

KeizerOpinion

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The unknowns of the eclipse

Depending on whom one talks to there could be as many as one million people pouring into Oregon for the total solar eclipse on Aug. 21.

The eclipse, which has fostered a number of multi-day events along the path of totality in Oregon, has led the state, counties and cities to hope for the best and expect the worse. Marion County's emergency management office is expecting 50,000 to 200,000 visitors to the county.

There are too many unknowns so every municipality, including Keizer, must plan for a crush of people, cars and recreational vehicles. Are the throngs expected in Marion County coming from near or from far? That is a big unknown. If most are coming from out of state, we can expect them to stay around for a few days. If, on the other hand, a majority are coming inside Oregon (where the eclipse is not viewable), then we would expect those visitors to come for the day of the solar event and then go home.

Local leaders are not taking anything for granted. Mayor Cathy Clark and others are imploring residents to be prepared for the onslaught of visitors in August. It is akin to preparing for a disaster such as a hurricane, only it is not a disaster, it's an opportunity. Local residents are advised to get all their vehicles filled with gas and stock up on goods from the grocery store. You would think they are preparing for a swarm of locusts, coming in, buying up everything at our stores, buying all of gas, taking all the money out of our local ATMs.

All of that may come to pass, or the hype may be grander than the reality. Nobody knows.

Whichever turns out to be true, there are two truths we do know. We

are grateful that our local and state governments are prepared to assure that an additional 200,000 or one million visitors does not adversely affect our lives. And, any number of visitors to our area should be seen as an economic boon.

Every business, large and small, can tap into the Eclipse Economy with special promotions and products. An event such as this was made for the entrepreneurial spirit. Restaurants can create eclipse themed items, t-shirts and other commemorative items can be created and sold, with such tag lines as "I didn't see the sun in Oregon. Total Eclipse, August 21, 2017."

The Keizer Parks Foundation the Keizer Festival Advisory Board (KFAB) are spearheading our own eclipse event at Keizer Rapids Park. More than 150 RV and tent camping sites are being prepared for the eclipse weekend beginning on the Thursday before the Monday event.

