

Opinion

Fasten your seatbelts

Fasten you seatbelts, 2020 could prove to be a bumpy time on all fronts.

No one should expect a wave of civility to wash over the country anytime in the next 12 months.

Not one vote has been taken in the presidential nominating races and the Democratic candidates are already at each other. The more they attack each other's positions the more likely that will turn off many voters and come November a majority may decide to stick with what they have.

At the end of 2019 there were not one, but two, attacks on religion: the shooter at the church in White Settlement, Texas, that killed two, and the machete attack at a rabbi's New York home in the middle of a Hanukkah celebration.

In a country divided by ideology, culture and religious beliefs, is there any reason to believe such attacks won't be in the news again in 2020?

Closer to home, many people are upset over laws that took effect on January 1. The plastic shopping bag ban has many up in arms, wondering how such a law came to be. The short answer is: elections have consequences.

Many households have benefited from the economic boom the country is experiencing; the stock and bond markets are in record territory and many experts predict a better year ahead. Unfortunately a large portion of the nation's populace is not sharing in the good times. Too many people are homeless or have been affected by the opioid crisis.

The world may seem to be spin-

ning out of control but if it doesn't affect us personally it is hard to get too worked up over how Brexit will change Europe or how the continuing conflicts in the Middle East will play out in 2020.

But there is reason, also, to be optimistic about this year. Unemployment is very low; wages, finally, are beginning to rise. In eight months we can watch young athletes achieve greatness at the Tokyo Olympics. Students will graduate and enter the work force. New families will be started. Locally, longtime family businesses continue to thrive, preparing to pass the reins to the next generation.

The new year can prove to be very bumpy but with the fortitude Americans always show, we can have the government, the laws and the culture we want. All it takes is patience and tolerance, that's not too much to ask. Is it? —LAZ

zaitz
writes

Our family's 12 days of Christmas

By CHRISTIANA KENNEDY

In response to Andrew Jackson's December 20 column, *A wish list for Keizer*, we folks here in the Kennedy household have come up with our wish list for Keizer as well.

VA benefits office: A place where retired and honorably discharged military veterans can process paperwork and have advocates working for them, without having to drive to Portland. This facility does not have to be a large facility.

Sweet Tomatoes restaurant: Soup, salad and fresh baked goods.

Bath and Body Works store (in Keizer Station, perhaps!)

Movie theatre

Momiji's: We are just outside of the delivery zone and I am not trying to offend anyone, but the sushi in Keizer is not up to par.

Sam's Club: Yes Costco's deals and products are great, however, location, location, location. Did you know Virginia and Oregon are the

only states that do not have a Sam's Club? I advocate for a warehouse store that has a better location, same great deals, but a fraction of the crowds.

Roller skating rink: Not everyone wants to go to The Hoop. That one is brought to you by our 14 year-old daughter.

Outdoor public swimming pool

Wings restaurant: That does not promote boobs and skimpy clothes on the women servers. Family friendly!

Wendy's fast food restaurant

Updated bowling alley: 1964 called and wants all their stuff back!

Seriously—when the ceiling tiles are being replaced by turkey roasting pans to catch the dripping water, it's time to upgrade.

Last but certainly not least... An aquarium! Am I reaching for the stars on this one? Yes. But really? Why do we have to drive to the coast to see all the beautiful wonders of the ocean when the ocean can be brought to us? Families and people of all ages would be able to have a fun activity to participate in during all the seasons, and without having to make a drive outside of Keizer. There's plenty of untouched land in the area to make this dream a reality.

We hope you like our ideas. It is refreshing to know our family is not alone in wanting more convenient and fun facilities within our Keizer community.

(Christiana Kennedy is a Keizer mom, hard worker, and volunteer.)

guest
column

A resolution fulfilled

By ERIC A. HOWALD

Every year I promise myself that I will look back on what was accomplished with a somewhat less critical eye than I generally approach everything else. It's a year's end resolution that I fail at regularly.

Two experiences in the past few months have made the self-imposed task more difficult to ignore.

The first came in September. After several months of talking with local residents of manufactured home parks about their varying hardships, I was poring over a trove of documented problems at a Keizer park with a pair of women. One of them began questioning the point of trying to hold the property owner to account given a history of apathy.

