

Opinion

Voters will remember in November

By **BILL POST**

Governor Kate Brown, House Speaker Tina Kotek, Senate President Peter Courtney and I agree on at least one thing: the 2020 legislative session was a failure. Regarding how and why the session failed; we have extremely differing views.

Just three bills made it to the governor's desk before adjournment. Dozens of crucial budget bills and bipartisan policy proposals failed to receive votes. But it didn't have to end this way.

The truth is, Democrat leaders wanted their cap-and-trade bill so badly, they were willing to sacrifice everything in its wake to ensure its passage. They made the choice to put a flawed cap-and-trade bill ahead of legislation that would have addressed homelessness, health care, housing, education and public safety. When we encouraged them to put budget bills and bipartisan policy proposals ahead of cap-and-trade early in the session, they said no.

That was their right and that was

their choice, but they now need to own that decision. They do not have the right to make this choice and then try to pin the blame on others for their own actions.

When it became clear that Democrat leaders were not interested in compromise on cap-and-trade and were not going to move forward with a proper end to the session,

Republican lawmakers developed their own plan for completing the legislature's business. Our proposal to return on the final day of the session (March 8) would have allowed us to pass those essential budget bills and other shared priorities. To be clear, Republican lawmakers were not attempting to "cherry pick" which bills lived or died. In fact, we agreed to the list of important budget bills that Democratic leadership announced as priorities on the House floor without allowing the passage of cap-and-trade.

Again, Democrats said no. Make no mistake, we had the time (in 2019 the Senate passed

over 100 bills on the last day), the authority, and the resources to get these bills across the finish line on the final day of session. Instead of joining us on Sunday to finish the peoples' work, Democratic leadership prematurely gaveled out the session and quit on the people of Oregon. It's ironic, given the rhetoric that has been aimed at Republicans over the last two weeks, that the final act of the 2020 legislative session will be Democrats "walking out" on Oregonians.

Sadly, there were a lot of budget and policy bills that both parties agreed upon, including my two bills; kratom and land use. It's unfortunate we couldn't have passed these bi-partisan bills at the beginning of session. Instead, Democratic leadership made their choice to hold common sense bills hostage until their agenda was complete.

Democratic leaders made their choice and their agenda wasn't completed. Now, they own this session's failure. It is my sincere hope that Oregon voters will remember in November. (Bill Post represents the 25th House District that includes Keizer.)

guest column

other opinions

Covid19 isn't another Katrina. It's worse.

By **MICHAEL GERSON**

One symptom of the coronavirus outbreak—at least for me—has been nasty flashbacks to Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. At the time I was a policy adviser to President George W. Bush, visiting New York City for meetings. The day after the storm hit, I recall talking to a colleague at the White House and helpfully offering that the federal response "looked pretty good from here."

The next several days had the quality of a nightmare, as images of unrelieved suffering filled the news. The crisis, it turned out, was unprecedented—not just a massive hurricane but a city-wide flood. When it came to providing relief and maintaining order, the normal procedure was to defer to state and local authorities. They quickly proved incapable or incompetent. Many Americans assumed that the main federal component of the response—the Federal Emergency Management Agency—could do emergency response and logistics on a large scale. But FEMA wasn't (and isn't) an elite corps of emergency responders. It was (and is) a skeletal organization that expands by hiring contractors in time of need. And the need is usually defined as putting up trailers while a relatively thin strip of destroyed coastal homes is rebuilt.

As the scale of Katrina's destruction became evident, some at the White House proposed to preempt state and local roles and send in the military. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld offered legal objections to conducting operations on U.S. soil. Others made the case that if we took action, we would "own" the situation—creating the impression we could replace the institutions that had primary responsibility.

We found, of course, that the president owns every crisis that can only be solved on a national scale.

So why the flashbacks? Because the United States again faces a circumstance in which the problem may be larger than the institutions that normally deal with it. Public health is mainly the responsibility of states and localities. Americans may think the Centers for Disease Control is leading a national response to the coronavirus. It isn't. The CDC has a weak role in setting and implementing policy, and it is not sufficiently staffed to do the job people think it is doing. The working

group headed by Vice President Mike Pence—while needed and helpful—only has the power of cajoling. In a public-health emergency, there is no national coordinating function.

In normal circumstances, I am all for federalism. But some problems have a scope—say, fighting a war or constructing a national highway system—that overwhelms the theory of local control.

