

Opinion

Cupboards are bare

During the holidays organizations in the area kick into high gear with their food basket delivery programs to households in need. That includes the Keizer Chamber of Commerce's Keizer Network of Women (KNOW), the Keizer Elks Club and Marion County Fire District #1.

The names of households receiving KNOW's program are provided by the Salem-Keizer School District. That is wonderful for those houses that will receive baskets of food and gifts for children in those homes.

What about other food-insecure households that are not identified by the school district? Many of these households rely on a food bank—including Keizer Community Food Bank—to augment what they are able to afford.

The operators of the Keizer Community Food Bank are desperate to fill their food shelves and look to the public for help. Marion Polk Food Share does provide food but it is not enough to keep the bank's pantry full to serve the hundreds of people who need their help.

While planning and preparing for holiday parties and feasts we should remember those who can not enjoy the holidays while their stomachs are unfulfilled. While grocery shopping, the public can purchase the items

most needed by food banks: canned goods like vegetables, canned chicken, tuna, salmon, fruit, soup, pasta, rice, beans, oatmeal, grits, cream of wheat, crackers, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and powdered milk.

Food insecurity affects too many area households and it changes how people live their daily lives. No one should be hungry any time of the year. A child's empty stomach is detrimental to their education.

While donations of food are gladly accepted by food banks, money does the most good. One dollar can feed two families of four. That is astonishing. Those who want to help more can sign up to be a monthly sustainer with deductions from checking or card accounts.

Hunger comes into clear focus during the holidays because of the multiple food basket deliveries, but we all know that hunger is not seasonal. Those who are food insecure are food insecure as much in the spring, summer and fall as they are during the holidays.

It is said that giving is better than receiving. Let us make that so this holiday season for those who need a hand and continue that philosophy into the new year.

—LAZ

our
opinion

In-N-Out traffic

Readers responded to the *Keizertimes* article about how In-N-Out and the city will deal with expected traffic when the restaurant opens in Keizer Station ('Double-Double' traffic will snake through stadium lot, Dec. 6). Here are some of the selected comments:

Definitely not worth the wait for hours for a burger and fries! I feel bad for employees and patients that need to get to work or their doctors appts at Keizer Station.

—Roseanne Dettwyler

So there won't be a dedicated lane for in and out customers and then one for those, say, just trying to get to Target or Ross?

—Jennifer Harmony

That is ridiculous. Who waits in line for an hour for a burger? I do almost all of my shopping at Keizer Station and am not looking forward to the traffic being even worse than it already is.

—Erin O'Shea

Is there a plan in place for those people on the same roads trying to legitimately get to one of the other businesses? Not to mention the potential road rage from persons thinking they are cutting or people who are stuck in this planned crazy loop to loop and they just want to get to their destination that does not include In-N-Out? I'm sorry I am hoping for the best but personally, as a resident if Keizer for the last 15 years, I'm just going to stay out of the way; unfortunately that means I will be taking my business to Salem.

—Gillian Gelfand Herndon

Hopefully the long lines will encourage people to eat at the other spots in Keizer Station. Otherwise those places are going to take a huge hit during the holidays.

—Erin Crauder

It would be faster to drive to Grants Pass to the In & Out there.

—Bev Everett Landgren

I plan to avoid Keizer Station like the plague from the moment they open until things die down. My cousin lives near the Medford store and she said it was impossible to get anywhere near it for at least a month.

—Deanne Gregory

A January opening would be easier on Christmas shoppers and doubtful that it would change their grand opening profits. Seems like that would have been the friendly neighbor option.

—Kristen Tesch

Negative comments versus those excited and the growth Keizer gains from one business adds to the success of all business in Keizer.

—Scott White

All these people who are complaining must not want Keizer business to thrive. This is a win for Keizer. The traffic will be slow for a month or so, but come on, that's not very long and will be over before you know it. Then, Keizer Station will be a shopping destination for Portland and other towns that want In-N-Out. If you don't like it, don't go out to Keizer Station, you would never survive in LA or other congested towns so feel lucky it's only for a short time.

—Rob Orahood

I may be in the minority but I am actually thrilled that this business is coming to our town. Believe it or not, people coming for just "a burger" will end up servicing a lot of the businesses in the Keizer Station. Keizer Station has a good layout and the traffic should flow pretty smoothly. Our Keizer community needs this boost. It will draw the crowd from Portland down to Salem and let them spend some of their money in our community. I am wishing them success.

—Amber Johnson

Unbelievable how so many have jumped to the conclusion that traffic will be so horrible due to In-N-Out coming to Keizer Station. I don't understand why people feel they must talk so negatively about it. There are a lot of people that do like the burgers and fries. I, for one, miss their Double Doubles and fries. It has been a little over 25 years since I have had In-N-Out. Because their meat and potatoes are fresh and never frozen I am hoping it still tastes the same. I guess I will find out after Christmas when I will have money again to buy dinner.

—LoAnn Brandenberger



Democrat's diversity—in the back

By PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

The "Our diversity is our strength!" Party is starting to look rather monochromatic in its upper echelons these days.

The four leading candidates for its presidential nomination—Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg—are all white.

The six candidates who have qualified for the Dec. 19 debate—the front four, plus Amy Klobuchar and Tom Steyer—are all white.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Democratic Majority Leader Steny Hoyer are both white, as are Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Whip Dick Durbin.

