

Opinion

Preserve the Keizer Way

Whether anyone likes it or not, Keizer is growing. Our city's growth is expected to continue on an upward path for the foreseeable future. That's what happens when you are successful.

Through both planning and happenstance Keizer is one of the most desirable addresses one can have in the mid-Willamette Valley. We all must ensure that the Keizer Way is the beacon that draws people and businesses to our city.

Our low tax rate attracts homebuyers who want to get more house for their money than their counterparts in nearby cities.

Money aside, Keizer is also attractive because of our local schools. The elementary schools and middle schools are led by dedicated and engaged principals and staffed by teachers who are eager to instruct our kids in ways both traditional and creative.

McNary High is positioning itself as a world-class school. The rallying cry at the school from the principal on down is: Be bold. And the school is on a bold path. It's AVID program is a model for other schools, not only here but around the country. Giving one's kids the opportunity to attend such a high school is a good reason to find housing in Keizer and call it home.

As more people move into the city there is a worry that the Keizer Way—exemplified by the city's motto of Pride, Spirit and Volun-

teerism—could be diluted. Those who have called Keizer home since before it became a city in the early 1980s understand where the motto originated.

The Keizer Way is the city's motto to come to life. Our government, civic and business leaders have confidence in their ability to create and maintain a community that offers a lifestyle that mirrors the values of all its residents. Coupled with operating a city with a thriftiness not often seen in government and it is no surprise that the Keizer Way is the best invitation possible to our city.

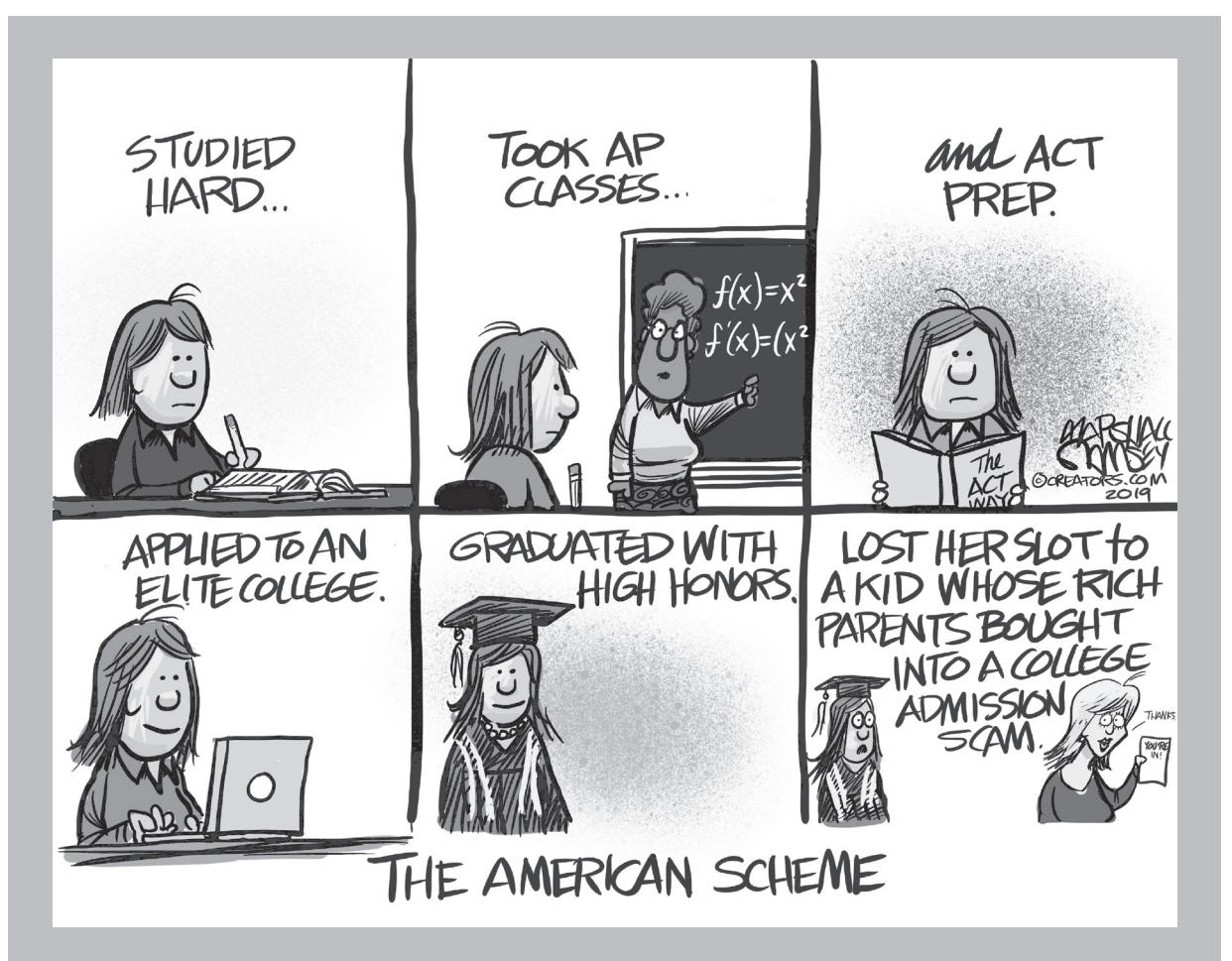
Aside from thriftiness and a spirited civic-mindedness Keizer constantly leads the way in the involvement of its citizens. Even with busy lives that include children and jobs, Keizer residents give of their time, experience and money in the fields that matter most to them: schools, sports, children and community. There is no dearth of opportunities for our citizens to roll up their sleeves and proudly, and unselfishly, serve organizations in Keizer.