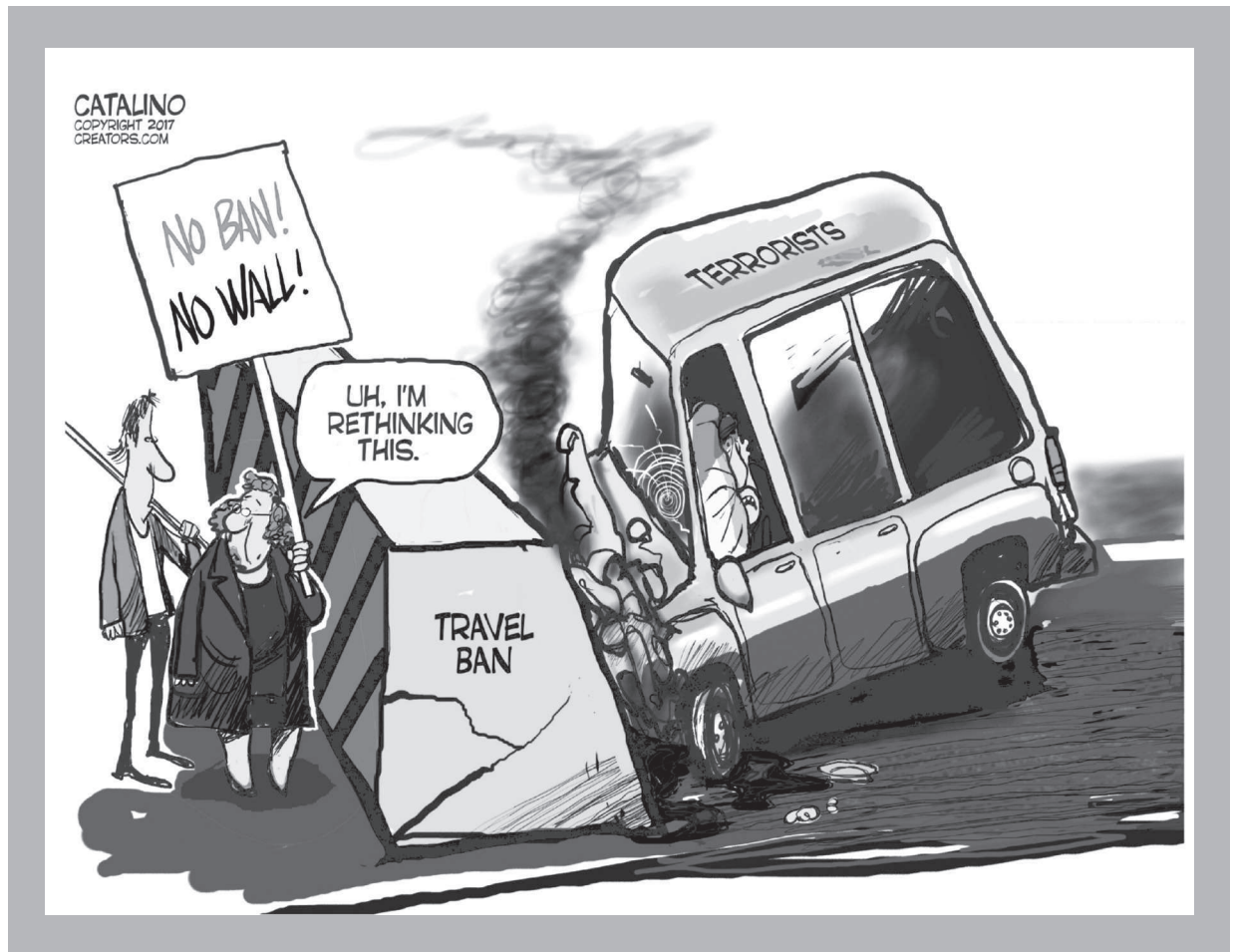
There will be musical entertainment on the Keizer Rotary Amphitheatre stage for four days. Activities in the park and on the river are being planned to show visitors the best that Keizer has to offer.

Those who did not plan ahead and travel to Marion County for the eclipse on a whim will find lodging choices very limited. The camp sites at Keizer Rapids Park will most likely be fully booked by the first of August. Keizer residents may consider booking a site for their friends and families.

Keizer should be thankful to get its share of the tens of thousands of visitors into the county in August. The city is looking very good; we want people to go away with positive thoughts about Keizer and its residents.

—LAZ

our opinion



A gerrymandering of virtues

By MICHAEL GERSON

If we have learned anything from the last few years in our politics, it is that civility is for suckers, that compromise is a sign of weakness, and that moderation of temperament is boring and unmarketable.

It is time to level with our sons and daughters. Winners—real winners, of the kind blessed by religious authorities and trusted with the highest office—are rude and belittling. They always insist on getting their way. And they are the angriest, neediest people in the room.

Just forming these words causes revulsion. Why does such cynical and chaotic moral messaging bother us so much? For one, we suspect that political arguments, over time, seep into our common culture, determining the boundaries of acceptable discourse. Recalcitrant toddlers, truculent teens, disagreeable co-workers and egotistic exes across America can plausibly claim that "the president is on my side."

But the main consequences are more public. What is the first law of political dynamics? Boorishness has an equal and opposite reaction. My favorite example is that subset of Democrats (including the head of the Democratic National Committee) who believe that populism is demonstrated by profanity. What our sad and desperate politics really needs, in this view, is more f-words.

The reaction, however, reaches beyond language. A portion of the Democratic Party views "resistance" as an excuse for ideological purification—a franker socialism in economics, a stricter uniformity of cultural views, a determination to use tolerance as a cudgel. The decadence of the administration is producing

other views

Savonarolas of the left.

Just as we need rational policy deliberation—to do things like repairing our health system in a bipartisan fashion, or preventing entitlement commitments from swallowing the entire federal budget—we have the politics of resentment in the language of sleazy campaign operatives.

