Athletics and arts should be supported and boosted. We call on the administration of McNary High School to set the stage for creating academic booster clubs—after all, students are attending school primarily to learn and achieve scholastic excellence.

Imagine the powerful message that would be sent with the establishment of a Mathematics Booster Club, or a Sciences Booster Club. We understand the school nor the school district are involved with booster clubs, per se, but they can certainly voice their support for the establishment of such organizations.

Additionally, we would like to see academic booster clubs that have a focus less on fund raising and more on encouraging students to embrace and learn to enjoy math and science—boy and girl students (the world needs female scientists, too). Sure, math and science aren't as exciting as a Friday night football game or a spring concert, but those subjects arguably will have a longer term effect on the students over their lifetimes.

All students should have the opportunity to do well in the academic fields—teachers work overtime to help those in their classes that need a little more attention or assistance. A Mathematics Booster Club would be a good supplement to what instructors are doing in the classroom—think tutors on steroids.

A few 'Atta girl's would go far to give a female student confidence to think they can one day help put man on Mars. (*Hidden Figures*, a film currently in theaters, tells the true story of the important contribution of women in NASA's endeavor to put the first American in space in the early 1960s.) The key work done by women in science and math should not be footnote in history or a movie.

Not every student athlete turns their passion into a multi-million dollar career; not every choir member turns their love of music into stardom on the global stage. But, a student with a love of math, science or another academic subject has an excellent chance of continuing their education in college and perhaps helping put the first woman on Mars.

That's what an academic booster club can do for students today. When adults are excited about math and science, our kids can be, too.

—LAZ

editorial

## What is needed to jumpstart economic development in city?

The editorial in last week's paper, *Call it a day for the EDC* (Economic Development Commission) reflects thoughts I have had for a while.

And I agree that a re-think of the city role in promoting economic development, particularly in the context of our Economic Opportunities Analysis in the Comprehensive Plan, would be helpful.

At regional and state meetings, I hear about opportunities and success stories that make me wonder if we have missed chances to bring dollars and programs here to deepen and strengthen our economic base. The meeting with Regional Solutions coordinator James Labar was particularly helpful in informing our business leaders of the program and services available toward streamlining state regulatory processes so projects could get done.

The Commission also heard from SEDCOR and the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, both of which provide economic development programs and opportunities. The piece that did not come together was how a city revolving loan funding could jump start redevelopment or expansion of businesses; in the meantime, however, the economy has taken hold and private investment has significantly advanced the business landscape of River Road.

Frank discussions regarding the status of the River Road Renaissance vision made it clear that the foundations of that plan have now been incorporated into our development code so each redeveloped property makes those improvements as part of the project. However, the further portion of the vision was for sections of River Road businesses to embrace a sector identity, with branding and logos to create distinct districts in which

clusters of business types would be established. As the city found out years ago with neighborhood associations, just saying that you are a 'district' or a neighborhood association does not make it so. Both are organic in nature, born of a common set of values, goals or concerns.

The common values and goals that are already in place are for quality business plans, space to grow and park, pricing that reflects the local economy rather than trying to price like Portland or Seattle, and meeting growing and changing demands for goods and services that cater to the emerging millennial generation's buying power as well as the significant baby boomer capital holdings. These values are not unique to sections of River Road but apply to our entire business community.

I want to thank the members of the commission, each of whom has shared their time and expertise. There was nothing in it for any of them, except the knowledge that they each have experiences that can help guide and shape policies to ensure they are in the best interests of the entire community—business included.

Going forward, we have an economic opportunities analysis that will guide any urban growth boundary expansion for employment lands. We have career-technical education programs that are preparing our students for well-paying jobs in many industries. We have a growing population that wants a Keizer that provides the goods, services and amenities that will continue to make Keizer a great place to live. And we have the Keizer way of facing these challenges and opportunities and solving them together as only Keizer can.

(Cathy Clark is serving her second term as mayor of Keizer.)

from the mayor's desk



Cathy Clark

Our fish and all life in our ocean is now contaminated. We are breathing this and I saw pictures of the seals, salmon and other fish with cancer tumors all over them. What does this mean to us?

**Helen Bibelheimer Keizer**

letters

## Don, this is what we're afraid of

To the Editor:

Re: Don Vowell's Feb. 10 column, What are we afraid of?:

I'm afraid because Fukushima has poisoned our ocean and the problem isn't going away.

## Travel bans, Arrival and Mr. Rogers



Khawater Hussein (rear) plays in a Powder Puff football game in 2014.

By ERIC A. HOWALD

I've lost track of how many times the counters on the digital cameras I use as part of my job have reset themselves, and the cameras only reset after 10,000 pictures.

Most of those pictures will never—thankfully—see the light of day and the few I do remember wouldn't cause me to extend all five fingers of one hand. But, every once in a while, an image sears into my memory. One of them is a photo of a McNary High School senior playing in the annual Powder Puff football game at the school in 2014.

In that photo, then-junior Gabby Jackson is running up the field slightly out of focus, but with her best "game face" on. Trailing Jackson is then-senior Khawater Hussein, bright-faced with a gleeful smile, under a hijab—the traditional head covering worn by some Muslim women. Eight months later, Khawater was chosen by her peers to deliver the commencement address at graduation. Her graduation cap rested atop her hijab during the ceremony. My heart swelled with unexpected pride in the students who found connection in her words and didn't let differences in appearance cloud their hearts.

