

# Opinion

## Time for school

Public schools open for the new year next Tuesday, Sept. 3. Sure many kids will bemoan the fact they have to be somewhere in the morning and the summer days of laze are over.

Streets and curbs around and in front of elementary, middle and high schools will be filled with students. Parents will jockey with school buses to get their charges to the school entrance.

Drivers, whether ferrying students or not, should be extra watchful for kids in the morning and in the afternoon.

Kids being kids, when school is out they have things other than traffic on their minds. Pedestrians have the right the way at all times, so every driver has to be responsible and keep an eagle eye on the street and curbs. This is especially true in the Keizer neighborhoods that have no sidewalks.

Not all students will groan at the arrival of the new school year. Gubser students will enter a school with a cafeteria—the school did not have a cafeteria until now. Students were relegated to eating lunch in their classrooms. There is also a new state-of-art kitchen. The cafeteria and kitchen are due to the \$619.7 million school bond passed by voters several years ago that will see additions and improvements to schools across the district.

While the Gubser School community will marvel at its new additions, students and parents at McNary High School will find the flow of traffic to be much less troublesome than in the past.

Reconstruction of the McNary High School will make not only the traffic flow easier for those cars drop-

ping off students, but parking will be reconfigured.

Though the McNary High School construction project will continue through September, 2020, students, parents and staff will be greeted with an enhanced entrance and front office.

Beside the addition of a cafeteria and kitchen, Gubser Elementary will welcome a new principal: Tom Charboneau. He moves over from Forest Ridge Elementary. Karl Paulson takes up the helm at Forest Ridge Elementary in north Keizer.

With all the changes happening at Keizer schools one thing remains the same: the commitment of School Superintendent Christy Perry, school principals and hundreds of teachers to deliver the best education.

Earlier this week the Keizer Chamber of Commerce held its annual Teacher Appreciation luncheon. Parents can be secure in the fact that their children are in the good hands of those who have chosen education as their profession. Teachers at the luncheon introduced themselves and said how long they have been teachers. The veteran had been in the classroom for 40 years, many others for 10 years or more. That's dedication.

Some things, thankfully, don't change. Kids are taught math, science, writing, reading and athletics.

Our kids are in good hands in our schools. They deserve the best education they can get and they deserve to be safe on the way to and from school. They may not see drivers but all drivers should be aware of them.

—LAZ

our  
opinion

## Not disloyal for voting Democratic

To the Editor:

I read today that our president commented that "Jews who vote for Democrats are disloyal to Israel."

My grandparents were born in Poznan, Poland, of Jewish ancestry around the turn of the 20th century, prior to emigrating to the United States of America.

Since 1972, at the age of 20, I have voted in every election. I have voted for Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. What would Senator John McCain have remarked today if he was still alive and heard his party's president's comments? Yet, the Republican Party does not issue any comments, particularly Republican American Jews, denouncing this heinous statement.

I plan on voting for the candidate of the Democrat Party in November, 2020, to allow our president to "go home." Send him back. My vote will count.

Jeffrey Auger  
Keizer

## A better headline

To the Editor:

I read the article about Doug Bish's presentation to the TBSP. While accurate, I have an issue with the headline, which can affect how someone perceives the proposal. And, as you know, perceptions drive policy.

The headline, *New speed limiting process could slow major streets*, could be interpreted as a negative because it will take longer to get around if your sole goal is unimpeded driving.

A more appropriate and accurate headline could read *New speed lim-*

iting process would make streets safer.

Mike DeBlasi  
Keizer

letters

## Time for Congress to act

To the Editor:

It's long past time for Congress to hold Trump accountable. It's time for a formal impeachment inquiry.

Here's what we know: Donald Trump claims the Mueller report exonerated him, but Mueller clearly stated in his testimony last month that he did *not* exonerate Trump.

Mueller's investigation found extensive criminal activity, uncovered over 100 secret meetings and communications between Trump's campaign team and Russia or Russia-linked individuals, and found at least 10 episodes of obstruction of justice by the president himself, including telling the White House counsel to lie during the investigation.

It's unbelievable to watch the person who holds the highest office in the land ignore the law when any other American who committed those same crimes would be put in jail. Two months ago, Trump went on national television and declared he'd accept foreign intelligence if it would help his 2020 campaign—yet another crime. Congress should take him at his word; Trump presents a clear and present danger to our democracy.

There can be no more excuses or delays. It's time for our representative to stand with the more than 130 members of the House that support opening a formal impeachment inquiry.

Barbara Lastfogel  
Salem



## How to expand freedom

By E.J. DIONNE JR.

Complaining about government—its failures, its corruption and, in the worst cases, its capacity to oppress—is both an American pastime and a right to be treasured.

