

Opinion



The science of carbon dioxide

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a main component in *greenhouse gas*, which traps heat and warms our planet.

Carbon dioxide is a colorless gas that appears as water when in a liquid form. Exposure in high concentrations has been found to cause dizziness and restlessness, tingling or a pins-and-needles feeling while it can make breathing difficult, result in extreme tiredness, increase of heart rate, elevate blood pressure. It also causes coma, asphyxiation and convulsions. Not incidentally, research has found that human activities emit more than 60 times the amount of carbon dioxide than natural events, such as volcanic eruptions.

Carbon dioxide has been present in the atmosphere since the Earth condensed from a hot ball of gases following our planet's initial formation about five billion years ago. The first signs of life on Earth came into existence at the planet's development some 2.5 million years ago. The original plants on Earth consumed CO₂ (as they do to this day) so that at a mark in time some 20 million years ago, CO₂ levels were at or near 300 parts per million (ppm).

Life on Earth has evolved under these conditions with humans having appeared about 200,000 years ago. The carbon dioxide at 300 parts per million at that time persisted until the Industrial Revolution brought with it massive emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels, coal and oil. Meanwhile, CO₂

plays an important role in climate as it is one of the atmospheric gases which keep the Earth's surface at about 33 degrees Fahrenheit; it would otherwise be well below 0 degrees, were carbon dioxide and its companion gases not present.

By modern measures, CO₂ ppm have regularly exceeded 400 ppm or 40 percent higher than the Earth's pre-industrial value and a level not known on Earth for several million years. This is a fact judged indisputable by eminent scientists throughout the world. Not only are ever greater increases in atmospheric-borne CO₂ a danger to the very survival of our species but also, as the oceans warm they are expanding to rise, a phenomenon we see happening everywhere land meets sea.

Oregon's political leaders have been proposing what is known as a cap and trade program which is proposed to reduce emissions of pollutants by placing a limit (or cap) on the total amount of emissions released by the sources covered by this program. The overall cap on emissions is implemented through a system of allowances using an algebraic formula.

Cap and trade is an alternative to a carbon tax to reduce emissions and run through a system where big polluters are issued permits by auction or allocation.

Oregonians, based on their industry, are for or against a cap and trade regimen. Unfortunate for the average person in our state, Ore-

gon's legislators too often are helped most in campaign costs by wealthy individuals, corporations and others in our society who wield the financial means and power to give big money to those who will do their benefactor-bidding once in office. These arrangements between the powerful rich and persons holding public office means usually that those who hold elected positions do not always do what's best for the general population; rather, they do what was promised in a quid pro quo. It is the rich and powerful now who determine the fate of cap and trade and our survival.

Carbon dioxide has become a threat to our existence. Meanwhile, there are interventions by which we humans could bring controls to bear on the matter and reduce, if not eliminate, its dangers. However, since greed and self-aggrandizement are often dominant in the "dark" corners of decision-making, the costs to control CO₂ emissions—if a law is passed—will be passed along to the poor and powerless among us. If we could ever come to a place in our human relations where the rich and powerful become dedicated to helping and caring for others, we could act decisively on carbon dioxide and thereby save ourselves.

Publicly-funded elections is one indirect action that would mitigate corruptions now rampant, its time overdue.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer. He shares his opinion frequently in the *Keizertimes*.)

gene h. mcintyre

letters

Bring cursive back to schools

To the Editor:

A growing number (at last count about 17) of state legislatures, including New Jersey, Illinois, Texas and California are plan-

ning to bring back cursive reading and writing to elementary second and third grade school curricula. State leaders are realizing that by not teaching cursive since about 2010, a population of young people have grown up who are unable to read historical documents or

to even sign their name to a legal document or a check.

This is the perfect time for the current Oregon legislative session to correct this same mistake and bring back the teaching of cursive to Oregon's young children. Let's ask our legislators to do so and if the schools require additional financial support to once again teach cursive then let us, as taxpayers, be willing to fund the plan. It will be a worthwhile investment.

Jim Parr
Keizer

Trump and Pelosi: No handshake

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to your recent editorial (*State of the Union as reality TV entertainment*, Feb. 7, 2020).

I would like to help you out with some of your confusion. Perhaps you do not know, but Donald Trump does not like Speaker Nancy Pelosi. That is why he turned his back to her gesture of civility to shake hands. Yes, she did tear up his "reality show" script.

