

KeizerOpinion

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Yes to intermodal transload facility

The Brooks-Hopmere area is one of the proposed sites in the Willamette Valley for an Intermodal Transloading Facility. Millersburg on the north side of Albany is another site close to our area.

Transloading is the process of transferring a shipment from one mode of transportation to another—in this case, from truck to rail, to be shipping to ports in Portland and in Washington state.

The Oregon Shipping Group is assisting with the Oregon Port of Willamette's proposal for the facility. That group represents 50 business stakeholders and is led by Kevin Mannix. The proposal to the Oregon Department of Transportation included supporting letters from a variety of area business organizations as well as the agriculture industry.

The rationale for transloading facilities in the Willamette Valley is to more efficiently move products to foreign markets. Currently farm products are shipped via truck to ports for shipment overseas. The freeways in and around the Portland area are experiencing increased traffic counts which results in higher shipping costs for producers whose goods are stuck in traffic.

It is more efficient for producers to bypass clogged roadways in the metropolitan area by utilizing a transloading facility here in the mid-Willamette Valley. If Brooks-Hopmere wins the nod from the state, which will hand down its decision in late September, it will be a win for ag business here in the northern valley but certainly also a win for ag business in the southern Willamette Valley; shipping to Brooks

would be cheaper than going all the way to ports in Portland or points north.

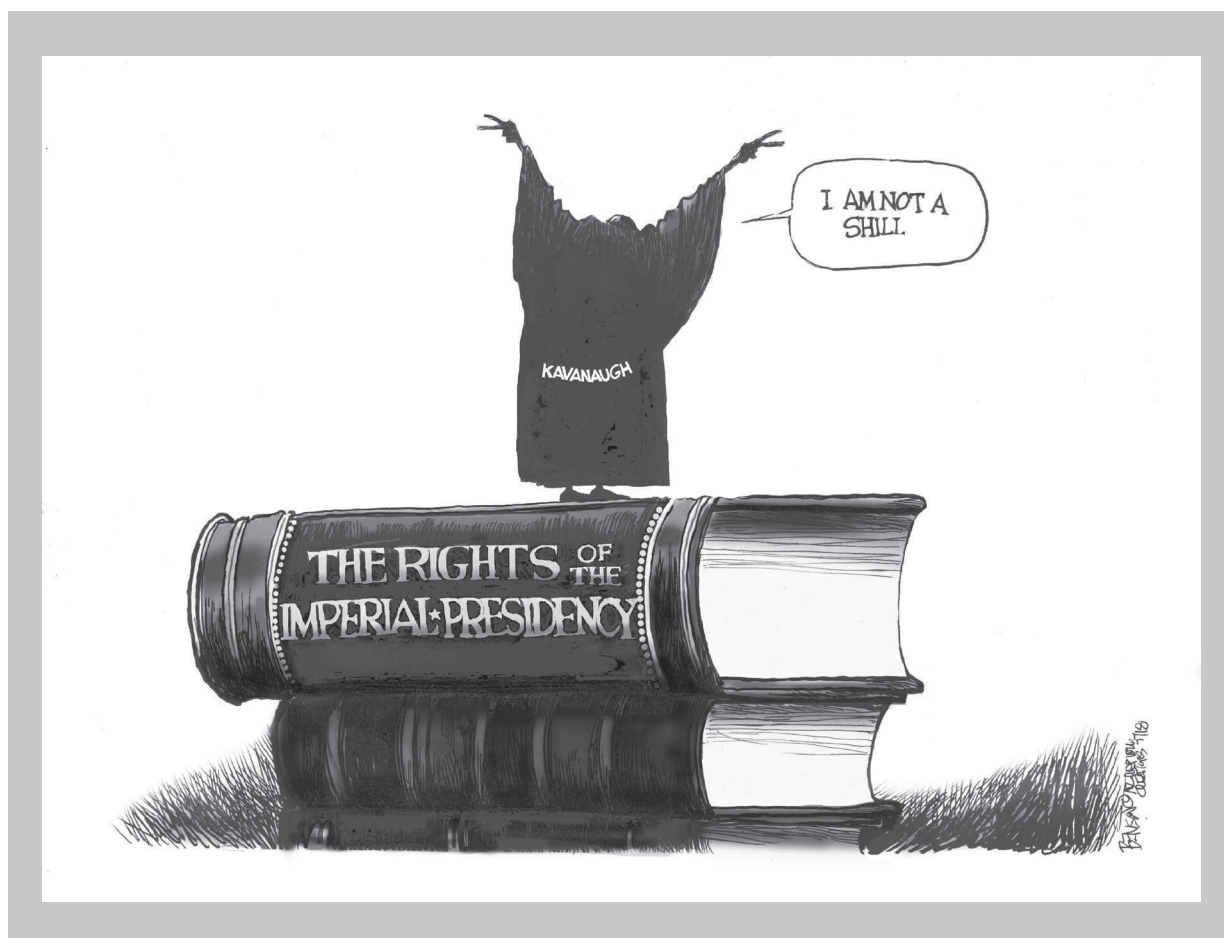
The Oregon Shipping Ground has laid the groundwork with adjoining commercial and residential neighbors. They have solicited comments and ideas, particularly when it comes to the Brooks-Interstate 5 interchange. If Brooks-Hopmere is chosen as the site for the mid-Willamette Valley site there certainly would be improvements at that interchange. One should not expect improvement on the level of the recent Woodburn re-do.

