KeizerOpinion

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Celebrate Keizer

our opinion

Each year the month of May gets busier and more packed with events locally and regionally.

We are smack in the middle of KeizerFEST 2018. KeizerFEST? The Keizer Iris Festival is not dead but it has a new moniker. So many people still call our community's biggest event by a name it carried when it was a fundraiser for St. Edward Catholic Church—complete with a Keizerfest tent that sold beer and had live entertainment. After the church decided to move away from selling alcohol in such a brash fashion, the Keizer Chamber of Commerce folded it in what was Keizer Days and...poof...the Keizer Iris Festival was born.

The first festival was in the late 1980s after it was decided to market the city as the Iris Capital of the World due to the world-reknown Schreiner's Iris Gardens just north of the city and Cooley's Gardens near Silverton (it has been shuttered for a number of years now).

Regardless of the attempts to make the Iris Festival a regional powerhouse, many still called it KeizerFEST and it remained a local, community event.

In the scheme of things, none of that mattters—the residents of Keizer line up for the parade, go to the big white tent with its variety of live entertainment. Some take part in the runs, others visit the iris fields.

The festival is Keizer's opportunity to put its best foot forward. All the components are there including a recent addition of Lemonade Day on Saturday, May 19.

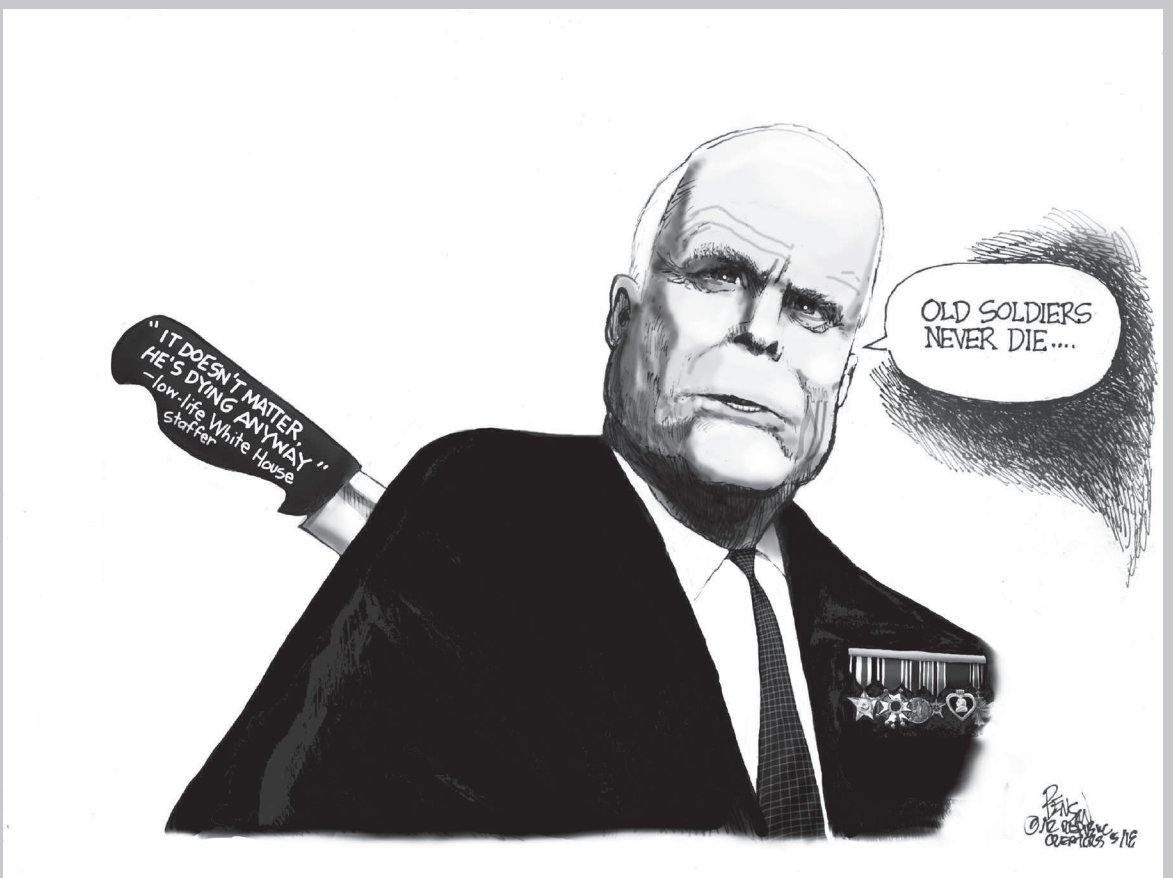
Lemonade Day, overseen by Salem-Keizer Education Foundation, is a national one-day event designed to teach grade- and middle-school aged children how to be entrepeneurs. There will be a number of lemonade stands sited in front of select River Road businesses.

