

Opinion



Protect emergency services

To the Editor:

Keizer Fire District consistently rates as one of the most tax efficient departments in the state while providing critical service response that our community has come to expect.

Voting yes on Keizer Fire District's Measure 24-432 will allow KFD to continue the same level of services for our community without increasing cost to our existing levy.

The call volume has increased 45 percent in five years. This is a much needed yes vote.

Hank & Sandy Tarter
Keizer

I support Elizabeth Smith

To the Editor:

I am supporting Elizabeth Smith for Keizer City Council Position #5.

I have known Elizabeth for over 20 years and have found her to be a no-nonsense lady. She'll bring a fresh perspective to the council and is not afraid to speak her mind.

I am sure Elizabeth will work hard to serve Keizer as a city councilor knowing that the time she gives will make a difference.

Jim Taylor
Keizer

Kohler stands out for dedication to Keizer community

To the Editor:

It is easy today to throw up your hands and turn away from politics. Some of our leaders at the national level have given us every reason to do so.

That is why candidates like Dan Kohler stand out. His dedication to his community and willingness to listen set him apart from the rest. He doesn't walk into a room thinking he has all the answers. Dan walks in ready to listen. I like that.

In this election, I urge you to vote Dan Kohler for Keizer City Council Position #6. He shares our priorities and embodies what it means to be a Keizerite.

Please join me in supporting Kohler for Keizer.

Jonathan Thompson
Keizer

Kohler means Keizer values

To the Editor:

Keizer does not need East Coast

letters

values; tax and spend, high density and business-killing policies.

What Keizer does need is someone who has lived in Keizer long enough to know what Keizer is all about—pride, spirit and volunteerism is just the beginning. It also takes a commitment to Keizer's mission: "Keep city costs and services to a minimum by providing city services to the community in a coordinated, efficient, and least cost fashion" by someone who knows how because he has lived and worked along side of us for decades.

That candidate is Dan Kohler.

Many of you have worked along side of Dan at the Big Toy or have benefited from his hours of commitment to teaching your kids scouting...now is the time to return the favor.

We will all benefit from Dan being on Keizer City Council. He will continue to provide a steady hand, sound common sense solutions to Keizer's everyday problems and a listening ear for your new ideas.

I am voting for Dan, you should too!

Lore Christopher
Keizer

Vote for Kohler

To the Editor:

I have known Dan Kohler for six years now. If the city of Keizer truly deserves a city council member, it is without a doubt Dan Kohler.

Dan has a wonderful reputation for his work, his service in the community, the neighborhood in which he lives. Dan is very informative about the goings-on in his city, and is most supportive.

Dan is the person that anyone can walk up to and talk, and Dan will give his undivided attention to that person. This is what the people of Keizer deserve, and this is what the city of Keizer needs. Dan is a leader, a listener, a doer, and will get the job done. The people of Keizer will appreciate a person like Dan Kohler for his hard work, dedication and leadership to keep Keizer in the 21st century, and down the road into the future. As a homeowner, and the president of the Cedar Bluff Homeowners Association, I am very proud of Dan Kohler for all his hard work within the community of Keizer over the many years. Dan deserves the chance to serve the people in Keizer the way they expect to be treated. There is no one else but Dan Kohler.

Remember, to vote for Dan Kohler as our next city councilman.

Gary Wagner
Keizer

Candidate sets record straight

By MIKE DE BLASI

I'm a candidate for the Keizer City Council. I want to correct one part of a recent *Keizertimes* editorial (*We recommend Kohler*, Oct. 12).

It was written that Position #6 candidates "have their differences on upcoming issues such as the third bridge (De Blasi is against it; he'd rather see tolls on the existing bridges)." I do not support the third bridge as it is proposed. However, the solutions are more complex than just tolls. Tolling works because a price on road use has been proven to reduce overall traffic by reducing discretionary trips—trips that are not necessary but taken because they are free. They also balance the costs of a single passenger vehicle trip compared to other forms of transport.