Keizer will grow, new people will move here from somewhere else. We all want to live in a community that enhances our values, makes us feel welcome and entices us to do our part.

The Keizer Way is more than a saying, it is a way of life and we like it that way.

— LAZ

our opinion



Intrusive health methods more likely

By MICHAEL GERSON

Another massive study has discovered no causal connection between the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine and autism.

This time, the study's cohort consisted of every child born in Denmark from 1999 through December 2010 -- more than 650,000 children. The conclusion? "The study strongly supports that MMR vaccination does not increase the risk for autism, does not trigger autism in susceptible children, and is not associated with clustering of autism cases after vaccination."

So the arriving children of an entire country stand witness against a destructive but durable myth. Yet the question remains: Can you kill a myth with a study?

Measles is the purest of test cases. "It is one of the most contagious viruses known to man," Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health told me. "The measles vaccine is one of the most effective vaccines known to man -- 97 percent effective. And, historically, measles is one of the great killers of children. Yet, there is a reluctance on the part of some parents to give the vaccine to their children. This just makes no sense if you just think about it for a second."

But there is the rub -- assuming a second of thought. For some on the left and right, the general revolt against authority has become a revolt against the medical profession. This may be motivated by suspicion of pharmaceutical companies and the business of medicine. Or by a resentment against

governmental compulsion. In a recent hearing on vaccines, Senator Rand Paul, R-Ky., admitted the medical value of vaccines but added, "I still do not favor giving up on liberty for a false sense of security."

What Paul -- a part-time ophthalmologist but full-time libertarian crank -- calls "a false sense of security" is technically known as herd immunity. This is the level of vaccine coverage at which transmission of a pathogen becomes very difficult in an entire population of people. Achieving that level -- 93 to 95 percent for measles -- not only protects the health of a community, it protects those who really can't be vaccinated for medical reasons such as immune system problems or infants to whom the measles vaccine is not given until later.

Paul is engaged in a particular type of fallacy. He is applying standards of political philosophy to a scientific field. Opponents of vaccination claim what they call "medical freedom." But that is like asserting religious liberty in the realm of chemistry. These fields employ different categories of knowledge. The scientific method is oriented toward an objectively discernible reality in a way that political philosophy is not. There is no lab test proving John Locke's politics superior to Karl Marx's politics.

But this was exactly what Marx claimed in developing his "scientific socialism." He imagined that history moves in a scientifically evident pattern, which left no room for minority rights. Those who employed Marxism most rigorously saw resistance to op-

pression as hopeless opposition to a law of nature.

Paul is making a category error in the other direction. Epidemiology is a scientific discipline. And public health is the application of this discipline to a community of human beings. It really doesn't matter what John Stuart Mill or Ayn Rand had to say about herd immunity. Given the nature of the measles virus, 93 to 95 percent of a human population needs to be covered for a community to be protected. If purely voluntary methods produce that level of coverage, that is fine. If the needed level can only be achieved by requiring vaccinations for all public school children, that is also fine. If the zombie apocalypse comes, even more stringent health measures might be justified.

The protection of human life is ultimately a moral commitment. But the methods to ensure public health are well established, and should be calibrated in order to achieve a scientifically definable public good. Those methods, like good surgery, should be minimally invasive. But the goal is not up for democratic grabs, and has no partisan definition.

Politics does make a huge difference to public health in one way. When politicians give legitimacy to dangerous and disproven scientific theories -- as both Paul and President Trump have done on vaccinations -- they are encouraging a lower level of coverage, which makes a higher level of compulsion necessary. So it is the vaccination skeptics who are making intrusive public health methods more likely. That just makes sense, when you just think about it for a second.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

Who we are

We admit it. The *Keizertimes* has an agenda. It is called a people agenda. We cover the news—good and bad—happening within the seven square miles that is the city of Keizer.

Most of our news revolves around people—leaders, both government and civic, students, athletes, business owners and average people, just like you.

What we don't have is an ideological or political agenda. Sure, opinions

are shared but only on the *Keizertimes* opinion page, where all viewpoints are welcome. The opinion page is much like a public square, a place where anyone can express themselves.

While we do choose which opinion writer's column to publish, we are careful to cover the ideological spectrum on the opinion page.

No community is a monolith: there are many different views in Keizer and we must be sensitive to all of them.

Thank you, Keizer!

To the Editor:

On behalf of Keizer Community Food Bank, I want to thank the Keizer businesses and community donors for their financial support throughout 2018.