I thought of Khawater again as my family and I sat watching *Arrival* at a Salem theater recently. Without offering too many spoilers, here's

the gist of the movie: aliens descend on earth and it becomes the responsibility of a university professor to help the military decipher their language and intentions. What starts as an exploration of the unfamiliar quickly ramps up to crisis when several other countries, with their own teams working on the problem, go dark and stop communicating with the other teams putting the human race and the aliens on the path to conflict.

One moment in particular stuck out to me. Oddly, it had nothing to do with the characters in the film.

It was a sweeping shot of the scene at one of the alien landing sites showing a throng of cars and campers, civilian onlookers and gawkers, being held at bay by a military barricade with the alien ship in the distance.

My 13-year-old daughter, Ameya, sat next to me during the movie and some of the implications of travel bans came into sharper focus. I couldn't help but think of Ameya and Khawater being held apart from one another. I have no idea what deep reservoir of strength Khawater was tapping into on a daily basis to don an overt symbol of her Muslim faith, but I am certain I have never had to plumb such depths. The thought that my daughter's chances to learn from such a woman—to share each other's stories, the very thing that often so effectively bridges the gaps between

people of different backgrounds—would be diminished by something like the hastily-deployed travel ban from seven predominately Muslim countries opened up a vacuum in my chest.

As I thought more on the movie and its implications, I was reminded of something once said by folk hero Fred Rogers, aka Mr. Rogers, whose PBS show was a major part of my childhood routines, "There isn't anyone you couldn't learn to love once you've heard their story."

It is possible that a travel ban might make some feel safer, but it seems like a flimsy layer of protection. Even with the most extreme vetting, or the most objectionable of interrogation tactics, it wouldn't be enough to stop the most determined bad actors. Moreover, given the circumstances of recent mass attacks, bad actors don't even have to visit our soil, they need only connect with someone already here and willing to be influenced.

There have already been many costs associated with the travel ban, from separating families to a diminished view of our country in the wider world, but there is no way to account for the opportunities we'll miss out on if the ban is allowed to stand. The ban prevents—and excuses—us from doing the real work of connecting with our fellow world citizens. As hard as that work may be, it is likely the only sure path to security.

(Eric A. Howald is managing editor of the *Keizertimes*.)

moments of lucidity

gene h. mcintyre

## Sanctuary cities are not a solve-all

Immigration, immigrants, refugees, green cards, and illegals have often found their way into topics of discussion. Whether or not in each case the individual or group of individuals found acceptance or rejection had a lot to do with their point of origin. A welcome mat for western Europeans while the door is mostly shut for Asians.

My third generation Scotch-American father entered a community of Finnish immigrants, married my second-generation Finnish-American mother, and then along came me, an American who views the Finns as among the finest people on earth while my wife, a third generation Irish-American, affects my attention by affection.

In my youth, I lived in Germany as a civilian for more than a year as a student of their language. I was treated very well and adopted a caring for the German people that's endured to this day. I lived in Canada for a few years although I left due to anti-American sentiments. I also lived and worked in Saudi Arabia for six years and adopted considerably less caring for the Saudis and other Arabs who were employed there alongside me. Although I never flouted it, things were difficult due to "Christian" on my passport. Fact is, for everyone, most of our views depend on how and where we were "built."

What's relevant to all of us and the quality of our lives here is this: How many new arrivals can the U.S. handle? And that goes for Oregon, too. Is it that our nation and state shall be the world's dumping ground, filled

with overflowing numbers from elsewhere who have not been able to keep their homelands livable. Here's my view in direct terms: I don't care from where anyone hails, their religion, their cultural tags, whatever, we've got enough people in Oregon and there's very little room for more.

A handy example to underscore my exploding population concern looks at just one of Oregon's metro areas, Portland and its suburbs, plus those folks who choose to live in Vancouver and environs, and down from PDX to Wilsonville and over the Willamette River immediately south of it. Then there are the continuously growing-more-congested metro areas of Bend, Eugene, Medford, Salem and others underway, the burgeoning growth around virtually every nook and corner that's habitable by the human species.

When Portland is mentioned, Oregonians I know turn up their noses as they complain about the high costs of everything, lack of affordable rentals, the inching along or stalled traffic, the gangs and crime, the homeless and jobless, the road rage and the infernal difficulty of getting anywhere a person would want to go in that area. There are just too many people and the problems associated with it just get worse with each passing year, so much so that governance in most of Oregon's places is already in constant crisis mode.

Meanwhile, every time an announcement is made about allowing more refugees into Oregon, an additional number arrive here or nearby. The impact of a bulging population (Oregon already attracts the likes of the Bundy gang, other American

supremacists and native-born radical terrorists) spills over into every direction. Oregon is now close to devoured, while homes are built in fire-prone forests, farmland turns into housing developments and the radicals want to turn wildlife refuges and national parks into mining pits, beef-raising ranches, residential tracks, golf courses and shooting galleries. Wherever one looks, with a population of 4.3 million, we will have reached population infinity. Read far and wide is that, if we don't get more refugees and increase the population, we won't have the brain power and youth to sustain our way of life.

At present, we have those who want to protect and sustain sanctuary campuses/cities/and the state of Oregon with a no-matter-the-consequences attitude, while our state borders remain porous, illegals in number are everywhere, and crimes are committed in multiples every day. Oregon's legislators could work together to control the state's political and economic forces; unfortunately, too many of our Capitolenconced leaders, who could tackle direly-needed tax reform and control those charitable groups and sanctuaries that bring people here and then place them on taxpayer support in a state where the treasury's already depleted, can only pretend to perform good works.

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

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