

Opinion

Statement of our principles Journalism you can trust

To our readers:

We want to be open and clear with you, our reader, about the standards that guide our work every day. We strive to meet every one of these. We never intentionally disregard these principles. When we fail, bad information, speed, or inadequate experience are to blame.

ACCURACY: We strive to be certain that every fact – every number, every date, every name, every quote – is true. We will never knowingly publish false or inaccurate information. We will honestly and quickly correct any factual error.

CLARITY: We want our reporting to be understandable, free of jargon and vagueness. You can expect us to gather the necessary information and develop sufficient expertise to produce stories clear about issues, agencies, and people.

FAIRNESS: Our stories will honestly represent views and issues, never mischaracterizing or distorting facts and developments. We want those we write about to feel they were fairly treated.

FACT CHECKING: We follow our own customized fact-checking protocol to guard against error. That includes a requirement to reach out to subjects of stories as possible to verify the accuracy of our intended reporting.

BIAS: We know full well that readers now come to news reports suspicious that they might encounter a deliberate tilt by the news organization. Our intent is that you never detect a political, economic or social bent in the stories we serve to you.

FACTS OVER FANCY: Our primary job is to gather the news. We devote every dollar we can to report-

ing. That means we don't divert time and money into making our stories glitzy or stunning in design. We are certain you would prefer accurate news over flashy presentations.

PROFESSIONALISM: We can get better, and we will. We will always – always – work to sharpen our journalistic skills. We will become better interviewers, data analysts and writers. Our professionals are intent on getting as good as they can, not for awards but to better serve your needs.

CITIZENSHIP: We don't consider ourselves distant observers. We take pride in the community – its people, institutions, and traditions. We engage in issues that matter. We identify problems, but we will always seek solutions as well. Like you, we want our community to improve, to be welcoming and safe, to be economically vibrant.

WITHOUT FEAR: Our reporting can and will put us at odds with people who hold power or those who can and do abuse the public in some fashion. We will pursue difficult stories because they are important stories. We will not be scared off of or intimidated from doing any necessary story – ever.

WITHOUT FAVOR: We owe allegiance only to you, our reader. Our work is not done in service to any special interest. We are beholden to no party, no business, no individual, and seek no special treatment from any. We are beholden only to the truth.

TRUST: The most valuable possession of our team is your trust. We know we can't exist without it, that we will not otherwise succeed as a business and as a news organization. We are relentless in earning and keeping that trust.

—LZ, LAZ



Rile the media, entertain supporters

By DEBRA SAUNDERS

Critics often accuse President Donald Trump of using dog-whistles to gin up his conservative base. But really, Trump's most effective trick is to get TV journalists to attack on demand—as you can see in cable news coverage on the caravan of Central Americans headed toward the U.S. border.

Perhaps the biggest sucker for Trump's caravan play is Joe Scarborough, the former GOP congressman who hosts MSNBC's *Morning Joe*. Scarborough led last Friday's show with a lecture to Americans concerned about the caravan.

Voters should be concerned about the GOP tax cut that benefited the rich, and the prospect of Republicans fiddling with Social Security and health care, not the caravan, Scarborough schooled his viewers. "That's what's happening in your life. And they don't want you to know that."

Scarborough pooh-poohed the notion that some voters might have concerns about criminal elements sneaking in among refugees looking for a better life—as happened during the Mariel boatlift from Cuba in 1980—by dismissing such fears as simple racism against "brown peo-

ple."

As for those politicians who see the caravan as an issue, the MSNBC don concluded, "They think that you are stupid"—showing that Scarborough thinks you are stupid.

Another Trump trick is to make claims he must know are false, which means fact-checkers are sure to issue banal refutations of his dubious claims.

Turn on your TV and you can learn Democrats really aren't giving Rolls Royces to asylum-seekers as they cross the border with Mexico, as Trump said in Arizona this month. Oh, and Democrats aren't bank-rolling the immigrant caravan and aren't passing out voter registration forms to new arrivals—two other Trump claims.

"I don't agree with him that Democrats are paying for it," former Trump campaign aide Sam Nunberg told the *Review-Journal*. At the same time, Nunberg added, "You know where they (Democrats) stand. They want to abolish ICE. They want sanctuary cities. They are out of the mainstream."

In short, Nunberg argued, Trump may be wrong on the details, but he's right on the spirit. Trump doesn't

spout "complicated, esoteric legalistic" rhetoric on immigration law, Nunberg added; his bluster is "straight talk."

Is it lying? Sure, Anthony Scaramucci, Trump's White House communications director for 11 days, told CNN Tuesday. "I think he likes it actually."

Scaramucci described Trump's untruths as entertainment for base voters who like Trump's act and think, "We finally have a president who is my advocate."

Is that right? No, it is not right, but it is the way the country works right now. To the Trump base, Trump's lies equalize "fake news," so the smart play is to understand where news outlets can improve.

Trump's decision to call himself a "nationalist" in Houston Monday was instructive.

To the Trump base, nationalism and "America First" are born out of patriotism. Why does the base love it when Trump uses words that make New York anchors cringe? GOP strategist and CNN contributor Alice Stewart believes, "Donald Trump makes these voters feel like they're 10 feet tall and bulletproof and no one's ever made them feel that way before."

(Creators Syndicate)

other voices

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We're a better country that it seems

This opinion writer has found it impossible to know everything. Therefore, asking questions while seeking answers has greatly helped in a continuous quest for insights and understandings.

