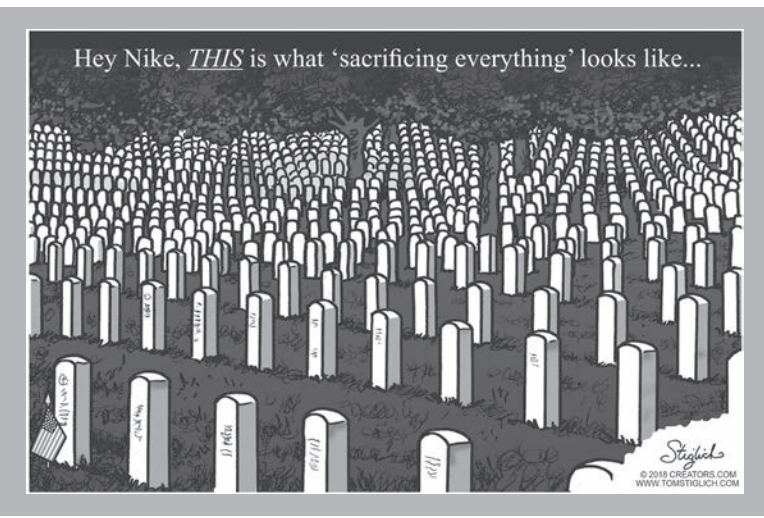


Opinion



Keep the conversation going

By CASEY CHAFFIN

On Saturday, Sept. 1, in seeming response to a set of *Keizertimes* stories on hate crimes and bias incidents, Oregon State Rep. Bill Post created a poll in the Keizer, OR Facebook. Post's poll asked: "Do you feel like Keizer is a 'racist' or 'non-inclusive' community?"

The poll set off a discussion about hate and inclusivity in Keizer. Much of it ran along the lines of "Keizer is great, everything's fine" and "racism is everywhere so stop attacking Keizer." But there was a subset of commenters talking about structural inequality and several people of color sharing their experiences with discrimination in Keizer.

As a contributing writer to the set of stories about hate in Keizer, it's the kind of conversation I wanted to see. Some of the comments made me angry, but I was encouraged to see people grappling with what it means to live in this community and what it means to ostracize others.

As I was scrolling through comments, I noticed an admin of the Keizer Facebook group was telling people "political/religious comments" weren't allowed. I thought, how are we supposed to discuss hate, discrimination and racism without getting political? These are political issues and we need to discuss them, even if it starts arguments and ruffles feathers.

I was disheartened later that day to see that the admin ended up deleting the entire post with all the comments, and then made a new post with a disabled comment sec-

tion redirecting people to the *Keizertimes* website to vote in the poll addressing the homophobic language in the Keizer city charter. In doing so, the admin shut down a conversation about hate and discrimination and racism—and in the process shut down my hope of progress toward a better Keizer.

Neither the question of what it means for Keizer to be inclusive nor the dismissal of that question are new. This topic has previously been brought to the city council. In the past year since Keizer citizens requested the city council pass an inclusivity resolution, it

was discussed at only *one* work session before disappearing completely. If every forum for dialogue is shut down, we will not make progress—only stagnate in our current positions.

Hate is an uncomfortable issue to discuss. Looking at our own community and seeing something we don't want to see is jarring. But we need to get uncomfortable. That discomfort is the beginning of understanding. And understanding is what we need to address the systemic flaws that allow hate to go unchecked. We need to create spaces where we can discuss these issues of discrimination and inclusivity, because we need to have this conversation now. We've been putting it off since Oregon's founding. We can't just delete the Facebook posts and pretend like everything's fine—because it's not. And it won't get better until we can talk about it as a community.

(Casey Chaffin was an intern with the *Keizertimes* this summer.)

guest column

Kudos

To the Editor:

Nice work on bringing the conversation about racism in our community to the forefront. It would be lovely if you would keep this conversation going through a regular series on the topic.

Jessica Johnson
Keizer

Dog rescued

To the Editor:

Kudos to the folks at Keizer Station who took the initiative to rescue a dog from a locked car today, Wednesday, Aug. 22.

After seeing that the dog was in distress and having failed to be able to locate the owner, they did exactly as the Good Samaritan law (ORS 30.813) prescribes: they broke into the car, called the police, and re-

letters

mained with the dog until the owner arrived. They also waited for the police to arrive.

Given all the information available on how quickly a car can heat up, it is astonishing that some pet owners are still so thoughtless or reckless that they will leave an animal in a locked car on a hot sunny day. With recent temperatures in the high 80s, the temperature inside a car, even with a window open a crack, can quickly exceed 120 degrees—potentially lethal for a pet.

The owner of the dog rescued today did not seem appreciative of the actions of the Good Samaritans. Hopefully, on reflection, she will realize the favor they did for her and her dog, or she will realize that she is not an appropriate owner of a pet.