We are in the middle of the festival which is officially the entire month of May. So far we have had the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, named co-winners for the title of Keizer's Distinguished Young Woman and honored moms at the annual Keizer Volunteer Firefighters pancake breakfast.

There are a lot of reasons to celebrate Keizer as a wonderful place to live. KeizerFEST weekend gives people of all ages plenty to enjoy, especially when the weather cooperates.

Whether you mark KeizerFEST by running, smelling, eating, listening or marching, you will be part of a tradition that dates back to the 1940s and the very first parade in the Manbrin Gardens neighborhood of Keizer.

—LAZ



Women's group offended by Rep. Post

letters

To the Editor:

I am appalled and disappointed by the behavior of my state representative for District 25, Bill Post.

I belong to one of the state's largest conservative women's groups —Oregon Women for Trump (OWFT)—who proudly endorsed Sam Carpenter for Oregon governor.

Because of this endorsement, Mr. Post has recently taken to social-media airways to bash this group of more than 900 members with horrible statements.

Oregon Women for Trump is very active in Oregon. They are doing good, recruiting Republican precinct committee persons (PCPs), holding political events, raising funds, and campaigning hard for their chosen candidates.

OWFT recently held a public gubernatorial debate where more than 200 people attended. Members were called "cult-like" and "idol worshippers" because they supported Sam Carpenter, not Rep. Post's candidate.

Rep. Post has put down (in a now deleted post) a cancer survivor by referring to her as "a cancer to our cause."

He also said "if any PCP does not support the Republican nominee for governor, they should be drummed out of the party and stripped of their rights to vote."

We interpret that to mean if your religious beliefs are to vote for life instead of abortion, you should not be allowed to participate as a PCP.

This is a bullying tactic and should never have been said by an elected official. I have called on the Oregon Republican Party to look into this despicable behavior. It's wrong, and Bill Post needs to be held accountable.

Carol Leek
Keizer

Share your opinion
Email a letter to the edito.
Deadline is noon Tuesday.
Email to: publisher@keizertimes.com

A thank you to teachers and coaches

the life of keizer

By TRISTAN BRIGGS

We are a privileged group—those of us who grew up in Keizer. Our city and state provided 13 years of education designed to prepare us for success in ways we often rejected or tried to ignore in our youthful demeanors.

We often complained about the ancient buildings, the packed classrooms that were always too hot or too cold, and of course about homework (or any kind of work for that matter).

In some ways our concerns had some merit—our system is imperfect and needs the support of society, but as my classmates and I neared the end of our public school experience at McNary in 2014 we were starting to realize the most impactful part of our education had not been in the infrastructure or official curricula opportunities—this honored place was held by our teachers and coaches.

Being four years detached and about to graduate college, my respect for the quality of our teachers has only grown. Despite every obstacle in their paths for doing so from logistics to bureaucracy to funding to even some downright mean students, they came to work every single day to give everything of themselves to push us to the greatest success possible. They gave of themselves not only in academic rigor, but in the greater lessons of life that are taught by that vehicle—the value of maximum effort, living a life in service to others, and the respect for each other and our society that is so important to every part of American life.

