

# Opinion

## hometown news

## Reckoning with our inaction

By ERIC A. HOWALD

After a student reported seeing a person with a bat and possible rifle on campus, a swarm of police cars sped past the office on the way to McNary High School Wednesday, Oct. 23.

The office scanner popped and crackled with sporadic updates from officers and dispatchers. I pulled out my phone to provide my kid, a sophomore at the school, with information I was hearing and explain what they might be seeing.

As I began typing, I wondered to myself whether it was the right thing to do. I wondered whether relaying information about the potential threat was going to alleviate or ramp up anxiety students would be facing. The first message from Ameya deleted that train of thought.

Ameya: Why are we on lockdown?

Me: You should be okay. Someone called the police about someone in the parking lot with what looked like weapons.

They can't find anybody. It may have been someone joking around or someone misinterpreted what they saw.

I love you with all my heart

Ameya: Love you too.

I let them know that there were police in the building checking the halls, when officers made contact with the student who notified 9-1-1 and when it sounded like the lockdown was going to be lifted.

After it was all over, it took me almost an hour to calm my own nerves

and refocus on work. The scare lingered with Ameya much longer. As we drove to school the next morning, they told me they'd made it home from the bus stop as quick as they ever had. Getting to a place that felt safe took priority over all else.

Earlier this school year, Ameya and I had a two-hour conversation

about a violent fight that took place as students headed for buses at the end of the day. The day after that, the paper's student intern, who also witnessed the altercation, talked to me about the incident and the haunting sound of one student being slammed against a wall. The brief brawl was also captured on video by other students for all to relive until it no longer hurts.

Not long after calm was restored at McNary last week, I crossed paths with another father whose daughter has attended the same schools as mine for 10 years. I asked if he'd heard about the morning's scare and he said he'd been texting his kids as well.

We parted ways agreeing that it's a different world than the one we grew up in.

As an elementary school student in the Midwest, the only drills I ever practiced stemmed from tornadoes and earthquakes. In other words, acts of nature. They felt rote to a point and mostly beyond our control.

The same can be said of active shooter drills to an extent. The odds of someone targeting any given school are remote, and we can be

thankful the Keizer Police Department appeared well-prepared to handle a potential threat, but the active shooter drills alone are trauma-inducing for students in a way preparing for acts of nature are not.

These are a few of the questions I imagine asking myself in the wake of an active shooter drill: *Who have I talked to? What did I say? Did my words anger anyone? Am I sure? Who am I certain is a safe person? What happens if I'm wrong? Are we safe at school? Concerts? Malls? Churches? Home? Where am I safe? Why don't the adults do something to make us safer?*

Meanwhile, adults wonder why the kids are spending so much time on their phone. In many ways, it's a safer way to build connection.

The young people we are bringing up in the world are not "snowflakes," either. By continuing to show up — despite external threats ranging from active shooters to climate change — they are proving themselves more resilient than any generation before them.

There are many paths adults might take to make the world safer for our children, but that is not the point of this writing. There needs to be a reckoning with the rippling fallout the modern world extracts from those living in it. Adults need to accept, and begin acting on, the toll our unwise and too-often poisonous decisions are taking on our children.

The world is different than the one we grew up in, but that should not be the end of the conversation. We are not powerless to change it for the better.

(Eric A. Howald is the managing editor of the *Keizertimes*.)

### moments of lucidity

### what's your view?

## What's the solution to homelessness?

Via social media, we asked our readers: What is the solution to Oregon's homelessness situation?

These are selected responses:

I have a passion for being homeless I am 16 and go to McNary. I have emailed the mayor about this many times. I think we can turn the old Hillcrest youth correctional facility into a homeless shelter—have counseling, food, drug and alcohol rehab, and beds and then have a tiny home community after they complete counseling and finance training and job training. I would really like to help I just need the funds!

—Emily Brogan

Lower the cost of living: rent, groceries, etc. People can't afford to survive on minimum wage, and provide affordable mental health resources to those in the streets due to disabilities.

—Kimberly Schott

I feel you must first deal with the addiction and or mental illness, before you can address the homeless issue. There are a lot of people that are just not capable of mentally coping and providing for themselves in a normal

society. We definitely need more affordable housing that will help as well.