There is an element of America's founding that anticipates, even welcomes, such a clash of factions. James Madison sometimes sounded like our constitutional structure is a finely tuned machine, counteracting ambition with ambition without need for the democratic virtues.

In fact, civility and a spirit of compromise were required, again and again, to prevent the Constitutional Convention itself from breaking apart in anger and recrimination. The heroes of the founding were not those who held the strongest views. It was those who held strong views and still found a basis for agreement—frustrating, disappointing, glorious agreement.

A constitutional convention held in 2017 would likely fail. It is sobering to think that the American political system, at this point in history, would probably be too divided to reproduce itself. Who would want to face primary voters after being identified with a "great compromise"?

As most of the founders envisioned it, the constitutional order flies with two wings. The first is the system of separated and balanced powers. The second is a set of public virtues—such as civility, compromise and moderation—that turn the mob (which they feared) into citizens.

Our democratic structure is

stressed but basically sound. The values, however, come in for routine, ideologically diverse abuse as weakness and surrender. Revive the founders and they would see a country hacking away at its own democratic limb.

It is not my purpose to be dismissive of institutional reforms that address campaign finance or gerrymandering. But it is necessary, not only to redraw the lines of House districts, but to redraw the lines of propriety and respect. Americans need to be conscious and intentional about rebuilding the infrastructure of democratic values.

Civility is not weakness. It is the native tongue of a successful democracy. What Stephen Carter calls "civil listening" allows people who are opponents to avoid becoming enemies. Civility prevents dehumanization.

Compromise is not surrender. It is the lubricant of a successful democracy. What Jonathan Rauch calls "a cardinal virtue" allows for incremental progress on difficult issues such as health care. It is a moral principle that elevates progress on the common good above ideological purity.

Moderation is not indecision or centrism (as important as political centrism may be). It is the mode or mood of a successful democracy. What Aurelian Craiutu calls a "difficult virtue for courageous minds" puts an emphasis on reasonableness, prudence and balance. It is a principle rooted in epistemological modesty—a recognition that no one possesses the whole truth.

These values are crucial to self-government, and it would be nice if those who govern would speak up for them once in a while, without embarrassment or apology. And oh, yes, us, too.

(The Washington Post News Service & Syndicate)

Impeachment calls ill-conceived

Calls for impeachment of President Trump are whiny and ill-conceived. A political remedy, impeachment has been used against only two of the 44 people who have held the presidency—Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. A conviction by the U.S. Senate, after impeachment by the House of Representatives, removes the person from office. There are no criminal penalties, that would come from prosecutors.

Groups call for Trump's impeachment because of his Tweets, for his boorish behavior, or for his treatment of women and others. These alone cannot be considered impeachable offenses.

Calls for his impeachment are as effective as pundits and columnists who write about how Trump should change the way he performs as leader

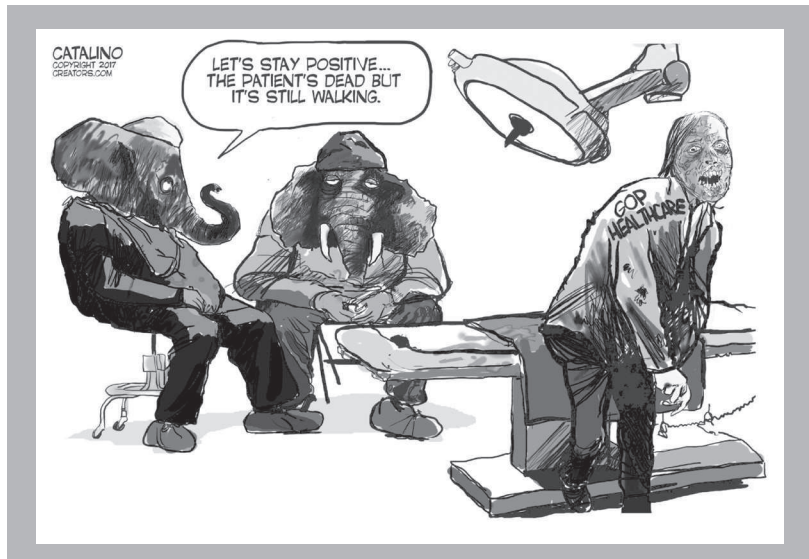
of the free world.