Go-to friends have been Uptown Music, Tony's Kingdom of Comics, France School of Dance, Art Impressions, Dollar Tree, Franz Bakery Keizer Elks, men and ladies, and the many individual sustaining donors that keep our pantry shelves smiling.

We find that we have to purchase more food in order to keep our pantry shelves and shopping table full

letters

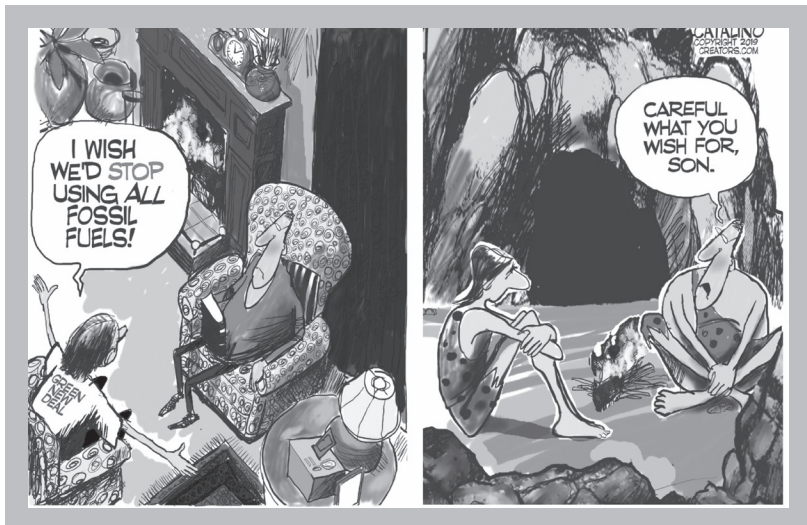
of core food choices for our foodbank clients. We are spending between \$1,500 and \$2,000 a month for food items. That takes a lot of \$25 dollar donations and to date, the Keizer community has been very generous.

New year's Blessings to you and a very heart felt thank you!

Curt McCormack, Administrator Keizer Community Food Bank

Share your opinion

Submit a letter to the editor, or a guest column by noon Tuesday. Email to: publisher@keizertimes.com



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
Matt Rawlings
news@keizertimes.com

COMMUNITY REPORTER
Hunter Bomar
reporter@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

SUBSCRIPTIONS
One year:
\$35 in Marion County,
\$43 outside Marion County,
\$55 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

The Oregon Legislature is in session in Salem and we've learned that, due to members who practice sexual harassment, Oregon's taxpayers must satisfy the grievances of those so harassed by \$1.3 million. Not to be outdone, apparently, we now learn further that those days when then-Governor Tom McCall hailed Oregon's ability to improve the quality of air and water are now near done and dead.

It has been discovered that several of our legislators are all too eager to accept big dollar contributions from business and industry in Oregon for which they silence and emasculate the once proudly effective and highly regarded state environmental agencies. Oregon was the greenest state, a status achieved by the nation's first bottle deposit, control of urban sprawl, and public availability to all ocean beaches.

The *Oregonian*/*Oregon Live* has investigated the matter to find that in a period of four years, the most powerful state industries have terminated, weakened or neutralized former ongoing efforts to address climate change, wolf recovery, bird habitat survival, cancer-causing diesel exhaust, groundwater protections, air pollution, oil spill plans and spraying toxins from helicopters. We're informed that these changes have resulted from money, and lots of it, changing hands so business and industry can be free to foul as they please.

The investigations have found that the biggest reason behind the mounting transgressions is the failure of Oregon lawmakers to regulate campaign cash, making Oregon one

of the biggest money states in political activities. The flood of money, says *The Oregonian*, has "created an easy regulatory climate where industry gets what it wants, again and again." In fact, our laxity in not safeguarding air and water has elsewhere earned us laughingstock status.

And it's not only campaign money that's being spent to help office-seeking and office-holding politicians. Business and industry "generosity" has paid for luxury hotel rooms in Canadian chateaus, sports bar visits, and Apple computer hardware. There have also been rose bouquets appearing on legislator's desks, complimentary candies, and expensive art work to dazzle the eye on legislator office walls. Free-bee lodging and meals in Salem have made servants out of legislators as have gifts of Amazon Prime.

These field trip boondoggles and potentate-providing gifts have resulted in legislator and gubernatorial actions taking Oregon to a place where our environmental legacy's betrayed while our water polluters number the highest in the western states. Meanwhile, those lawmakers as beneficiaries of in-

dustry largess have steadily placed pressure on our state's environmental agencies and bullied them into submission whenever corporate campaign donors were threatened with testing regimens, clean ups and abatement practices. The Secretary of State's Elections Division could have investigated all this spending but has chosen only to send letters to offenders with never a follow up.

The examples of waywardness are manifold while it's worse than tragic that the practices threatening our health and safety are permitted to go on and even worsen. It would seem that the legislators are too busy being entertained away from why they're in Salem and entertaining themselves at the expense of women who work in the capitol. What will it take to get real reforms underway in what once was a lovely building in Salem now smokestack tarnished and an ethics imbroglio? And what's the fate of our children and grandchildren?

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