But a wholesome desire to preserve ourselves from foolish or tyrannical rule often devolves into disdaining government altogether. The underlying assumption is that everything government undertakes is doomed to be less effective, less beautiful, less innovative and less useful than the work of the private sector.

Yes, there are plenty of horror stories about the misdeeds of public bureaucracies. We hear such tales especially from people who run small businesses and find government rule books and the people charged with enforcing them to be, well, less than user-friendly.

Let's assume all of these stories are true. And then consider another truth: Nearly everyone also has a horror story about dealing with a private bureaucracy—say, a cable or insurance company, a phone service provider, or a bank.

When a government bureaucrat fails us, the response is often along the lines of: "Typical government." But when a private sector bureaucrat fails us, almost nobody says: "Typical private sector."

This habit is one of the victories of ideological conservatism. We rarely notice the moments when our free, democratically-elected government enhances individual freedom. It did so with civil rights laws on behalf of excluded minorities and for large groups of Americans whose freedom

was hemmed in by a shortage of income. Just start with elderly Americans on Social Security and Medicare and move on from there.

We don't associate government with beauty, but what other word describes our national parks or so many of our great public universities? We rarely say the words "government" and "innovation" in the same sentence. But the technology behind the internet through which many will be able to read this column grew out of government-sponsored research and development. And ponder how many lives have been saved or improved thanks to the brilliant minds at the National Institutes of Health.

We should worship neither the state nor the private sector. But after decades of reflexively running down government, we need to rediscover what it actually does, and can do.

For this reason, I hope every 2020 presidential candidate—yes, I'm being optimistic about President Trump—reads the policy book of the summer, *The Public Option: How to Expand Freedom, Increase Opportunity and Promote Equality*, by Ganesh Sitaraman and Anne Alstott. The two law professors are not interested in government taking over everything. On the contrary, what they seek is to *expand* choice.

A public option, they write, "provides an important service at a reasonable cost, and it coexists, quite peacefully, with one or more private options offering the same service." Thus: You can use the post office, or ship with FedEx or UPS. You can stay in a national park or go to a private resort. You can use a public library or buy a book. You can head down the fairway at a municipal golf course or join a

other  
voices

guest  
opinion

## Safe harbor is answer to news business needs

By DAVID CHAVERN

News consumption is growing exponentially, but for the past decade, the revenue to news publishers has been on a decline. This is, in large part, because of the unbalanced relationship between news publishers and tech platforms. But that relationship could be changing thanks to the bipartisan introduction of the "Journalism Competition and Preservation Act" by House Antitrust Subcommittee Chairman David Cicilline (D-RI) and House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Doug Collins (R-GA). A bipartisan companion bill was also introduced by Senator John Neely Kennedy (R-LA), Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Ranking Member of the Senate Antitrust Subcommittee.

The bill, which would provide news publishers a safe harbor in which to collectively negotiate with platforms like Google and Facebook, could help news producers receive the fair distribution and monetization terms we've long been fighting to get from the duopoly.

Because of their market dominance—and access to billions of users—the major tech platforms set the rules for news publishers and determine how journalism is displayed, prioritized and monetized. They also capture the vast majority of all digital advertising dollars because of their unique ability to collect consumer data across the web.

All of this has degraded the relationship between news readers and publishers and rewarded low quality "click-bait" over quality information from real journalists. It has also greatly reduced the financial ability of publishers to invest in newsrooms at a time when our society most needs great, substantive reporting.

It is simply not possible for any individual news publisher to change the basic terms offered by the online behemoths. They are simply much too big and much too

influential. However, there is power in numbers, which is what we need in order to have a fighting chance. The antitrust safe harbor bill would provide a four-year window for news publishers to collectively negotiate for fair terms

country club.

Notice that while public options are available to everyone, they're especially useful for those who don't have a lot of money. Sitaraman and Alstott suggest new areas where they could be helpful: for health insurance, where the idea is already popular; for child care; for retirement savings to supplement Social Security; and for basic banking. The last could address the needs of roughly 14 million Americans, many with low incomes, who have neither checking nor savings accounts.

The authors are under no illusions that every public option will work well all the time, and they acknowledge the difficulties faced by public schools and public housing. But they also rightly insist that the problems facing both are aggravated by "America's intense residential segregation by race and by class."

Critics of public options might call them socialism. But as Sitaraman and Alstott note, "public options can benefit the private sector." They can create a more fluid labor market by providing health insurance and retirement coverage that individuals can take with them from one employer to another, thus easing "job lock." They can also introduce more competition into concentrated markets. Municipally provided broadband, for example, might provide a consumer-friendly alternative to a monopoly provider of high-cost, poor-service internet connections.

"We think it's not only possible but critical to take a pragmatic look at what government can do well," they write. Such practical helpfulness would be an excellent antidote to the poisonous election campaign we're about to endure.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

# Keizertimes

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