Whether one totally supports Trump or vociferously opposes all that he stands for, all have to realize that Donald Trump is the man who was elected. There was not much about his personality, background or behavior that wasn't known. Though he lost the popular vote by almost 3 million votes, he won the Electoral College, which is the only vote that counts.

A person can blindly support a president or blindly hate what and who they are, but supporters and detractors alike need to be clear-eyed and work within the system to bring about the change they wish to see.

Wishes and hopes don't create change. Involvement and hard work create change. Always has, always will.

—LAZ



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Businessman for president? Make it Buffett

By GENE H. McINTYRE

I am sure there are a great number of Americans who recognize the name Warren Buffett. Those who know of him know that, currently, he is the world's second-richest man, after Bill Gates. Last week he appeared on the Public Broadcasting's *NewsHour* and was interviewed by anchor Judy Woodruff. Some of his most salient comments are worthy of readers' attention and consideration.

Before his wisdom is shared here, we may wish to remember that Buffett has been an extraordinarily successful businessman. The 86-year-old Nebraskan is the chief executive of investing house Berkshire Hathaway with a net worth, according to Forbes, at \$76.6 billion. Berkshire Hathaway also owns a major share in Wells Fargo and the BNSF Railroad. Incidentally, he's never been a politician or elected to public office although his father was elected to four non-consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from Omaha while the family lived in Washington, D.C. during those years.

Regarding the pending Republican healthcare proposal, Buffett says "it amounts to a tax cut for the rich" while "the U.S. economy would benefit far more from establishing single-payer health care as that is the best system" and "we are such a rich country, we can afford it." Also, "bringing down the

costs of healthcare would do more to help American business than cutting corporate taxes" but "there is no incentive to bring down costs."

On the economy, "the U.S. economy has recovered since 2009 but the lion's share of the benefits have gone to the very wealthy while all Americans aren't doing well as this has been a prosperity that's been disproportionately rewarding to the people on the top." Buffett has called for higher taxes on the rich. According to Buffett, the U.S. should be the world's moral leader as well as the world's economic leader. The U.S. leads badly, says Buffett, when it was revealed by the latest House and Senate healthcare plans, as analyzed by the Tax Policy Center, that would provide the top 1 percent of earners in the U.S. an average tax-bill decrease of \$37,240.

Buffett reported that, if passed, the GOP health care bill would save him \$679,999 or 17 percent of his tax bill. "There's nothing ambiguous about that and the people its directed at are couples with \$250,000 or more of income" while, says Buffett, "you could entitle this the Relief for the Rich Act." Buffett reported that he's got friends who'll enjoy savings of \$10 million and more. What's additionally sad to Buffett is that Republican members of Congress voting for the health-care bill as it stands will serve them-

selves by bringing down their own taxes.

From what's known of Warren Buffett, he's a businessman all Americans can believe in and be proud of. His word can be trusted by his years of telling the truth. His dealings with people are well known as civil and respectful while his charitable actions have helped people all over the world to better lives. He and his first wife of 52 years, now deceased since 2004, never showed off their wealth, having lived in a modest home they bought as young newlyweds in which they raised their three children and Buffett continues to live with his second wife who he married eleven years ago.

He's helped his children, now grown, to establish viable careers of their choosing but do not work for him. He will donate his wealth to charity upon his passing. He's happy living on \$100,000 a year, finding a life with those he loves and who love him being the most fulfilling. A personal opinion of the man finds this writer wishing he would consider a run for president as he would only promise what he could deliver and would be honest in all matters as he has been as a businessman. If Americans generally want a business man or woman as president, it's surmised there must be others as grounded and dependable as Buffett.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer.)