The proposed facility at Brooks-Hopmere is not designed to add lots of jobs. As currently design the facility would feature a handful of positions. Though it is not heavy with jobs there are other benefits—increased global trade for western Oregon growers, fewer big rig trucks on Portland area freeways (this is important because most Keizerites travel to Portland occasionally) and, eventually an improved interchange that many north Keizer residents use.

The proposed sites—one next to May Trucking Company on the west side of the freeway, the other north of Brooklake Road next to the NOR-PAC plant—will not adversely affect those who live or have businesses in the area.

Agriculture is Oregon's primary business and anything that can make it more competitive is a good thing. We support the Mid-Willamette Valley Intermodal Transloading Facility whether it is approved for the west or the east side of the freeway at Brooks-Hopmere. —LAZ

our opinion



Tariffs stuck on the spin cycle

By VERONIQUE DE RUGY

American firms cheering for protectionism in the form of tariffs on their foreign competitors should be careful what they wish for. As they say, "What goes around comes around." Case in point: The American washer and dryer manufacturer Whirlpool Corp.

Last January, the Trump administration imposed a penalty on Americans who buy foreign-made washers. The administration argued that the need to protect our domestic washer makers from competition required the imposition, for a period of three years, of a 20 percent duty on the first 1.2 million imported washing machines each year and a 50 percent duty on quantities above that threshold. Whirlpool loved the idea of getting a leg up on two of its most fierce competitors and increasingly consumer darlings, South Korean Samsung Electronics Co. and LG Electronics Inc. Why bother trying to produce goods that your consumers want to buy when Uncle Sam can make your competitors' stuff artificially more expensive?

Marc Bitzer, the chief executive officer of Whirlpool, touted this protection as "without any doubt, a positive catalyst for Whirlpool." Of course, it's not so good for American consumers who must now pay a penalty if they insist on buying the foreign-made washers that they prefer over American-made washers. One result of this penalty, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, is that washer prices have risen by about 20 per-

cent since January. From Whirlpool's standpoint, the policy seemed like a raging success. Imports of large residential washers fell from a monthly average of 350,000 in 2017 to an average of 161,000 each month of 2018 through April.

But it's not only American consumers who are harmed by Trump's tariffs. American businesses also get hurt in the process when consumers, having to fork over hundreds of dollars more for washers, must forgo the purchase of other products that they would have otherwise bought. This isn't surprising since tariffs always divert resources toward government-protected (read: favored) businesses and away from unprotected ones (read: everyone else).

Here's the thing: When you cheer for protectionism, you never know when you might become the victim of the next round of consumer-punishing tariffs. That's what happened to Whirlpool, which is now a victim of the 25 percent steel tariffs imposed by the administration to protect the steel industry from foreign competition.

It's funny how that works. Whirlpool isn't too happy about this particular version of protectionism. The steel tariffs increase the company production costs for washers and dryers. And some of these higher production costs are covered in the form of higher prices for consumers. As a result, since the Trump tariffs were announced and set in place, prices have gone up across brands and the demand for washers has fallen.