Coronavirus is likely to be this kind of problem. As America moves to the mitigation stage of the outbreak, social distancing measures—such as closing schools, ending mass gatherings and restricting travel—are the next line of defense. But the problem with such measures is that they tend to be imposed too late and/or lifted too early. And the current implementation of social distancing by states and localities can best be called spotty.

All the elements now exist for a swiftly unfolding emergency, on a scale that dwarfs Katrina. Because of the early absence of adequate tests, we have very little idea how prevalent the disease is in the country and

little idea of how fast it is spreading. Dangerously and absurdly, political leaders have been using the low number of confirmed cases as the evidence of success when it is actually a measure of our blindness.

While administration officials were speaking the word "contained," the virus was spreading unhindered in some places for weeks. And if sickness begins to come in a sudden rush, it will swamp the health care system, leading to shortages of masks, hospital beds, ventilators and personnel (as it has in northern Italy).

"The glaring risk today," as J. Stephen Morrison of the Center for Strategic and International Studies told me, "is that the elderly and those with fragile health suffer extreme illness but are unable to access life-sustaining care and die in large numbers."

In just 18 days, Italy went from three confirmed cases of coronavirus to imposing nationwide internal travel restrictions. In a similar circumstance, the United States would need an assertive, active, early federal role in encouraging mitigation, readying the health care system and helping states and localities bear the cost of the crisis. Agencies would have to aggressively use their power to influence, because there is no time for Congress to give them the real power to act. Some logistical role for the military may even be helpful.

I can imagine the objections. Some may argue that this would trample on the authority of states and localities, and that the administration would own whatever follows.

But an unprecedented emergency may require going beyond traditional thinking and traditional roles. And the administration owns the situation already. (Washington Post Writers Group)

letters

happen.

So what, during all of this uncertainty, can we as individuals step in and do? Lots of things really. There are many small steps that each of us can take that collectively will make positive improvements to our present and future environmental quality. None of them require permission, just good choices.

Here are some examples for you to consider: Drive less. Learn to combine trips, use public transit and,

when possible, walk. Fly less. Every day, U.S.-based commercial aviation uses about 63 million gallons of fuel. That fuel is converted into gases, particulate matter and sensible heat that is injected directly into the atmosphere. Consume less. Be less wasteful. Put up a clothes line and during the summer months, hang out your laundry to dry in the breeze and sun. Grow a garden, large or small, and produce some of your own produce. Make a plan to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides in your yards. Accept some dandelions, clover, a few weeds, and ladybugs in your yard. Help farmers use fewer pesticides by being more tolerant of spots and blemishes on the produce you purchase. Ask the city, county and state right-of-way managers to use less herbicide on road shoulders and drainage ways. Make it part of your way of life to take good care of earth's most precious resources; clean air, fresh water and healthy soil.

Additionally, the City of Keizer has environmental protection information and programs that you can check into. You probably have some ideas of your own. Give them a try. If we all do just a few things consistently and regularly, we can protect and enhance our environment and health without the effort becoming burdensome. The countryside, waterways, air, soil, wildlife, and all of us will benefit. There is no downside.

Jim Parr
Keizer

cuffed in Keizer



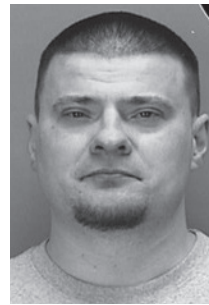
Anthony Dale Stallions

Arrested March 5 for: Unlawful use of a weapon
Pending charges: Criminal mischief, burglary, theft



Brett Raymond Chase

Arrested March 2 for: Theft
Previous convictions: Violating stalking order



Stanislav Vadimovich Bakanov

Arrested March 3 for: Violating restraining order
Previous convictions: Stalking, menacing, theft, burglary



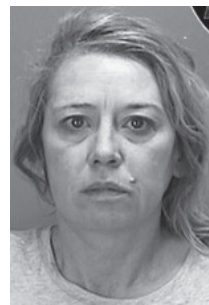
Cutty Willie Moore

Arrested March 3 for: Violating restraining order
Previous convictions: Stalking, menacing, theft, burglary



Cody Lee Woodard

Arrested March 3 for: Disorderly conduct
Previous convictions: Theft



Heather D. Drew

Arrested March 4 for: Resisting arrest
Previous convictions: DUII



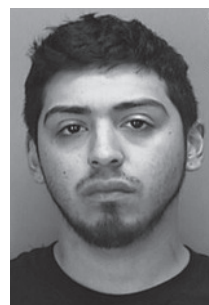
Daray Koty Williams

Arrested March 4 for: Possession of methamphetamine
Other pending charges: Disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, intimidation



