



You can't force people

The goal of identifying Keizer as a welcoming, safe and inclusive city is one that can be embraced by all citizens.

The plea from a small group of Keizer residents that went before the city council was for a Inclusivity resolution. Mayor Cathy Clark rightly asked the group to come back to the council with a plan of action the city could consider. The group (it doesn't have a workable name yet) reported that other cities around Oregon are working on their own inclusivity resolutions.

The group is asking the city to spend precious resources to establish an official body that would work on language to put Keizer on the correct side of the issue. Even the simplest of city task forces or committees requires a meeting space, an official recorder and printed reports and meeting mintues.

Keizer and other local governments operate under federal non-discrimination guidelines. Many federal mandates are written to assure rights of individuals and organizations are maintained and protected.

What the inclusivity group is seeking is to legislate beliefs and be-

our opinion

havior.

You can not force people to do what you want them to without the threat of consequences. Unfortunately, public messages meant to influence the actions of the public often falls deaf on the ears of those who are the message's target audience.

Plus, you cannot pass an ordinance calling for the average citizen to welcome into their hearts and minds people they disagree with.

The best the city council should do is assure that the city charter uses inclusive language from top to bottom. The truest way to affect change is through action rather than word. City leaders can work to invite underrepresented communities into the civic fold—it is sad when almost a fifth of Keizer's population is Hispanic and we've only had one Hispanic sit on the council in the city's 35-year history.

To be inclusive Hispanics and other groups need to be invited to the table, appointed to city commissions, invited to take leadership roles in both civic and private organizations.

You can't change people's hearts and minds with ordinances so you have to do it with persistent messages of respect and invitation. —LAZ

Fees

To the Editor:

This is in regard to the city council imposing a free for additional money for police and parks in Keizer.

After watching Police Chief John Teague's presentation at the special city council meeting, I am inclined to encourage the council to go ahead now with the fee for five police officers at \$4 per month per city utility billing.

I am also in favor of indexing the fee if approved by future budget committees. As for the fee for parks, I would not have any problem with a fee of \$2 per month and allowing that to be indexed by future budget committees. I would strongly oppose at fee of \$4 per month for parks at this time.

Bill Quinn
Keizer

Why some people are unwelcome

To the Editor:

In the letter sent by "Concerned friends" to the Keizer mayor, most readers will notice a gaping hole in the "friends" argument for making Keizer a "welcoming and inclusive city."

"Inclusive" is a current buzzword used to obscure the fact that some people are defying the basic right of

letters

our nation to control immigration. Should such people be welcomed and made to feel included?

A nation that doesn't have respected and enforced immigration controls, quite simply, cannot endure. The U.S. has clear borders, and a federal immigration system.

Every person entering the U.S. is supposed to be inspected by federal agents before being admitted. The agents will check that the person is either a returning citizen, or has a valid visa or other official proof of identity giving that person the right to enter. Anyone who sneaks in un-inspected, or overstays a visa, is by law defined as an illegal alien.

Sadly, many Americans have died overdosing on drugs smuggled into the U.S. across our southern border by vicious illegal alien gang members now entrenched in Oregon. Our country has suffered deadly terrorist attacks made easy by poor immigration controls. Excessive immigration has increased U.S. population beyond environmental carrying capacity, threatening natural resources.

Our new president is dedicated to restoring integrity in immigration management.

Oregon and Keizer should cooperate in these efforts, not try to stop them.

Elizabeth Van Staaveren
McMinnville

Time for a good buddy tale

By DEBRA SAUNDERS

Americans needed a good buddy movie after a deranged gunman targeted Republicans practicing for a bipartisan ballgame to raise money for charities last week.

The attack left House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., in critical condition and sent others to the hospital, including Capitol Hill police officers Crystal Griner and David Bailey, who fought off the shooter even after he wounded them.

So while Griner and Bailey recovered, Reps. Joe Barton, R-Texas, and Michael Doyle, D-Pa.—managers of the rival Republican and Democratic teams—showed Americans a side of Congress voters rarely see on the news: partisans who disagree but are still friends.

Neither Doyle nor Barton used the violence to make a political point. Barton told *PBS NewsHour*, "We have an R or D by our name, but our title is United States Representative."

Thursday, President Donald Trump wondered if Scalise "in his own way may have brought some unity to our long-divided country."