I will forever remember Coach Hafer running lines with us for what felt like hours to teach our 8th grade football team respect and brotherhood, the Big Four of junior year (Borresen's Honors American Literature, Tiller's Pre-Calculus, Hanson's Honors Chemisr., and, of course, Litchfield's AP US History) each pushing us past our intellectual limits to set a foundation for us to achieve academic success based in thoughtful values, Master Sergeant Ellis and his wife serving the human needs of students in ways a normal classroom never could while pushing us all to respect and support each other as an AFJROTC family.

Mrs. Bell loving her students as if her own children and supporting all of us in our individual growth, Coach Fordney and those dreaded Verda Lane 400s and the mental grit they instilled in us, the stories could go on forever as the mosaic of growth that all of us students went through to become who we are today.

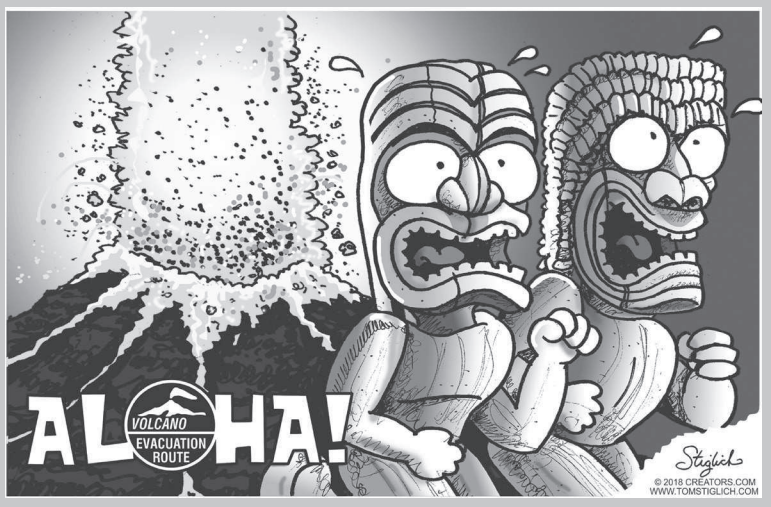
As I prepare to enter the career of my dreams straight out of college, I will forever stand on this base that our Keizer teachers and coaches helped to mold for me. For this, I and all Keizer students are forever in their debt.

A special thank you to many of the teachers and coaches who had an impact on my life from the beginning all the way back in 2001 to now from Clear Lake, Whiteaker, and McNary:

Mrs. Zahradnik, Mrs. Stai, Mrs. McFadden, Mrs. Percy, Mrs. DeVos, Mrs. Tipelin, Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Biamont, Mr. Hein, Mr. Staley, Mrs. Erickson, Mr. Earl, Mrs. McNulty, Mr. Hunter, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Mahi, Mrs. Coe, Coach Hafer, Mr. Coburn, Mrs. Ambert, Mr. Mulligan, Mrs. Keeker, Mr. Crockett, Mrs. Woods, Mrs. Bowers, Mrs. Sheridan, Mrs. Bushey, Mrs. Tavares, Mrs. Roberson, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Cramer, Sra. Jensen, Mrs. Bell, Mr. Parker, Mrs. Graham, Mr. Melting, Mr. Myers, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Stefani, Mrs. Bello, Maj Garcia, MSgt Ellis, Mama Ellis, Mama Hawaii, Mr. Borresen, Mr. Tiller, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Litchfield, Mr. Looney, Mr. Heimerdinger, Mr. Nicholas, Mrs. Olson, Mr. Freeman, Coach Gauntz, Coach Fordney, Coach Anagnos, Coach Auvinen, Coach Walker et al.

An incredible list of mentors and educators if I ever saw one.

(Tristan Briggs graduated from McNary High School in 2014 and will graduate from the United States Air Force Academy this year.)



