

Opinion

Oh, the humanity

Is our current homeless crisis a political problem? A spiritual issue? No, it is a humanity issue.

There are many different reasons someone becomes homeless. There is homeless and there is shelterless. Homeless may mean that someone does not live in their own abode. Instead, they rely on the kindness of family, friends or group shelters for a roof over their head.

Those who are shelterless are the people we see camping on sidewalks, in parks or tucked in out of the way places. They carry their possessions with them as they make a bed in a tent, a box or a vehicle. Why don't they stay in a shelter? Oftentimes the shelters are full. Many times a person who is homeless chooses not to stay in a space with rules to follow, or can't stay with their significant others, or animals are not allowed.

Hopelessness can lead to drug use and addiction. When the future is gloomy and uncertain it is easy to see how some people give up any hope of living a regular existence.

Drug use is rampant among the homeless population. Poor mental health affects others. The most dire cas-

es need to be addressed and it must be made easier to hospitalize those who suffer from severe issues such as schizophrenia—levels that are unsafe for the sufferer and the public at large.

It is inhumane for society to stand by and let people suffering from poor mental health to languish in the streets. But law enforcement's hands are tied. The law and the courts say you cannot arrest someone for their behavior. Maybe that needs to be adjusted, at least during this time of crisis across the country.

Self-esteem must be maintained, especially for those who are homeless despite their best efforts to find a place to live. There should be less leeway for those who are not doing everything they can to find a home for themselves.

The billions of dollars spent across the United States on services and housing for the homeless have not moved the needle one whit on the issue. The homeless problem will continue as long as wages lag behind expenses, as long as health care is out of reach for those without the benefit of employer-based health insurance. These are all causes for many

who are homeless.

Local attorney and former city official Richard Walsh's testimony before the city council this week pleaded for the city to consider purchasing and distributing Conestoga Micro-Shelters as an answer for the homeless. Priced at up to \$2,500 a piece, they would allow a person to keep their belongings locked and safe. Micro-shelters are a good idea but it comes face-to-face with the reality of how to pay for them and where to place them.

Providing services and housing is important but those being helped need to take responsibility, too. The public is horrified by the trash and filth that grows around homeless camps. Any housing created to help the homeless must have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to drug use, harassment and especially uncleanness.

Those being provided housing need to understand it is for the short-term. Tax payer supported solutions should not be looked upon as the final answer. It is a way point on the way to a more permanent home.

It is humane to help those in our society who are suffering. This should never be one-way, however. Those being helped should be expected to take an active part in the solution. —LAZ

our opinion

Public spaces camping ban

Via social media, readers responded to the *Keizertimes* article about the proposed public spaces camping ban based in part on the City of Salem's ban. The Keizer City Council unanimously approved the ordinance at the January 6 session.

Here some selected responses:

Allowing camping in public places is not helping the transitional housing population. We are turning a blind eye to their needs and endangering the public and children who use these public places.

We need to partner with Salem to develop transitional housing zoning in the city to allow Conestoga Hut Micro-Shelters adjacent to any service agencies out of a commercial/business zone. The Conestoga Huts will allow locking so that their worldly belongings are secured while they are seeking social services help. Keeping camping in public areas is not helping anyone and endangering the public. Let's stop ignoring the problem and actually help.

what's your view?

— Lore Christopher

Where are they supposed to go? They literally are being banned everywhere. They exist and they aren't just gonna disappear no matter how many times we ban them from places. We have to deal with this head on and put our effort into finding a permanent solution instead of a 10 minute solution.

— Rikky Galvin

Set an example. Don't be like Salem. Everyone needs help at some point. If you can't help at least don't hurt.

— Shauna Weis

What it will come down to is where the money will come from for the shelters and who wants it near their backyard.

— Scott Bailon

Law of the land is you can't ban camping in public places unless you provide alternatives. Are we going to provide an alternative?

— John Robinson

I don't think we need to follow Salem on this issue. We already have the curfew and I think a camping prohibition would only turn our already burdened police officers into an eviction squad (as you can see some are already doing).

Salem's going about it the wrong way. First they kicked the homeless out of the park. Then they kicked them out from camping next to the only place that would help them. Now businesses are using the police department like a clean up crew because the problem is unsightly. Only adding to the response times of actual emergencies with no resolution in sight.

It's just creating more problems for the people, the police and the city. That should be an example of what not to do.

Keizer better step up and enforce the laws that already exists or they're going to get all the crackhead, dope fiend criminal addicts from everywhere including Salem when everybody else puts a end to this stupidity.

— Devin Neustrand

If Baghdad wants U.S. out, let's go

By PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Fifteen years after the U.S. invaded Iraq to turn Saddam Hussein's dictatorship into a beacon of democracy, Iraq's Parliament, amid shouts of "Death to America!" voted to expel all U.S. troops from the country.

Though nonbinding, the expulsion vote came after mobs trashed the U.S. embassy in an assault that recalled Tehran 1979.

What provoked Iraq's Parliament into demanding the ouster of all U.S. troops?

First, the five December U.S. strikes on Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces in retaliation for a dozen Kataib Hezbollah rocket attacks on U.S. bases, which killed a contractor and wounded four U.S. soldiers.

Then came President Donald Trump's decision to launch a drone-strike and kill Iranian General Qassem Soleimani at Baghdad International Airport. Killed in the same strike was the Shiite Iraqi leader of Kataib Hezbollah.