"This is different," the other resident told her. "Now there's someone listening to us."

A few days after reporting on the problems, the owner sent out dozens of contractors to fix the problems. Despite the positive outcome, it's that small exchange between two people unaccustomed to being heard that keeps replaying over and over in my head.

A month later, I was taking a break between interviews and sitting under a tree providing shelter from a light rain when a large passenger van pulled into the long driveway and headed in my direction.

As the driver approached, I realized I recognized him. My eyes got wide and a smile broke even wider across my face. Wiz pulled up right next to me and hopped out of the driver's seat.

Wiz and I met in October 2016 when he and some of his friends were rousted from a growing homeless encampment under the awning of the Roths building. At the time, it was nothing more than an empty shell. I asked if anyone wanted to be a voice for the people who were being displaced and Wiz offered to share his story.

In the three years since, Wiz and I became friends. He drops by the office regularly to check in or when he needs to share some of the burden of what he's seen living in the streets. I've tried to be his Jiminy Cricket, a constant voice urging him to make contact with those that could help him put a roof over his head. We hug whenever he departs and I worry when the absences

grow longer than usual.

Wiz told me getting the van was a possibility, but I've seen enough sky-high goals — Wiz's, others', my own — dissipate into the ether to deter continued blind faith. I only realized in retrospect how hard he'd been working toward that moment. Earlier this year, he quit drinking on his own. He told me about it 70 days in. He worked with the courts to get his license back.

I have no doubt that Wiz pulled into the parking lot thinking he'd found another lost soul, sitting alone and wishing for invisibility, that he could use his new wheels to help. The sight of him driving up in the van was redemptive.

Once Wiz was out of the van, we hugged and shouted at each other over the blaring stereo system and hugged again and shouted some more. Somewhere in the midst of the euphoria, Wiz said, "If you hadn't seen me that day, listened ..."

He trailed off because my body language shifted. My natural reaction to this type of gratitude is — always — deflect, deflect, deflect.

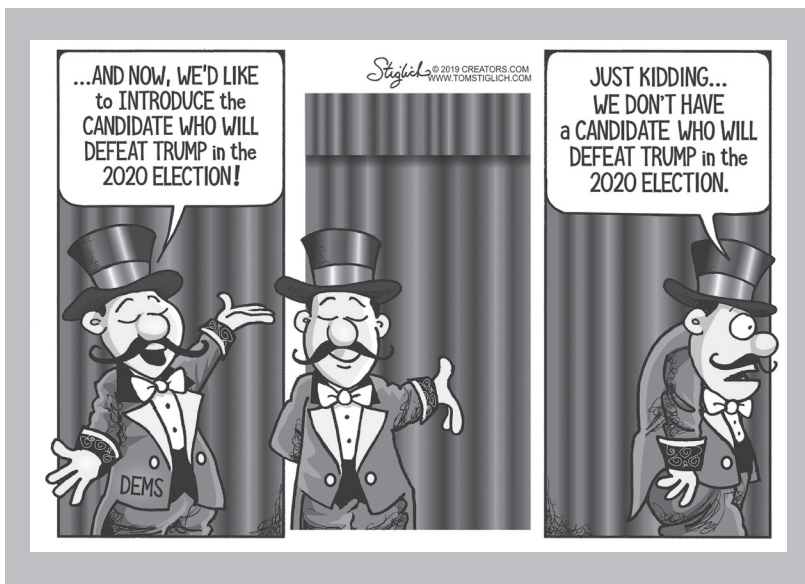
To Wiz, it hadn't mattered so much that I'd written about him in the paper, it was the too-often underrated acts of seeing and listening that he saw as having a throughline to the moments we shared outside his van three years later.

This is what seeing and listening accomplished in the past year: they helped make the world of dozens of people in a manufactured home park a little bit safer and — along with some incredible kindness on the part of others — helped another man kick the bottle and put a roof, of a sort, over his head.

All it took was a willingness to see and a humble ear.

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

moments
of
lucidity



letter

Mitigate climate change

To the Editor:

Science says: The two most effective things we human individuals can do to mitigate climate change are, (1) drive less and, (2) stop eating red meat.