—Michelle Adame

I would say instead of forming task forces over and over again...how about our elected officials step out of the pocket of those for profit organizations such as the Salem and Keizer Chamber's of Commerce and actually make the tough decisions that need to be made. Just my opinion that our current elected officials at both the local and state levels rely too heavily on the Chamber of Commerce for support. We need candidates and elected officials to act independently of them.

—Dakota Saunders

Figure out why they are homeless. Is it drug/alcohol use caused? Financial issues? Is it due to the outrageous rent/mortgage, is it because they want too much? We need to start fixing the why instead of putting bandages on. A lot of the time it is financial issues, rent is crazy, medical bills are crazy and there is no way to live off of minimum wage.

—Paul Aichlmayr

## Defending the vote

Last month, a bipartisan panel of U.S. senators called for decisive action by Congress, the White House and Silicon Valley to ensure social media sites are not used to interfere in the coming presidential election. We know about the weaknesses Russian agents used in the 2016 election, resulting in suspicious and tainted outcomes. In consideration of all that's going on in our nation's capital at present, likelihood of voter protections are in doubt.

Generally considered a pillar of our democracy, there are states in the country that've passed comprehensive voter-restriction laws. An example is North Carolina. Recently, its Republican-led legislature enacted laws that cut back on early voting, restricts private groups from conducting voter-registration drives, eliminates election-day voter registration and impose the strictest voter ID rules in the country.

The American people and our court system would not tolerate restrictions of this sort if they were imposed on free speech, free assembly, freedom of religion or freedom of petition government for redress of grievances.

The right to vote is mentioned in the Constitution five times while the highest court in the land has brushed it aside as a privilege that states may observe at their convenience. Even an overwhelming majority of members of Congress—given the power to enforce the right in no fewer than four different places in the Constitution—cannot protect this right more strongly than the Court feels is appropriate.

What about the right to vote? The vote appears for the first time in the Fourteenth Amendment reading that states shall lose congressional representation "when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for president, members of Congress, legislative body members is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the USA." Bottom

line, however, is that while all must be allowed to vote and states penalized when the ballot is withheld, the Court does not require states to grant the vote or sleight of hand for voter manipulations.

In the Fifteenth Amendment, the right to vote is not to be "denied or abridged on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." However, in amateur lawyer talk, many things might "abridge" a right without "denying" it completely. Whatever the status of the right as a right, the limits are found through racial restrictions on voting by racial barriers to the right to vote. That prejudice has been addressed although too frequently pops up to deprive certain Americans their right to vote.

—April Rains

The U.S. Election Project reports that on average 59 percent of eligible American voters cast their ballots. My parents were regulars at voting. There's no recollection they bragged or complained about it. And when voters who took their citizenship seriously had to travel to a voting station to vote and did so on their own time. Being a regular at voting was simply following my parent's good example. We'll have another election for president in about a year. We've got leadership that appears uncommitted to democratic principles and practices, rule by law, and the checks and balances formulated by our Constitution. All eligible voters will want to take the 2020 contest seriously as its outcome will drive the U.S. future and their lives.

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

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U.S. Air Force Airman Antonio A. Garibay graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

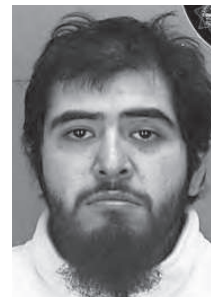
The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare

principles and skills.

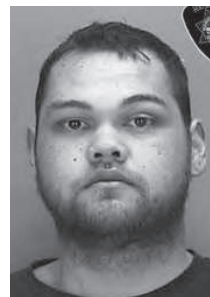
Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Garibay is the son of Serafin Garibay of Keizer, Ore. He is a 2018 graduate of McNary High School.

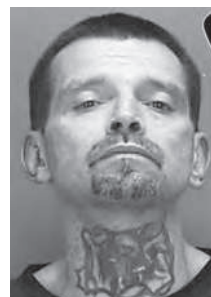
## cuffed in Keizer



**Fidel Angel Estrada**  
**Arrested Oct. 23 for:**  
Assault  
**Previous charges:**  
Menacing, strangulation (trial still pending)



**Michael Wallace Johnson**  
**Arrested Oct. 25 for:**  
Criminal mistreatment (felony)  
**Previous convictions:**  
None



**Michael Lee McArthur**  
**Arrested Oct. 24 for:**  
Parole violation.  
**Previous convictions:**  
Drug possession, theft, forgery, recklessly endangering another person