Tolling alone will not completely solve the congestion problem. If it did, roads on the East Coast would be traffic free. Local government leaders need to develop a truly comprehensive development and transportation policy with the aim of reducing single passenger vehicle trips. Past decisions have

created excessive free parking options in Salem and Keizer, which not only reduces tax revenue per acre, that incentivizes vehicle use. Off-street parking minimums must be eliminated and maximums reduced.

I also blame state government, which has provided large, free to low-cost off-street parking lots that undermine programs they have to get state employees out of their cars. The result is heavy traffic into downtown Salem in the morning and to Polk County in the evening.

The legislature has passed many laws on the efficient use of land, but many cities in Marion and Polk Counties continue to overwhelmingly approve single family detached homes with little to no transit connections exacerbating the traffic problem. They have also built streets (e.g., Wallace Road) designed solely to reward single passenger vehicle use, while at the same time approving commercial development along these streets that undermine the efficient movement of vehicles—the worst of both worlds. Marion and Polk Counties, and the cities within, need

to approve development that incentivizes other transportation options.

Finally, the region needs to create a truly connected transit system that will provide quick, timely and efficient bus routes connecting the cities in the mid-Willamette Valley. One hundred years ago, our cities were better connected by transit than they are today. This is the result of nearly 80 years of government subsidies for passenger car use as well as zoning that compels providing the parking space for these vehicles.

It is your tax money that will be used to build the third bridge. Shouldn't we demand that our officials utilize all other measures before we commit to spending hundreds of millions of dollars? Shouldn't our politicians be accountable for their past decisions? And shouldn't we be honest with ourselves and admit that sometimes we are our worst enemy by not considering how, in the whole, our everyday decisions are exacerbating the traffic problem?

Thank you for the opportunity to correct the record.

(Mike De Blasi lives in Keizer. He is a candidate for Keizer City Council.)

guest
column

Safety nets are threatened again

Stymied again! This writer does not know whether to stifle a cry and laugh out loud or burst into tears and squelch a hearty guffaw! The dilemma has to do with one of the latest announcements from some of our illustrious "leaders" in Washington, D.C.

If readers haven't noticed, our nation has evolved to a place where, for whatever reason, and there appear many reasons to explain the phenomenon, there are about 2 million of our fellow citizens in a category identified as "homeless." Some are sick and tired of the "rat race" but most, realistically speaking, have fallen into a state, including a great many American children, not having a roof over their heads and enough food to eat.

Should we not try our hardest, as a nation of people who've established a reputation world-wide for being compassionate and helpful to the downtrodden and those without means, to find ways to reverse this alarming direction of so many of our citizens? No, not by way of the nation's capitol! The latest foray by those in charge at D.C. want to add significantly to the number of those without means by terminating

the entitlement social programs—Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Literally millions of America's senior citizens are totally dependent on monthly Social Security checks to keep a roof overhead and food on the table and millions of others, both seniors and younger, who lack the means to pay their medical costs, are far too often hounded out of their homes by bill collectors and foreclosures. Obviously, and forecasting the most dire of consequences, the already alarming numbers sleeping on any space they can find and scrounging for food in garbage cans, counting evermore at astronomically higher numbers.

After instituting a \$1.46 trillion tax cut and signing off on a \$675 billion budget for the U.S. Department of Defense, (both proven unneeded by the rich and the Pentagon) Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced last week that the only way to lower the record-high federal deficit is to cut the entitlement programs. Any American wanting to look at the facts may wish to notice that our nation's deficit has increased by 77 percent since McConnell became majority leader in 2015. Meanwhile,

gene
h.
mcintyre

McConnell says he's "very disturbed" by the deficit numbers.

The folks at the US Treasury Department have determined that the corporate and wealthy American "1 percent" tax cuts have made the biggest contribution to the deficit this year. Anyone interested can find out that tax receipts on corporate income in 2017 fell to \$205 billion from \$297 billion last year. Then, too, and also significant, a small percentage of what the Republicans in Congress promised as a tax cut of several thousands of dollars for every working American family has already been determined as Trump administration fake news.