Something to think about while you're sucking exhaust fumes in the In-N-Out que waiting to order a double dead cow.

Just sayin'.
**Martin Doerfler
Keizer**

Tickets on sale for First Citizen banquet

One of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce's biggest parties of the year is Saturday, Jan. 18.

Tickets are now on sale for the upcoming First Citizen & Awards Banquet sponsored by the Keizer Chamber of Commerce. Ticket cost is \$55 for individuals or \$400 for table sponsorship. The night begins at 6 p.m.

To purchase tickets, go to www.keizerchamber.com.

In addition to naming the city's new First Citizen, awards are presented for Merchant of the Year,

Service to Education and a President's Award goes to a person selected by the outgoing president of the Chamber board of directors.

The Keizer Civic Center, 930 Chemawa Road N.E., will host the event.

In 2019, Vicki Jackson was honored as the Keizer First Citizen, Kyle Juran was named Merchant of the Year, Brian Aicher was picked for the Service to Education Award and Larry Schmidgall received the President's Award.

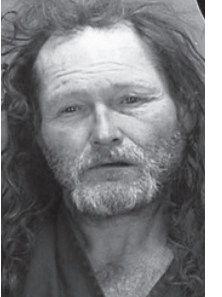
cuffed
in Keizer



Timothy Lane Blankenship

Arrested Dec. 17 for: Hit-and-run

Previous convictions: More than a decade old



Darryl Dean Gibson

Arrested Dec. 25 for: Interfering with a police officer

Other pending charges: Menacing, unlawful use of a weapon, interfering with a police officer



Donald Bradley Biehn

Arrested Dec. 18 for: Assault

Pending charges: Criminal mistreatment, assault



Marcel Jose Ojeda

Arrested Dec. 18 for: Disorderly conduct

Pending charges: Mail theft, interfering with a police officer



Kira Bovee

Arrested Dec. 26 for: Criminal mischief

Other pending charges: Assault, theft



Victoria Kuzmenko

Arrested Dec. 20 for: Assault

Previous convictions: None



Brent Nasset

Arrested Dec. 20 for: Disorderly conduct

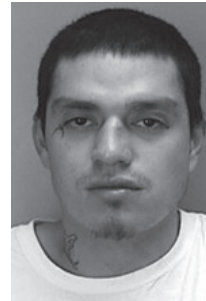
Previous convictions: DUII, theft



William James Gentry

Arrested Dec. 28 for: Parole violation

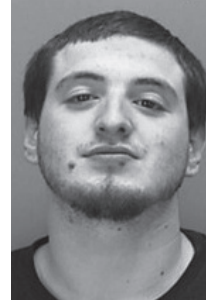
Previous convictions: Menacing, assault, strangulation



Manuel Campos

Arrested Dec. 21 for: Assault, DUII, reckless endangering

Pending charges: Assault, criminal mischief



Dylan Alexander Jeffus

Arrested Dec. 22 for: Reckless endangering

Pending charges: Theft, resisting arrest, burglary



Steven Wayne DeVault

Arrested Dec. 28 for: Theft

Previous convictions: Burglary, theft, assault

obituaries

Submit an obituary through our website at keizertimes.com or send an email to: editor@keizertimes.com

Jill Marie Poole

July 8, 1946 – December 25, 2019

Jill Marie Poole, age 73, of Keizer, Ore. passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2019. She was born on July 8, 1946, in Salem, Ore., to Durward and Bethel Steinke.

Jill graduated from North Salem High School in 1964. She retired after working 30 years for the State of Oregon.

Jill married Ronald E Poole on Aug. 15, 1997.

She is survived by her husband Ronald Poole; children: Troy Wilson and Torri Ford (Wilson); four grandchildren: Ashley Earls, Alisa Earls, Lillian Wilson and Jordan Wilson; one great-grandchild: Madysyn Earls.

A Memorial Service will be held on Jan. 3 at 11 a.m. at Keizer Funeral Chapel in Keizer. Celebration of Life will follow at Town & Country Bowl.



J. Poole

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

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:
Keizertimes Circulation
142 Chemawa Road N.
Keizer, OR 97303

Periodical postage paid at Salem, Oregon

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
Publication No: USPS 679-340