Can something good happen from something so wrong?

Doyle suggested a path toward civility. "When people see their leaders being uncivil toward one another, then you see the public being uncivil toward one another and toward their leaders."

He wasn't blaming anyone for the lone-wolf shooter's rampage. He was acknowledging how Americans look at Congress—and what members can do to restore their image.

other views

A recent Gallup poll found that 20 percent of Americans approve of Congress, while 74 percent disapprove. And that's up from December 2013 when fewer than 10 percent of voters approved of Congress.

Mark Harkins, senior fellow of the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University, blames the jet airplane. Since the 1970s, as air travel became more ubiquitous, House members have gotten to know each other less and treat each other worse.

Congressmen and women often spend so little time in Washington, said Harkins, a former staffer for House Democrats, that they talk to each other like users of "an internet chatroom."

Harkins noted that more than half of House members have been in Congress for less than eight years. Today's congressmen and women, he said, "don't have houses here. They don't bring their families here, for the fear of seeming to have 'gone Washington.'"

House Speaker Paul Ryan built his image as an anti-Washington frugal spender because he slept on a cot in his office and showered in the House gym. This is a model for many lawmakers who say their \$174,000 salary cannot support two homes.

Voters may well think that's a good thing. After all, who wants an elected representative more beholden to the machine than the people who sent him or her to Washington?

The downside of the new order, however, is that members feel little loyalty to the institution they

serve. They run for Congress trashing Congress, just as Trump ran for president promising to "drain the swamp" that is D.C.

They visit their districts most weekends. They fly into the capital on Monday or Tuesday morning and fly home Thursday night.

The House working calendar has adjusted accordingly. Last year after reviewing the congressional work schedule, Reuters found that members "have been spending fewer days working in Washington since the late 2000s." In 2016, the House scheduled 111 workdays. The Bipartisan Policy Center's Commission on Political Reform recommended 180-200 working days.

It's no wonder then that Washington seems so dysfunctional. House members can't get out of the beltway fast enough.

PBS NewsHour anchor Judy Woodruff was so taken with the team of Barton and Doyle that she wondered why news coverage didn't reflect their mutual admiration.

"It doesn't surprise me that Doyle and Barton are trying to do this kind of thing," said Harkins; both men have been in the House for decades. Voters sent Barton to Congress in 1984 and Doyle was first elected to the House in 1994.

"Find me two guys who have been here for less than six years" who exhibit such friendship, said Harkins—then "you've got me interested."

For his part, Doyle fingered the media. He told Woodruff, "We tend to be not the ones the media's interested in interviewing ... maybe the news media too could reflect a little bit more on that."

(Creators Syndicate)

New tactics needed in Afghan war

By GENE H. MCINTYRE

After 15 years of trying the same strategies and tactics to defeat the Taliban, would it not seem high time that something new is tried? Reference is made to our ongoing, apparently interminable military-on-the-ground presence in Afghanistan where draining the U.S. treasury and losing many young American

guest column

lives goes on year-in and year-out to what's now recognized as a protracted stalemate with neither side in the win column. This condition of futility goes for Iraq, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen, too.

We went into Afghanistan for what was argued a good reason after 9/11, when the origin of that dastardly attack was determined to be al-Queda training camps located there. The U.S. intent also was to exterminate the Taliban. What began as an effort to exact revenge for killing thousands of Americans in New York City and Washington, D.C., and prevent a repeat, has turned into a war without victory for us and no end to resurgent activity by a deeply dedicated, and extremist-entrenched terrorist movement.

Now, American media report that there's serious thought being given to increasing the number of U.S. military trying to end the Taliban, U.S. military numbers having waxed and waned to a present several thousand (8,400) with several thousand more under consideration. Yet, the average taxpayer and the peace-loving American, with a heavy heart and moral conscience, wonders what, for heaven's sake, is to be gained with the same performance repeated again and again.

Should U.S. numbers and accompanying NATO forces (13,500) leave Afghanistan, would those resurgent elements not turn from the fighting there to plot and scheme again, acts of violence in America and throughout Europe? The answer is most likely, yes. Nevertheless, a withdrawal by the U.S. and NATO would most surely be less expensive in most every way than the slippery slope of more-involvement-is-better U.S. actions now practiced in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, technology in abundance has been developed by sophisticated spy satellites, drone-carrying cameras and CIA informants to maintain surveillance on what those people are up to. So, what's keeping us from approaching the Afghan problem this way? Once

we're gone, and NATO, too, keep a sky-eye on them and destroy activities that are judged by photo-analysis to be preparing to attack the U.S. and our allies.

