

Opinion

14,500 nukes and counting

A while back, President Donald J. Trump confirmed that the U.S. will leave an arms control treaty with Russia dating from the Cold War that has kept nuclear missiles out of Europe for three decades. He also said that, "We'll have to develop those weapons after we pull out of that treaty." With that treaty long gone, and others on the chopping-block, history reports that these treaties have been instrumental in saving humankind from total destruction.

Much in the way of protections against use of nuclear weapons goes back to 1987 and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. Fast forward and we find Trump with John Bolton as his national security adviser. Bolton is a longstanding opponent of arms control treaties who has been pushing hard for U.S. withdrawals since he worked for President George W. Bush.

U.S. war hawks like Bolton now argue in Trump's ear to end the 2010 New Start agreement with Russia, terminating what will become former limits on warheads by both sides.

All these arms-control treaty ter-

minations mean that the world will be left without any limits on nuclear arsenals for the first time in five decades. As usual for Trump, he places the blame for his administration having to end these treaties on President Obama who, Trump says, "should have negotiated new limits or pulled out." All matters of grave consequence end up in Trump world as the fault of some other person, usually a former Democratic president or Hillary Clinton.

What befuddles is that we have a president who regularly tells us that he is a deal-maker but has completely failed to save Reagan's nuclear legacy. Trump also has had an opportunity several times through his frequent talks with Vladimir Putin to negotiate arms-control treaty adjustments. However, those buddy-buddy meetings have always digressed from the opportunity for arms control diplomacy into working out details on how a Trump luxury hotel will be built in downtown Moscow and other sites in Russia for Trump investments.

We live under nightmarish conditions. By way of Trump's "America First" disengagement idea, we are withdrawing from all world treaties and agreements that have kept the

world from a nuclear holocaust and a planet covered with radioactive isotopes. Without agreements that maintain checks for control, anything can happen, happen quickly and happen all the way to Armageddon. The U.S. has been the keeper of the lid of nuclear weapons, preventing world war. That lid has been removed by the Trump administration.

There are nine nations in the world's nuke club, including China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. There are others surmised to be on the verge of membership. In the most recent, verifiable count, there are 14,500 weapons on Planet Earth.

With tensions easily provoked, what's expected next? Easily imagined is something like the start of World War I in which a prominent leader is murdered. Or, a comparable World War II, where one nuclear power attacks another nuclear or non-nuclear nation with multiple retaliations into a WW III. Ultimately, should all-out nuclear war be our fate, converting Earth into huge fireball, it would reduce our planet to a carbon-black cinder ball with a few surviving insects left to rule.

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

gene h.
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Intimidating the press

Officials in Malheur County in eastern Oregon had asked Sheriff Brian Wolfe to assess whether the Malheur Enterprise weekly newspaper had engaged in criminal conduct in its reporting involving the director of the county's economic development department.

County Counsel Stephanie Williams confirmed that she contacted Wolfe with allegations about emails and phone calls to the county's economic development officials.

At issue was the state crime of telephonic harassment. That law states that "a telephone caller commits the crime of telephonic harassment if the caller intentionally harasses or annoys another person" by calling a number they have been forbidden to use.

This week Sheriff Brian Wolfe announced that his office would not investigate. He said there was no evidence to support the allegations.

That decision was made after the story was reported in news outlets across the country. It also raised the hackles of many Malheur County res-

idents. If the local newspaper can be under threat of criminal prosecution for doing its Constitutionally-protected duty, is anyone safe from the wrath of public officials who don't like to be questioned about their actions?

Public officials are just that: public. They work for the citizens. The operations of every public office needs to be transparent, it should not be a burden for officials to answer questions from the press or the people.

The allegation of harassment from reporters from the Malheur Enterprise was a weapon officials hoped would put a stop to journalistic investigations into the dealings of county officials. We can hope this puts an end to the intimidation of that newspaper and any media outlet doing their job.

In a climate where leaders decry the media as an enemy of the people we all must be vigilante for attempts to bind the hands of organizations that are the watchdog on government.

—LAZ

editorial

What I learned as a journalist

By HUNTER C. BOMAR

I am grateful to have worked at the *Keizertimes*.

In December of 2018, I graduated from George Fox University; I was leaving with my communications degree in hand hoping to make my mark. After leaving the safety of the school and putting my graduation cap in the closet, post-graduate life grimly welcomed me to the real world. Months went by after I received my diploma and I still hadn't found a job. The pressure of not failing to launch weighed on my shoulders. Job denial after job denial landed in my lap and discouragement became my daily cross to bear.

What's worse, after one job interview, I got my car towed in Portland because it was parked two inches into a no parking zone. Not only did I have to shell out \$552 to get the car back, I didn't even get the job. This, too, pulled me down deeper into a lack of hope and even a lack of belief in myself.