It is reported that Trump party followers find horror in the prospect of any move toward socializing medicine as well as its companion, Medicare-for-all. Why do we not want our fellow Americans to have insurance coverage like other American citizens, citizen Trump and all members of his family being just one poignant example? Wouldn't health insurance enable those having it to get the medical attention they need so whatever's wrong can be addressed before everyone gets it? Then, too, wouldn't anyone who's really needed an emergency room know that if the one hundred folks in line ahead of him had medical insurance they would more likely have gone to a primary care doctor for their bad cold?

Then there's the matter of new Associate Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh about whom my concerns include a record overflowing with hostility towards affordable health care, women's health rights, individual liberties, and the environment. He's also shown again and again that he will side with Big Brother and Big Business over the rights of individual Americans. Plus there are the withheld Kavanaugh records while he worked in the George W. Bush White House preventing full disclosure, while his alleged sexual assaults against women were not fully investigated. Should Kavanaugh, a man apparently absent of character and judgment, be sitting on the highest court in the land?

Is there any truth to Trump's wild and crazy charges that those persons in the so-called "caravan" from Central America, now alleged headed to the U.S. border, include huge numbers of gang members, violent criminals and "unknown Middle Easterners" bent on taking jobs and otherwise destroying us? To the contrary, these people

are smaller in number than Trump administration exaggerations (about 300,000 were stopped at our border last year) and, aside from misleading exaggerations to garner votes from his base, are actually persons escaping certain death in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Aren't they actually legitimate asylum seekers at our border to save themselves and their children?

One of the chief concerns on this writer's list is whether Trump wants to convert our democratic republic into a dictatorship with exclusive authoritarian controls under his supervision. How does an American like me reach this conclusion?

Well, the facts add up: Trump praises dictators, including the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Vladimir Putin of Russia, Bashar al-Assad of Syria, Recep Erdogan of Turkey, and Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines. He says he loves Kim Jung-un of North Korea. He also emulates them by appointing family members to our government's highest positions, glorifies violence at his rallies, views a free press

gene h. mcintyre

as an enemy of the people, makes personal financial gain his highest objective, and desires missile parades. Then, too, there the divisive tactics of fear and loathing used daily by him. How is it that any American can support what he wants to make of us?

A number of Americans nowadays see things for them as a raw deal and believe they can get back at those responsible by blowing up the U.S. Constitution and terminating our way of life...but where does that view get us? We know Trump now; so, do we want leadership in this country such as Trump's, sending us deeper and deeper into dark places where laws are abandoned and violence encouraged? Is that what we want for ourselves, our children, our grandchildren, and future generations?

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

Share your opinion

Submit a letter to the editor (up to 300 words), or a guest column (up to 550 words) by noon Tuesday. Email to: publisher@keizertimes.com

Yes for Keizer Fire levy

To the Editor:

As the wife of retired Keizer volunteer firefighter, Bob Busch, who served for 25 years, I have had a front row seat as to how important the Keizer Fire District is to our community. Our family gave up our firefighter every sixth day for his shift and got used to him leaving at the sound of the pager on other days.

We made many life-long friends through the years and participated in events put on by the Volunteer Firefighters Association, designed to thank and encourage them in their work. We witnessed the beginning of the ambulance service, watched the ground breaking ceremony for the new station, knocked on doors for levies, helped put on holiday parties for firefighter families and arranged tours of the station for our home school groups. All the while the number of calls for service kept rising.

Spraying the hose at the open houses, crawling low in smoke and checking our smoke alarm regularly are a few lessons we never tired of practicing, because we knew our Keizer firefighters were always practicing, too.

We know that the people of Keizer enjoyed Mother's Day and Christmas pancake breakfasts with Santa; red, white and blue water at Homecoming, Engine 1 at the KeizerFEST Parades and Santa's arrival at Keizer's Tree Lighting.

The faces you saw at these events were always ready to be at your emergency at a moments' notice. Although most of these items began with the volunteers, Keizer now has many paid firefighter EMTs and they all work together to serve you.

The levy, when passed, will keep the ambulances staffed and arriv-

letters

ing at your emergency in six minutes or less 93 percent of the time. I appreciated the efficiency, care and teamwork of the crew (paid and volunteer) when they responded to our emergencies and I know that will still happen, even though the number of calls has risen through the years.

I have chosen to continue to support the Keizer Fire District and I ask you to join me in supporting them also with a yes vote on Measure 24-432 on Nov. 6, keeping the current cost for this excellent fire and emergency medical service. Thank and encourage our firefighters for all they do for us.

Colleen Busch
Keizer

Chamber supports KFD levy

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors I ask that you vote yes on the renewal of the Keizer Fire District levy.

It is important to note this is a renewal of the levy, not an increase. Your property taxes will not go up.

Since the last time the levy was renewed call volume for the district has increased by 45 percent. Even with the increased call volume, the department is arriving at calls in less than six minutes 93 percent of the time. The levy represents 25 percent of the fire district's budget.

Based on the excellent performance of the fire district, that they have proven to be good stewards of taxpayer money and the fact the public safety is an important part of a vibrant business community, we ask that you vote yes for Keizer Fire.

Shawn Lapof, Director
Keizer Chamber of Commerce Board

Keizertimes

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

INTERN
Lauren Murphy



EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Lyndon Zaitz
publisher@keizertimes.com

facebook

facebook.com/keizertimes

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Web Poll Results

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR COOKING ABILITY?

Good and getting better	88%
Foie Gras Ribbons w/Orange Chips?	12%
Ramen is still my main dish	0%
I burn boiling water	0%

Vote in a new poll every Thursday!
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