As usual, this plan of surveillance-and-destroy accordingly presents a 'fly in the soup' of war. There's a huge military-industrial complex in our nation that makes monumentally large profits by building armaments and all the doodads that go to putting an army into the field and keeping it supplied with every possible support. Then there are those politicians and military personnel who keep themselves safe and entrenched in Washington, D.C. by supporting and beating the war drums so we can remain "safe."

We could do much, much better at the ways and means we manage our human and material resources for national defense. However, as long as a majority of the American people are willing to let those who keep us warring-by-feet-on-the-ground in Afghanistan and the like, even those who campaign against it when running for public office (remember what current Oval Office occupant repeatedly promised and his comments about Iraq before we invaded) while soon thereafter reveal their real intentions and thereby provide no light at the end of this tunnel.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer.)

When it's time for me to leave this mortal coil

Retirement has freed up a lot of time. I've decided to use some of it for growing up and doing mature things. It's come to my attention that most responsible adults fill out wills in order to simplify life for their survivors. Our chosen attorney says we should create the will, assign durable power of attorney to a trusted family member/friend, and leave an advance directive. It's the advance directive that excites the imagination.

The first thing we learned is that the attorney wants \$250 an hour. American pay scales aren't associated in any way with stress levels. Our daughter makes a fraction of that teaching math and science to middle-schoolers. Never mind.

We are a family of modest means—an uncomplicated estate. The will was simple. We assigned durable power of attorney to each other, then to the eldest child. The advance directive provoked the interesting discussions.

Our advance directives came in a helpful booklet. The opening pages suggest different scenarios to jumpstart conversation about miserable ways to die. Can you talk about it? Does money matter? Religion? Do you worry about being a burden to

a box of soap

your family? Persistent vegetative state? Incurable illness? Then you are to discuss what measures should be taken to keep you alive even facing no hope of recovery. As of this writing I don't think I want any family member patiently keeping a bedside vigil, wishing they were somewhere else. At my finest I am not a particularly responsive individual. If I am totally unresponsive, pull the plug.

Then there is a worksheet to record your decisions. They saved the best for last. *About my death:* Would I rather die at home or in a medical facility of some sort? Ideally I would vanish unnoticed into the forest. Then you figure out who you would like present at your death. The people I care most about should not feel obligated to attend. Instead I would like mandatory attendance by people who repeatedly take a full cart of groceries through the express lane, people who don't say please and thank you, and people who post stuff that is vile and/or untrue.

At last you are asked to discuss what should be done with your remains. There are only two listed choices: burial or cremation. Neither of those is very celebratory. One

thing that came to mind was a funeral pyre. I know that outdoor burning is prohibited in Keizer, but maybe we can make an exception. I am hoping we can build a nice tall wooden structure with plenty of fuel in the center of our new roundabout. Wrap me in plain linen and light me up. Allow people to slowly circle and add combustibles that commemorate my existence.

If that seems too much to ask then we can go with my real first choice. Wrap me in linen and set me on an Oregon beach atop a substantial pile of explosives. There is precedent for this rite of passage. We may be able to raise funds for charity by auctioning off the right to press the detonator.

My only other wish is to have Sean Spicer as funeral spokesperson. That will allow reports boasting the largest crowd ever to witness a funeral pyre in Keizer, or certainty that my remains will be blown to altitudes never reached by any stupid whale carcass.

(Don Vowell gets on his soapbox regularly in the *Keizertimes*.)

Share your opinion

Email a guest opinion or a letter to the editor by noon Tuesday.

Email to:

publisher@keizertimes.com

Keizertimes

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



EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Lyndon Zaitz
publisher@keizertimes.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Eric A. Howald
editor@keizertimes.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Derek Willey
news@keizertimes.com

ADVERTISING
Paula Moseley
advertising@keizertimes.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Andrew Jackson
graphics@keizertimes.com

LEGAL NOTICES
legals@keizertimes.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
Laurie Painter
billing@keizertimes.com

RECEPTION
Lori Beyeler

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

facebook

facebook.com/keizertimes

twitter

twitter.com/keizertimes