Opposition to mascots not a trivial matter

gene h. mcintyre

In this day and age of a threatened nuclear war delivered by ICBMs, another president's impeachment, huge homeless numbers, impending infrastructure failures, global warming and weather catastrophes, substantive tax relief only for the nation's wealthiest citizens, "hush money" payments, the corruptions of "pay-to-play" by national office holders, gasoline price increases, illegal immigrants, etc., there are . . . the mascot crises.

Taking what may be argued as the most easy to denounce because it was inherently wrong in the first place, news out of Albany recently announced that South Albany High School has decided to surrender its Rebels nickname for something more acceptable, even though the old nickname has been quite difficult for some to give up. It has been used at South Albany for years while its origin was the Confederacy, adopted as a battle cry in fighting the North, the objective being to preserve, protect and perpetuate the enslavement of their fellow African-American citizens.

Such a time from our past cannot be labeled anything other than grossly inhumane since it's indisputably known that African-Americans are just as human as all the other homo sapiens: the difference solely skin color with all other body parts identical. Nevertheless, a war was fought by Americans against other Americans, resulting in 1.5 million casualties. So, how many modern day Americans feel right about attending sports events where participants and spectators cheer for the Rebels?

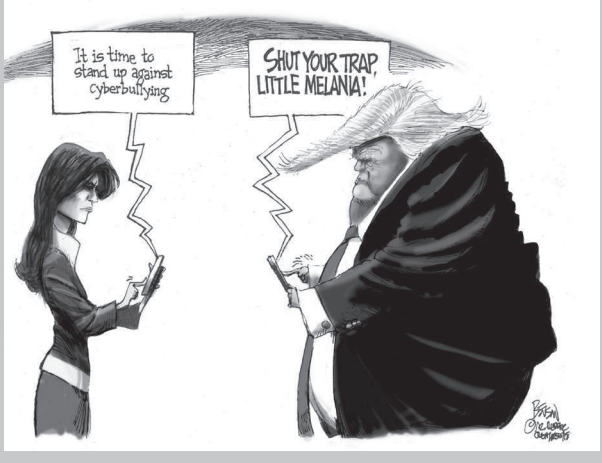
Meanwhile, although the matter is not brand new to Portland, a few moons ago one of its secondary schools, Cleveland High School, argued long and hard, with many a bitter feeling aroused, to preserve their Indians mascot. Now, we, the informed among us, know how the American Indians, and original dwellers of what became known as North America, were treated. The real American Indians, those same natives who settled in North America—long before Europeans arrived—having their name taken to celebrate victory or defeat in sports events. Incidentally, at Cleveland High in Portland, Indians has been replaced by Warriors.

Never wanting the dust to get entirely settled in mascot land, there now brews in Portland another mascot donnybrook. This time it's over Quakers as a mascot name for Franklin High School. Never mind that early and famous American patriot Benjamin Franklin was never a Quaker, the founders of Franklin somehow decided that would be a better mascot name than, say, for arguments sake, lightening, as old Ben had something to do with enlightening humankind vis-a-vis the fundamentals of electrical conduction.

A formal complaint was made with the Portland Public Schools Education Board over the use of Quakers at Franklin High and the complaint resulted in the PPS board devoting a year's time to choosing a new name. The complaint was explained as Quakers is the name of an organized religion and, as such, is "inappropriate, offensive, and unconstitutional" for use as a school's mascot name. Incidentally, the board, after receiving the complaint, has decided to review all its district naming policies and make changes accordingly.

Whether an issue is viewed as great or small often depends upon the beholder. The mascot debates are probably considered by many Americans as "small' issues. Nevertheless, no matter the degree of importance, these debates are symbolic of the American spirit since colonial times to try to serve the needs and concerns of all citizens rather than what's narrowly self-serving and self-centered, biased and prejudicial. It is the belief of this writer that we Americans should do everything possible to pull together: A prevailing condition of cooperation and sensitivity for all, hopefully enabling our nation to reunite as in some former times where every American sees this as a place to call home.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer.)



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