I do agree with you about respect for the office of President. If only that respect would start with the holder of said office.

Patrick O. Selander
Keizer

SHARE your opinion

Submit a letter to the editor, or a guest column by noon Tuesday.

Email to:

publisher@keizertimes.com



Netflix's *Bojack* gives new meaning to animation for adults

By T.J. REID
For the *Keizertimes*

I don't know how the myth that cartoons are only meant for the viewing of younger audiences initially came about, but it is an unfair misconception that various creators, animated television shows and animated movies have had to fight against for generations.

Although efforts on behalf of Pixar, *The Simpsons*, anime and many other companies and productions have taught us time and time again that animation can be a medium that audiences of all ages can enjoy, I still occasionally come across people that are shocked when a cartoon exhibits an intellect above that of your average fourth grader.

Bojack Horseman, whose last episodes just dropped on Netflix, continues the proud tradition of pushing back against the stigma society places on animated media and may just be one of the finest examples of cartoons as art to date.

One of the most appealing (and frustrating) aspects of *Bojack Horseman* is how hilariously and heartbreakingly human its characters are. Yes, the show has jokes, and yes, they are as sidesplitting as they are sharp, but the real appeal comes from the honesty in which the writers and actors portray the characters. The titular Bojack Horseman, voiced by Will Arnett, is far more than a goofy anthropomorphic horse: He is a deeply broken and self-destructive alcoholic who you will hate as much as you cheer for. He has his ups and downs, and the show does

not sugarcoat the latter as he seeks to become a better (or at least bearable) person. It does not sugarcoat the downs of any of the characters, because *Bojack Horseman* is, when you come down to it, an ensemble effort on behalf of one of the most talented casts in television: a cast that can make you cry just as easily as it can make you laugh. And it will make you laugh (I can safely say without hesitation that Todd Chavez, voiced by *Breaking Bad's* Aaron Paul, is easily one of the most absurdly entertaining characters in the history of TV. Just saying).

Bojack Horseman is also not a show that is content to stay in what we would consider normal boundaries. Creativity abounds in each episode, from background sight gags to clever story structures. One of my favorite episodes takes place underwater and has almost entirely no dialogue. Another consists of Bojack giving a eulogy, and... that's it. An episode that's just an extended monologue. And it works. Just when you think the show is going to settle down or that it can't possibly retain its freshness for much longer, it manages to surprise you.

And it does so until the very end. Season 6 is the perfect way to cap off a series that is funny, perceptive, and bravely depressing all at once in a way that is 100 percent believable, regardless of the equine nature of its protagonist. *Bojack Horseman* may not always be a fun journey, but it is one that is well worth making nonetheless.

Bojack Horseman seasons 1-6 are now available on Netflix.

cuffed in Keizer



Harley Davidson Grant

Arrested Feb. 3 for: Possession of methamphetamine

Previous convictions: Felon in possession of a firearm, unauthorized departure



Kaster Kasio Sana

Arrested Feb. 8 for: DUII

Previous convictions: DUII (twice)



Evan Lee Webber

Arrested Feb. 4 for: Possession of methamphetamine, assault, theft

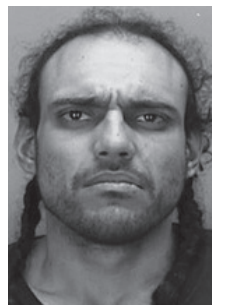
Other pending charges: Assault, unlawful use of a weapon, criminal trespass, criminal mischief



Michael Wesley McDaniel

Arrested Feb. 7 for: Failure to appear in court

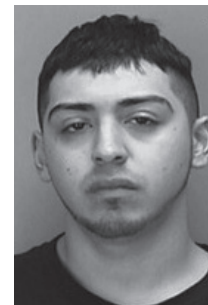
Previous convictions: DUII (twice), driving while suspended or revoked



Gary Timothy Martinez

Arrested Feb. 9 for: Felon in possession of body armor, escape

Previous convictions: Identity theft, theft, tampering with a witness, attempting to flee



Juan Carlos Navarro-Flores

Arrested Feb. 8 for: Reckless endangering

Other pending charges: Reckless endangering, conspiracy to commit a felony, criminal mischief

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