Tommy Lynn Barnes

Arrested March 5 for: Possession of heroin
Past convictions: Theft (numerous counts), drug possession



Juan Carlos Navarro-Flores

Arrested March 5 for: Reckless endangering
Other pending charges: Reckless endangering, conspiracy to commit a felony



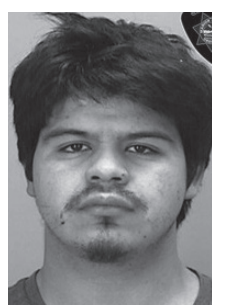
Anthony Wesley Good

Arrested March 7 for: Failure to register as a sex offender
Pending charges: Fleeing police, drug possession, Failure to register as a sex offender



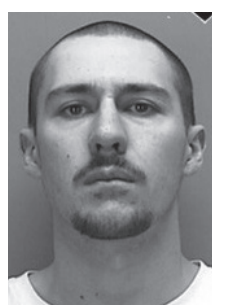
Elise Dianne VonKemp

Arrested March 7 for: ID theft
Past convictions: ID theft, drug possession



Jose Alvarez-Vilches

Arrested March 8 for: Felon in possession of a weapon
Past convictions: Criminal mischief



Alexander L. Liljequist

Arrested March 8 for: Theft
Past convictions: Traffic infractions

Blood drive March 14

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive at Dayspring Fellowship, 1755 Lockhaven Drive N.E. on Tuesday, March 24 from 12 - 6 p.m.

To schedule an appointment call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or contact Connie Moritz at (503)-851-0375.

What can we do?

To the Editor:

The Trump Administration is rolling back environmental programs and safeguards on a fairly regular basis. Our state legislature could step in to manage and oversee the voids that are being created by the roll backs. But if there isn't the political will, interest, and money to do so, it might not

Keizertimes

Wheatland Publishing Corp.
142 Chemawa Road N. • Keizer, Oregon 97303
Phone: 503.390.1051 • www.keizertimes.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Eric A. Howald
editor@keizertimes.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Matt Rawlings
news@keizertimes.com

COMMUNITY REPORTER
Lauren Murphy
reporter@keizertimes.com

ADVERTISING
Stephanie Wittman
advertising@keizertimes.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER & GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Andrew Jackson
graphics@keizertimes.com

LEGAL NOTICES
legals@keizertimes.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
Leah Stevens
billing@keizertimes.com

RECEPTION
Lori Beyeler

INTERN
Brooklyn Flint



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

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
Publication No: USPS 679-430

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:

Keizertimes Circulation
142 Chemawa Road N.
Keizer, OR 97303

Periodical postage paid at
Salem, Oregon

facebook.com/keizertimes

twitter.com/keizertimes

puzzle answers

S	A	G	A	N	L	O	B	O	S	P	A		
I	R	A	N	T	O	V	E	R	S	P	I	N	
B	E	E	T	L	E	W	E	E	D	H	I	V	E
S	A	L	E	V	E	N	T	G	O	D	O	T	
A	B	E	D	H	O	R	N	E	T	S			
R	A	F	T	E	R	B	O	N	I	E	R		
A	L	L	E	Y	S	E	V	E	N	L	O	B	
T	I	E	R	A	C	R	E	S	S	I	R	E	
E	T	A	A	L	I	E	N	E	C	L	A	T	
C	O	R	O	N	A	L	L	O	Y	D	S		
C	R	I	C	K	E	T	L	E	A	R			
H	A	R	E	S	I	D	O	L	P	O	W	S	
I	N	C	A	F	L	Y	B	Y	N	I	G	H	T
N	O	U	N	A	L	E	E	N	O	R	I	A	
A	N	S	T	A	S	I	S	E	N	E	M	Y	

4	6	9	1	5	2	7	3	8				
3	5	2	9	8	7	6	1	4				
7	8	1	6	3	4	9	2	5				
2	7	4	5	9	3	8	6	1				
9	1	6	2	7	8	4	5	3				
5	3	8	4	1	6	2	9	7				
1	4	3	7	6	9	5	8	2				
8	9	7	3	2	5	1	4	6				
6	2	5	8	4	1	3	7	9				