Republicans like McConnell, House Speaker Paul Ryan and others in lock step want all social help programs to end because they think every American should be able to fend for themselves without government help even though most Social Security recipients already paid for it through life-long withholdings. Their stand on ending the entitlement programs spells h-y-p-o-c-r-i-s-y as they have typically been at the federal trough—feeding socialistically on taxpayer dollars—for the length of their careers and soon, too, under lavish retirement conditions.

(Gene H. McIntyre shares his opinion frequently in the *Keizertimes*.)

Body slams everywhere

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

Progressive activist Wilfred Michael Stark was arrested Tuesday for suspicion of battery against Kristin Davison, the campaign manager for Nevada's GOP gubernatorial candidate, Adam Laxalt.

Until he was fired after the incident, Stark worked for *American Bridge*, a self-described "progressive research and communications organization committed to holding Republicans accountable for their words and actions." His arrest, an earlier arrest at another campaign event, and other recent incidents involving the left made it appear this was open season on Republicans.

Then, just when it seemed like the perfect time to write about Democrats' embrace of intimidation tactics, President Donald Trump stepped into the muck.

At a Make America Great Again rally in Montana Thursday night, Trump joked about Rep. Greg Gianforte, R-Mont., who body slammed *Guardian* reporter Ben Jacobs in 2017 because Jacobs asked the candidate a question about health care.

"Never wrestle him," Trump deadpanned before the enthusiastic crowd.

Trump added, "Any guy who can do a body slam, he's my guy."

On Fox News' *Outnumbered* Friday, son Eric Trump defended his father.

"Oh, stop. He wasn't the guy who body-slammed anybody. He can have fun," said Eric Trump, who added that his father won in 2016 precisely because he is wonderfully "un-PC."

It was an important distinction, the son added, because former Attorney General Eric Holder "wasn't laughing" when Holder said that Democrats should kick Republicans. Trump, said his son, was smiling and jovial.

Maybe, but there was nothing jovial about Gianforte's treatment of Jacobs on May 24, 2017.

Fox News reporter Alicia Acuna, producer Faith Mangan and photographer Keith Bailey witnessed the incident and Acuna wrote about what she saw on the Fox News website.

After Jacobs began asking the GOP candidate about health care, she wrote, "Gianforte grabbed Jacobs by the neck with both hands and slammed him into the ground behind him. Faith, Keith and I watched in disbelief as Gianforte then began punching the reporter. As Gianforte moved on top of Jacobs, he began yelling something to the effect of, 'I'm sick and tired of this!'"

In a statement the campaign at first blamed "aggressive behavior from a liberal journalist."

Authorities charged Gianforte with misdemeanor assault. In June 2017, the now congressman pleaded guilty.

A judge sentenced Gianforte to 40 hours of community service, 20 hours of anger management and a \$300 fine.

In the courtroom, Gianforte apologized to Jacobs, who accepted the apology. He also promised Jacobs an interview that never happened.

Since the GOP Senate confirmed Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, alas, you can't turn on cable news without seeing scenes of protesters yelling at GOP lawmakers in elevators, following them through parking lots or disrupting the free speech rights

and space of those with whom they disagree.

The vein that runs through these protests is a sense of entitlement. Having failed to pressure or persuade Republicans to vote like Democrats, the left has turned to tantrums, intimidation and rampant claims of victimhood.

In a recent viral video, a woman angry about Kavanaugh's confirmation demanded that Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., "apologize to my children for ruining their lives."

Cassidy calmly told the youngsters he was sorry their parents were using them as tools and assured them that if someone wrongly accused them, they would be OK.

"Shame on you," one mother shouted as Cassidy walked away. Shame on her for telling her children Cassidy was robbing them of a bright future.

Hysteria has driven activists to decide they don't have to be civil anymore. When really, they're just being thugs, like Gianforte.

Laxalt campaign manager Davison has a clearer view. *American Bridge*, she told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, paid Stark "to get in people's faces." And that's what he did.

(Creators Syndicate)

Share your opinion

The Keizertimes Opinion page accepts all viewpoints.

Submit a letter to the editor (up to 300 words), or a guest column (up to 550 words) by noon Tuesday.

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Web Poll Results

Will you vote in November's election?

Yes - 96%

No - 4%

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!

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