Needless to say, my excitement about not having homework and being out of school began to wear off day by day. Amid my self-pitying

funk, a family friend sent me a text about a part-time job position. It was a community journalist position at the *Keizertimes*. The job was in my hometown and would be a position

where I could utilize my degree; I applied immediately. The job application involved providing writing samples as well as doing a brief report on an upcoming community event. The event I was tasked to write about was the Chemawa Indian School Spring Pow Wow.

I began writing and doing what I needed to provide the best application I could. After submitting the final piece of my application and doing an interview with *Keizertimes* publisher, I was offered the position. Things began to look up. The months following involved crafting my news abili-

ties, and honing in my capabilities to collect all the details needed to tell a good news story, as well as comical learning that it is spelled *Keizertimes* and not Keizer Times.

The value of a small community newspaper was also impressed upon me. I learned the importance of not just paying attention to the news occurring around the world but giving attention to the local news that affects my neighbor living down the street. The *Keizertimes* had been a blessing to me, and I have been provided with skills I will use for the rest of my life.

(Hunter Bomar was employed as a community reporter for the *Keizertimes* in 2019.)

guest
column

Keizertimes

Wheatland Publishing Corp. • 142 Chemawa Road N. • Keizer, Oregon 97303
phone: 503.390.1051 • web: www.keizertimes.com • email: kt@keizertimes.com



EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Lyndon Zaitz
publisher@keizertimes.com
2019-2020 President
Oregon Newspaper Publishers
Association

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

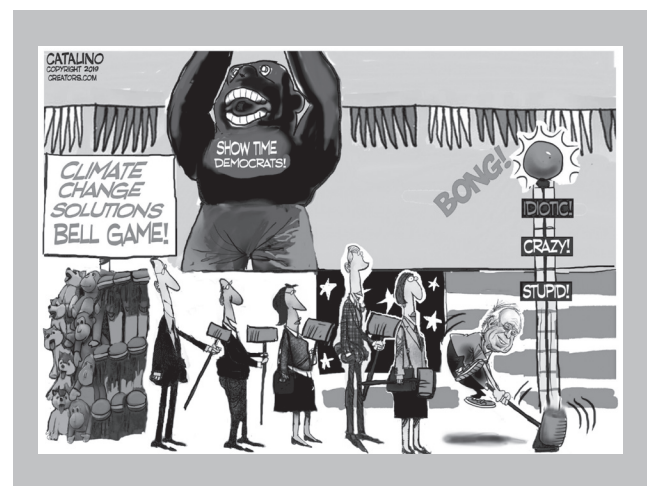
Publication No: USPS 679-430

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:

Keizertimes Circulation
142 Chemawa Road N.
Keizer, OR 97303

Periodical postage paid at
Salem, Oregon



Around Keizer



Sen. Thatcher gives report to Rotary Club

State Sen. Kim Thatcher (R-Dist. 13) was the guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Keizer's weekly luncheon on Thursday, Aug. 15.

Thatcher, serving her second term representing Keizer, Newberg and Wilsonville, told of the recently completed 2019 legislative session in which Democrats hold a supermajority (holding three-fifths of the seats in each chamber).

Thatcher was a sponsor of a bill

to keep Oregon on Standard Time rather than switching with Daylight Saving Time. Congress could take up the issue once Washington state and California pass similar legislation.

Lamenting bills that passed, the senator cited a rent-control bill she opposed, as well as a bill that makes it difficult for the state to carry out the death penalty.

Conversation about future of KeizerFEST

Community and business leaders met on Wednesday, Aug. 14, to discuss KeizerFEST, Keizer's annual community event, at Community Conversations, staged by the Keizer Chamber of Commerce.

The discussion was led by festival co-chair Scott White and executive director Danielle Bethell of the Chamber.

Among the attendees were Mayor Cathy Clark, City Councilor Marlene Parsons, Chamber President Jonathan Thompson, Mickey Graf and Mickey Walker of the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes and seven



others.

Ideas about festival location, the annual parade and festival events were addressed during the 90-min-

ute roundtable, which will be discussed by the KeizerFEST committee as they begin planning the 2020 festival.



Bob Shackelford (left) and Darrell Fuller of Men of Action for Keizer (MAK) volunteered their time and labor to turn the former kitchen at the Keizer Cultural Center into a dressing room, prop and scenery storage space for Keizer Homegrown Theatre. The theatre took over the second floor space at the Center for its home for seven productions each year.

The remodel of the kitchen space will give cast members ample room for costume changes during shows as well as apply stage make-up.

MAK is a volunteer group associated with the Keizer Chamber of Commerce which is actively involved in service projects in Keizer to better the community and to assist fellow citizens.

MAK helps to remodel Keizer Homegrown