The chairs of the House Intelligence and Judiciary Committees managing impeachment, Adam Schiff and Jerry Nadler, are both white. And as Congressman Al Green railed Wednesday, all three experts Nadler invited to make the Democrats' case for impeachment were white law professors. How come?

Absent affirmative action by the DNC, neither Cory Booker, the leading black candidate for the nomination, nor Julian Castro, the leading Hispanic, will be on the stage Dec. 19.

But though there is zero racial diversity among the top six Democrats in the presidential field, there is gender, ethnic and ideological diversity.

Warren would be the first woman president; Sanders, the first Jewish nominee; and Buttigieg would be the first gay nominee.

Yet the lack of racial diversity across the party hierarchy is going to put immense pressure on Joe Biden, should he win the nomination. If he hopes to reunite the Obama coalition, a woman and/or person of color as his running mate would seem an absolute imperative.

other
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And before Biden gets there, he has other problems.

His "No Malarkey" bus tour across Iowa is all about his fear that, if he loses Iowa on Feb. 3 and New Hampshire on Feb. 11, he may not survive to reach his South Carolina firewall on Feb. 25.

Though he leads in the national polls, Iowa and New Hampshire polls have Biden running as low as fourth. Never has a candidate contested and lost both

those states and then gone on to win the nomination.

Nor are these Joe's only problems.

Call them what you will—gaffes, mental lapses—his repeated verbal miscues, some of which have caused debate rivals to laugh out loud at Joe, are a cause of alarm among Democrats who fear a Biden-Trump TV debate could produce a debacle for their man.

Nor are the other front-runners without racial-ethnic problems.

African Americans are a bedrock constituency of the Democratic Party. In recent presidential elections, they have voted 90 percent for the party's nominee, and even higher for Barack Obama.

How is Mayor Pete doing with this constituency?

While running first in some polls in Iowa, his share of the African American vote in South Carolina, in a recent poll, was zero. Buttigieg had no black support in a state where African Americans constitute more than 60 percent of the Democratic vote.

Bernie Sanders, an unapologetic socialist who went to the Soviet Union, Reagan's "Evil Empire," for his honeymoon, is holding on to half of the loyal base from his impressive 2016 race against Hillary Clinton.

The other half of Bernie's base, however, has been captured by War-

ren. In October, she took the lead in national polls, only to lose that lead when she could not explain how, without major new taxes on the middle class, she could abolish private health insurance and put the entire country on the Medicare rolls.

And, like Bernie, she is weak with black Democrats, who will decide South Carolina one week before Super Tuesday, when 40 percent of all the Democratic delegates will be chosen.

How did Democrats arrive at this pass?

As the 2019-2020 campaign began, the party divided into two camps.

There is first the moderate-centrist-pragmatic wing, whose goal is the removal of Trump, and who will go with the Democrat who is the most certain to deliver that. Biden, who spent four decades in the Senate and as vice president, was liked by many and offended few, and was first in the polls, was their natural choice.

Then there is the ideological left of the party that wants not only to win but also to remake America. It was to this huge slice of the party that Warren and Bernie have made their radical appeals.

The promise of victory offered by Biden and the ideological agenda offered by Sanders and Warren trumped the ethnic appeal of Booker, Castro and Kamala Harris.

Now, with the arrival of moneybags Mike Bloomberg and his tens of millions of dollars in ads, almost certain to reach hundreds of millions before Super Tuesday, there is the possibility that four or five candidates will survive to the convention, with no one having a majority of delegates. And the horse-trading will begin.

My view: Super Tuesday will cut the field to two or three. And the nominee will be one of the six pale-faces on the stage Dec. 19.

(Creators Syndicate)

Compassion needed for homeless

Many among us get together with relatives for the holidays. My wife and I are no exception. It usually means that during and between food courses we delve into current events. One of our recent guests, during a conversation about homelessness, commented that those tents full of people near the ARCHES building in downtown Salem should just get a job because there are plenty of jobs available.

I doubt that what he believes is generally true or true even in a few cases. However, I've not gone there to interview the people camping out in the cold to find out whether what he said is true so I did poorly at arguing a case for the possible causes and conditions that may have taken them to that place. For me, the thought of even one night in the street, sleeping without a roof overhead, seems inconceivable.

What I'm inclined to believe is that the majority of these homeless folks actually have arrived by loss of a job or inability to pay the rent which have turned individual lives, and the lives of whole families, upside down. A recent issue of the *Keizertimes* noted that individuals and families in our community are paying a huge percentage of their incomes to rent an apartment, resulting, presumably, in placing them close to, or into, joining

the homeless ranks.

Our country has a homeless population that's easily in the many millions and growing, exponentially, even though we hear reports—loudly spoken almost daily by the president—where he tries to lead us to believe that all's well in America. Nevertheless, we should recognize how serious things have gotten and how close to events of civil disorder things could quickly go. Meanwhile, anyone taking a long and hard look at the homeless problem here knows we could do a lot better and that we should now and hereafter stop placing all the blame for homelessness on the homeless themselves.

Other nations are doing considerably better at dealing with their citizens in homelessness. A great deal of it has to do with the American attitude that views each individual as an independent entity. One who is free and strong enough to make his own way in America, succeeding if he tries and triumphing over adversity when anything gets in his way. This kind of thinking has its origins in Horatio Alger, Daniel Boone and other folk heroes where the American stands tall, wrestles bears and can, by hard work, determination, courage and honesty, succeed his way through the slings and arrows of life.

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