**Lyle Lester Ray**  
**Arrested Oct. 26 for:**  
On warrant — failure to register as a sex offender  
**Previous convictions:**  
Sodomy, attempt to commit a felony



**Brent William Vale**  
**Arrested Oct. 24 for:**  
Interfering with an officer  
**Previous convictions:**  
Drug possession, assault, aggravated harassment, theft

## police scanner

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

12:01 a.m. — Theft from motor vehicle and criminal damage in the 4000 block of Kerstin Way NE.  
7:38 a.m. — Criminal trespassing in the 1000 block of Modoc Drive NE.  
11 a.m. — Mail theft in the 3000 block of Willamette Drive N.  
2 p.m. — Motor vehicle theft in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Boulevard NE.  
4:31 p.m. — Computer crime in the 6000 block of Hidden Creek Loop NE.  
6:16 p.m. — Theft in the 5000 block of River Road N.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

12:01 a.m. — Restraining order violation in the 200 block of McNary Heights Drive N.  
2:30 a.m. — Arrest for warrant served, interference with police officer and false information at the intersection of River Road N. and Delmar Drive N.  
6:45 a.m. — Theft in the 4000 block of River Road N.  
10:16 a.m. — Criminal trespassing and harassment in the 3000 block of Partridge Lane N.  
11:07 a.m. — Disorderly conduct and menacing use of weapons at the intersection of Newberg Drive N. and Max Court N.  
11:50 a.m. — Arrest for criminal damage in the 1000 block of Alder Drive NE.  
1:30 p.m. — Arrest for burglary and theft in the 4000 block of Clark Avenue NE.  
9 p.m. — Motor vehicle theft in the 400 block of Evans Avenue N.  
10:20 p.m. — Arrest for strangulation in the 600 block of Rose Park Lane NE.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

7:30 a.m. — Burglary and criminal damage in the 6000 block of Jacobe Street NE.  
1:54 p.m. — Burglary in the 1000 block of Springtime Court NE.  
3:03 p.m. — Arrest for disorderly conduct in the 3000 block of River Road N.  
8:34 p.m. — Burglary in the 6000 block of Trail Avenue NE.  
9 p.m. — Motor vehicle theft in the 500 block of Dietz Avenue NE.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

12:17 a.m. — Arrest for shoplifting in the 4000 block of River Road N.  
1:06 a.m. — Possession of stolen vehicle, unlawful possession of methamphetamine, parole violation and unauthorized use of motor vehicle at the intersection of Lucinda Avenue NE. and Chemawa

Road NE.

7 a.m. — Arrest for aggravated assault in the 800 block of Foothill Court NE.  
1:56 p.m. — Carry concealed weapon in the 500 block of Chemawa Road N.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

12:01 a.m. — Motor vehicle theft in the 3000 block of Hart Drive N.  
6:49 a.m. — Traffic accident at the intersection of River Road N. and Cummings Lane N.  
7 a.m. — Physical harassment in the 1000 block of McGee Court NE.  
8:11 a.m. — Traffic accident at the intersection of Chemawa Road NE. and 7th Avenue NE.  
11:43 a.m. — Arrest for warrant served in the 900 block of Chemawa Road NE.  
1:39 p.m. — Assault in the 1000 block of Alder Drive NE.  
2:43 p.m. — Arrest for unlawful possession of methamphetamine and shoplifting in the 4000 block of River Road N.  
3:47 p.m. — Physical harassment in the 1000 block of Alder Drive NE.  
9:08 p.m. — Arrest for warrant served at the intersection of River Road N. and Bever Drive NE.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

2:51 a.m. — Arrest for driving under the influence of intoxicants in the 5000 block of River Road N.  
5:17 p.m. — Arrest for probation violation and warrant served in the 200 block of Lakepoint Place N.  
5:41 p.m. — Arrest for bench warrant in the 200 block of Lakepoint Place N.  
10 p.m. — Assault in the 600 block of Chemawa Road NE.  
11:04 p.m. — Motor vehicle theft in the 5000 block of River Road N.  
11:46 p.m. — Arrest for warrant served at the intersection of River Road N. and Triple Tree Circle N.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

10:06 a.m. — Arrest for probation violation and bench warrant in the 100 block of Dearborn Avenue N.  
12:41 p.m. — Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 7000 block of Meadowglen Street NE.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

12:53 a.m. — Arrest for warrant served in the 4000 block of River Road N.  
9:55 a.m. — Assault in the 1000 block of Alder Drive NE.

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