During his return flight to Washington Sunday, Trump warned Iraq: Follow through on your demand that all U.S. troops get out, and we will insist that Baghdad repay the money we just spent on a major air base.

Moreover, said Trump, if Iraqis expel U.S. troops, then we will impose upon them "sanctions like they've never seen before, ever. It'll make Iranian sanctions look somewhat tame."

Where do we stand now in Iraq?

Though Sunnis and Kurds abstained, the Iraqi parliament has voted to expel all our troops. The State Department has urged U.S. civilians to flee Iraq. 82nd Airborne units have moved into the region to protect the U.S. embassy. U.S. troops fighting ISIS alongside Iraqi troops have separated themselves and stood down. In Iraq, the war on terrorism is on hold.

Across the Middle East, U.S. diplomats, soldiers and civilians are on alert. The acting prime minister of Iraq, in an echo of Tehran and radical Shiites, is demanding that all 5,200 U.S. soldiers in Iraq depart.

Two months ago, crowds were in the streets of Iraq protesting Iran's dominance of their politics. Crowds were in the streets of Iran cursing that regime for squandering the nation's resources on imperial adventures in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen. Things were going America's way.

Now it is the Americans who are the targets of protests.

Over three days, crowds numbering in the hundreds of thousands and even millions have packed Iraqi and Iranian streets and squares to pay tribute to Soleimani and to curse the Americans who killed him.

As emotions are running high and America's friends in the region are mute, the twin goals of Iran and its militia allies appear clear:

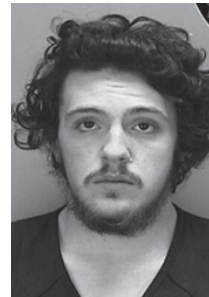
Tehran wants to avoid a war with

other opinions

cuffed in Keizer



Jenny Hill
Arrested Dec. 31 for: Hit-and-run
Previous convictions: Drug possession, endangering the welfare of a minor



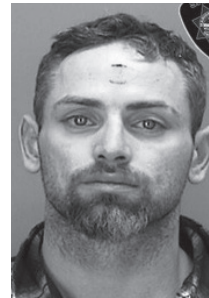
Kyle E. Lavoie
Arrested Jan. 5 for: Sexual abuse
Previous convictions: None



Ricky Alan McColly
Arrested Jan. 5 for: Public indecency and parole violation
Previous convictions: Public indecency, assault



Patrick James Gilbert
Arrested Dec. 30 for: Failure to register as a sex offender
Previous convictions: Rape, burglary



Thomas Lee Lowell
Arrested Jan. 4 for: Parole violation
Previous convictions: Drug possession, burglary



McKenna Avery Waldner
Arrested Jan. 4 for: Parole violation
Previous convictions: Theft



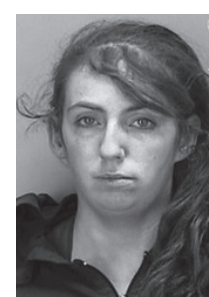
Luis Everardo Lara
Arrested Dec. 30 for: Possession of methamphetamine
Previous convictions: Delivery of methamphetamine, felon in possession of a firearm



Victoria Ashley Moine
Arrested Jan. 2 for: Possession of methamphetamine
Previous convictions: None



David Irwin Martin, Jr.
Arrested Jan. 1 for: Possession of methamphetamine
Previous convictions: Assault



Brianna Marie Alvarez
Arrested Dec. 31 for: Trespassing
Previous convictions: Theft

Jesus Sanchez
Arrested Dec. 30 for: Criminal mischief, trespassing, burglary
Previous convictions: Delivery and possession of methamphetamine, assault

police scanner

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

7:20 a.m. - Arrested for criminal mischief and criminal trespassing in the 1000 block of Clearview Avenue NE.
8:09 a.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 200 block of Lakepoint Place N.
3:29 p.m. - Criminal trespassing, harassment and violation of release agreement in the 1000 block of Clearview Avenue NE.
4:28 p.m. - Theft in the 4000 block of Cherry Avenue NE.
5:50 p.m. - Theft in the 3000 block of River Road N.
10 p.m. - Failure to report as a sex offender in the 800 block of Bever Drive NE.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

2:53 a.m. - Driving while suspended at the intersection of River Road N. and Wheatland Road N.
9:07 a.m. - Criminal mischief, theft from motor vehicle and unlawful entry to vehicle in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Boulevard
11:34 a.m. - Vandalism in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Boulevard
12:58 p.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 100 block of Delta Court N.
1:40 p.m. - Unlawful entry to vehicle in the 7000 block of 8th Court NE.
3:32 p.m. - Arrested for failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged
6:55 p.m. - Theft in the 4000 in the River Road N.

Cherriots adds free wifi to all bus routes

Cherriots recently added free wifi service to all its buses capable of providing connection for simple online tasks.

The network on each bus is called "Cherriots Public Bus WiFi."

The network speed is not meant for streaming video and music and it's limited to the areas where mobile phones receive a good signal. Regional riders should prepare for the signal to drop in certain rural areas of the Santiam Canyon, for example.

Cherriots encourages riders to wait to connect until after leaving transit centers so they do not pick up signals from a different bus.

USB ports for charging small electronics were also installed Cherriots Route 1X buses.

Cherriots Local buses have seen an average year-over-year increase in weekday ridership of 6.4 percent each month since September, and the figures do not include ridership on the recently-reinstated Saturday service.

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 Paper Publisher
Oregon Newspapers Association

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 679-430

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