Meanwhile, appliance-repair busi-

nesses are making a killing as consumers put off the purchase of new appliances in favor of the expensive (but relatively cheaper) repairs they wouldn't have purchased in a not-so-long-ago pre-tariff past. Poor protect-me-but-not-thee Whirlpool; this sad turn of events has forced the company to reconsider many of its hopes for expansion.

With imports down, the company planned to add workers at its washer plant in expectation of a new rush of tariff-induced washer sales. Not so fast. Thanks to the many tariffs applied to over \$90 billion of imports from China and other places (including inputs and raw materials like steel), Whirlpool not only didn't add 1,300 workers to its Clyde factory in Ohio; it has actually reduced its production. It's therefore unsurprising that Whirlpool's share price is down 15 percent since the washer tariffs were put in place. That's in spite of the massive cut in the corporate income tax rate from 35 to 21 percent and other tax cuts.

The bottom line is that a government that's powerful enough to protect some producers against foreign competitors is powerful enough to protect other producers—protection that winds up inflicting net damage on most or even all producers. As for the 6.5 million workers in America's steel-consuming manufacturing plants (including Whirlpool's), they can be added—along with all consumers—to the laundry list of long-suffering victims of cronyism that the Washington, D.C., swamp has left out to dry. (Creators Syndicate)

the opinion of others

gene h. mcintyre

Let's end need for clean-up

We congratulate Richard Boyes on being named Volunteer of the Quarter by the Keizer City Council earlier this week.

Boyes was nominated by members of the West Keizer Neighborhood Association for his work over the past years collecting trash along Chemawa Road from River Road to Keizer Rapids Park. The volunteer works on his own to assure Keizer keeps up its neat and tidy look.

It is unfortunate that anyone has to clean trash from our roadways. After decades of anti-littering messages, especially from an owl (Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute), one would think that private-sector street trash collectors would be a thing of the past. It is not, as evidenced by Mr. Boyes efforts and by those who adopt a street.

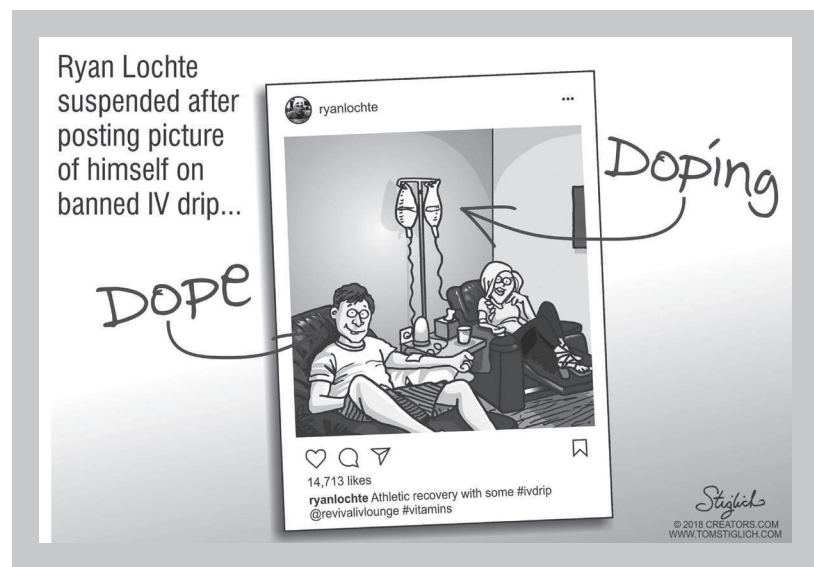
Each year volunteers help SOLVE

clear tons of trash from Oregon beaches. If volunteers didn't chip in and pick up wrappers, bottles, cans and other debris, our streets and beaches would look like a landfill.

We grew up hearing the 'don't pollute' message. If we threw a can out the car window or along the curb, we were swiftly comforted. In other words, we were shamed into picking up our cast-off and disposing of it correctly.

We all need to be guardians of our planet, not to mention our neighborhoods and stand up to those who so cavalierly use public lands as their personal waste basket. There's a place for everything.