Doug Parrow
Keizer

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Web Poll Results

The current Keizer city charter includes language marginalizing LGBTQ+ residents, should it be changed?

Yes - **54%** No - **46%**

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!

GO TO KEIZERTIMES.COM

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MONDAY, AUGUST 27

- 1:02 p.m. - Producing, processing, or storing of marijuana in public view on 1000 block Orchard Street N.
- 2 p.m. - Vandalism on 4900 block Rickman Road NE.
- 5:15 p.m. - Traffic accident on 2500 block Chemawa Road NE.
- 7 p.m. - Arrest on warrant on 3600 block Brooks Avenue NE.
- 7 p.m. - Bicycle theft on 5400 block McLeod Lane NE.
- 8:30 p.m. - Arrest on warrant on 6000 block Jacobe Street NE.
- 9:06 p.m. - Arrest on warrant on 100 block Garland Way N.
- 11 p.m. - Vandalism on 5100 block Wittenberg Lane NE.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

- 1 a.m. - Missing automobile on 1500 block Wittenberg Lane NE.
- 11:20 a.m. - Shoplifting on 6200 block Ulali Drive NE.
- 11:28 a.m. - Fraudulent use of credit card on 5000 block River Road N.
- 12:43 p.m. - Theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories on 5000 block Windsor Island Road N.
- 4:40 p.m. - Arrest for DUII at intersection of River Road NE and McGee Court NE.
- 7:07 p.m. - Minor in possession of marijuana on 1400 block Chemawa Road NE.
- 9 p.m. - Vandalism on 4400 block Delight Street N.

- 10:25 p.m. - Arrest on warrant on 4600 block River Road N.
- 10:31 p.m. - Arrest for possession of methamphetamine on 4600 block River Road N.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

- 5:22 a.m. - Arrest on warrant at intersection of River Road N and Garland Way N.
- 5:45 p.m. - Burglary on 5100 block Hasbrook Avenue NE.
- 2 p.m. - Theft from vehicle on 4900 block River Road N.
- 3:25 p.m. - Shoplifting on 3800 block River Road N.
- 3:46 p.m. - Arrest for parole violation on 900 block of Chemawa Road NE.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

- 12:05 a.m. - Arrest for probation violation on 4600 block River Road N.
- 12:29 a.m. - Arrest on warrant at intersection of Cherry Avenue NE and Johnson Street NE.
- 12:59 a.m. - Arrest for DUI on 5400 block River Road N.
- 10:30 p.m. - Arrest for DUII at intersection of Chemawa Road NE and Wittenberg Lane NE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

- 12:30 a.m. - Theft from vehicle on 4900 block River Road N.

- 4:30 p.m. - Theft from vehicle on 5100 block 7th Avenue NE.
- 11:22 p.m. - Arrest for assault, criminal damage, and violation of release agreement on 1000 block Harmony Drive NE.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- 12:45 a.m. - Arrest for DUII on 3300 block River Road N.
- 1 a.m. - Theft from vehicle on 600 block James Street NE.
- 2:18 p.m. - Arrest for probation violation at intersection of Crestwood Court NE and Lockhaven Drive NE.
- 3:23 p.m. - Arrest for trespassing on 5700 block Crestwood Court NE.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- 9:20 p.m. - Arrest on warrant on 800 block Cummings Lane N.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- 11:43 a.m. - Vehicle theft on 1500 block Shady Lane NE.
- 8:57 p.m. - Arrest for giving false information to police officer on 1400 block Chemawa Road NE.
- 11:14 p.m. - Assault on 4300 block River Road N.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- 1:05 a.m. - Homicide investigation on 400 block Cummings Lane N.

MHS band collecting cans

Members of the McNary High School band will spread throughout Keizer neighborhoods on Saturday, Sept. 8, to collect redeemable cans and bottles as a fundraiser to the benefit the band program.

Teams of band members will go door-to-door seeking donations of cans and bottles that can be redeemed. They will also accept cash donations. Keizerites who will not be home on Sept. 8 can choose to leave their cans and bottles on the front porch or in front of the garage.

Band Day is overseen by the McNary Band Boosters who will set up a station at the high school parking lot to accept and sort donations from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; they will accept donations at that site from people who want to bring their donated cans and bottles themselves.

Band Day is one of two major fundraisers for the band held each year. Proceeds fund band transportation to competitions, music, cleaning of marching uniforms, band camp and to hire professional musicians to hold seminars for band members.

Additionally, you can contribute to the band throughout the year by registering for a free BottleDrop account and earmarking refunds for the McNary Band. Once registration is complete, you will be able to pick up special green recycling bags that can be filled and dropped off at BottleDrop Centers. The closest BottleDrop Center to Keizer is located at 1880 Commercial Street N.E. in Salem. Hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For information or questions, visit mcnaryhsband.org.

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Please no outside food or beverages. NO PETS allowed inside the amphitheater.