We adults have to give a hoot and shame those, of any age, who choose to litter. Until the day comes when no one litters, we will rely upon the concerned volunteers like Richard Boyes. —LAZ



Trump's foreign policy style rankles

After a two-hour, private, no-observers meeting between a Russian dictator and what looks like his understudy, the news conference that followed required no training in body language interpretation to conclude which one of them enjoyed the upper hand. The one, Russia's President Vladimir Putin presented himself with a cocky smile built on a confident, in-charge stride while the other, President Donald J. Trump, appeared nervous, petulant, unsure, and emasculated.

The two stood at separate podiums for a press conference where the American president displayed deference to his Russian counterpart, lavishing high praise on him while assuming a subordinate role. In answering the very first question from an audience of reporters, Trump blamed disputes and problems between the U.S. and Russia on his predecessor, former President Barack Obama, and his challenger for the presidency, Hillary Clinton. He also recognized Putin for being honest in claiming Russia did not interfere in our 2016 election and repudiated his own intelligence appointees.

Then, Trump returned to Washington, D.C. and the next day changed one word in his give-away to Putin before the whole world. He followed over the next week by reversing himself and, to date, has done so multiple times (as before Helsinki and now after). Meanwhile, we've gotten familiar—from his 18-months in the White House—that whatever he says the

first time is what he really believes. What's become clear is that Trump listens primarily to himself, sometimes to daughter Ivanka, but is most influenced by Putin, a KGB agent dedicated to returning Russian to the Soviet Union-era and its former sphere of influence, adding, presently, and his greatest ambition, the West, too.

If the reader does not know it already, every objective fact relating to America's special counsel, Robert Mueller and his team of U.S. assistants, had already disclosed that Putin's Russia helped Trump into the presidency. Putin has also confirmed that he wanted Trump elected to the presidency. At this juncture in U.S. foreign affairs, it must be remembered that, in Philadelphia during the 1787 convention, the authors of what became the U.S. Constitution, the founding of our democratic-republic design, worried a lot about foreign corruption of the new nation's presidency.

The month of July, 2018, has provided, compliments of Donald Trump, other mind-boggling actions besides his throw away in Finland. He also denounced the European Union as our "foe," threatened to terminate NATO, wrecked the US-led world trading system, and intervened in the United Kingdom and German politics in support of extremist and pro-Russian forces. These matters in addition to his refusal to stand up to protect and preserve the integrity of our voting system. Is our sovereignty about to become a victim of a Russian's am-

bitions? Will we let it?

Can we actually wait for another election several months away when our president, who swore to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States of America" has subordinated himself to Putin? Special counsel Robert Mueller now investigates how deep and destructive the union between Trump and Putin is. In the meantime, Trump has invited Putin to visit the White House for another private meeting where, it's surmised based on Helsinki, the fate of more than 320 million Americans will remain a secret.

The world's people want to avoid a nuclear holocaust and that's why it is critically important that our president maintain an open line with Russia's president. However, because Vladimir Putin is a dictator who seeks to spread his power, he sees the West's democratic principles and practices as standing in his way. Hence, to help himself, he's using Trump, a naïve, self-centered leader who admires his strongman status. Those who value our way of life, our laws, institutions, norms and freedoms, are encouraged to give serious consideration to what's at stake before willfully surrendering the 229-years-old great American experiment to the wiles of a foreign totalitarian.

(Gene H. McIntyre shares his opinion every week.)

Keizertimes

Wheatland Publishing Corp.
142 Chemawa Road N. • Keizer, Oregon 97303
Phone: 503.390.1051 • www.keizertimes.com



EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Lyndon Zaitz
publisher@keizertimes.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Eric A. Howald
editor@keizertimes.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Derek Wiley
news@keizertimes.com

ADVERTISING
Paula Moseley
advertising@keizertimes.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER & GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Andrew Jackson
graphics@keizertimes.com

LEGAL NOTICES
legals@keizertimes.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
Leah Stevens
billing@keizertimes.com

RECEPTION
Lori Beyeler

INTERNS
Random Pendragon
Casey Chaffin

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

Share your opinion

Email a Letter to the Editor or submit a guest column to the Keizertimes. Deadline is noon Tuesdays. Email to: publisher@keizertimes.com