

# Opinion

## Opening amid COVID-19

Every crisis breeds its own white hat heroes; conversely, every crisis also breeds black hat scoundrels.

Most will agree that the white hat heroes of the coronavirus pandemic are the health workers—doctors, nurses and anyone who goes to work at a hospital or clinic. The black hat scoundrels are those who lightly dismiss COVID-19 as either a hoax, a conspiracy or an overblown flu.

The heroes, literally, take their lives into their own hands everytime they report to work. The Hippocratic oath drives physicians, nurses and the army of support staff, to care for those who have fallen ill with the virus. Unfortunately, health care professionals are not immune; across the country many have died. There would be no celebration too elaborate or boisterous to praise and honor the health care workers of 2020.

zaitz writes

Those who refuse to take personal responsibility during this pandemic are not taking a stand for personal rights, they are politicizing an issue that is not political. Nature does not take sides—it doesn't know conservative from liberal nor populism from tyranny.

The coronavirus pandemic is not over. The curve may be flattening in some areas, but it is growing in others. Some experts expect another wave of COVID-19 cases in the fall. The bottomline is that we must continue to maintain our protocols from social distancing to wearing masks in public. JetBlue is requiring all passengers to wear masks on all their flights. There are other businesses that should require masks, grocery stores in particular.

Local grocers have instituted limited numbers of people in their store at one time, they sanitize shopping carts after each use and even

try to regulate traffic patterns. There are still far too many shoppers not wearing masks.

We would be up for opening the economy if we achieved a much higher rate of people taking responsibility for themselves and others by wearing a mask when in public. With more than 20 million Americans filing for unemployment benefits since the start of the pandemic, we can't go on like this for long. Allowing businesses to re-open as well as letting people gather in public spaces again must be accomplished in tandem with assuring everyone follows the new routines. Going to a park is one thing, how long will it be before people feel safe in a theatre? A sit-down restaurant?

Life has changed due to COVID-19, but if it makes us more caring for others, more conscious of our own hygiene, life after this pandemic may have some lasting societal benefits.

(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the Keizertimes.)

## Thank you to parents, grandparents

If I could contact my deceased relatives, specifically my parents and grandparents, I would write them a letter to thank them for holding

I would tell them in my letter of appreciation that I know from reading about what the Japanese and Germans did to other nations

gene h. mcintyre

steadily to the task and remaining undeterred during hardship conditions in the U.S. by the Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II. During those trying times, I'm certain they went without a way of life they most likely had appreciated during the decade before the economy went to great depredations while serving up serious threats to health and life itself. During the period of the second world war, from late 1941 to August, 1945, they had to cope with rationing of all items, food and material, and the constant possibility, at least during the early years of war, that the Empire of Japan would invade and overtake Americans on the West Coast. These conditions persisted—for my forebears and those of most other Americans—for 50 months.

they invaded that, if they and millions of other Americans had not risen to hold forth and fight tooth and nail to avoid a triumph by Japan, we likely today would be under an emperor's harsh-ruler dictatorship and most certainly required to serve Imperial Japan as its slaves and speak Japanese should we have wanted to survive, though in servile fashion. I would spend quite a bit of space in my letter relating the fact that a significant percentage of the current U.S. population find it too great a hardship to endure some space and movement limitations on their freedom for the good of all, attempting to avoid a disease that has already killed thousands, spares few in its wake and looks to carry on with its human toll as long as we ignore measures

to protect ourselves against its spread.

Such is the picture of America now when compared to it less than a mere 90 years ago. With the value of the almighty dollar taking the place of the value of life for the current generations alive today, the American now wonders nervously, anxiously what is to become of us, now a nation also with its Constitution, Bill of Rights, rule of law and way of life and living under daily attack by a collection of persons in high office who care mainly and almost exclusively for wealth and power over the health, safety and the very lives of their citizens.

(Gene H. McIntyre shares his opinion frequently in the Keizertimes.)

## Will Oregon shrink?

How does this sound: Coos Bay-Idaho, Crater Lake-Idaho, Medford-Idaho, Redmond-Idaho, Baker City-Idaho, Burns-Idaho, etc.

Some of the residents of southwest, central and eastern Oregon, approximately three-fourths of the state, want to become part of a greatly expanded state of Idaho.

Should it become partially or totally true, what could be left of the Oregon that we know would be about the northwest quarter of the state or 14 of the 36 counties. That is, from about Eugene northward and the crest of the Cascades westward to the coast would be what is left of the existing state of Oregon. That is a change practically

beyond imagination.

Why do the residents of 22 Oregon counties want to join Idaho? The greater part of their argument is that the population centers of Eugene, Salem and Portland do not represent their cultural and political views and values. They feel like they have little input in the governing of Oregon and that the state places little value in their way of life. And more clearly, the people in the three counties that border Idaho feel more geographically and economically connected to Idaho.

It might be helpful and meaningful if the legislature met periodically in the central and eastern side of the

state. Convening the legislature for a week or so further east would not be easy or cheap but it can be done. This could give our more rural residents the chance to have more direct input into the business and direction that state lawmaking takes. And they might then feel more like they belong in Oregon and not Idaho.

Idaho is changing. It is the nation's fastest growing state and people from all over the country, including California, are moving there in droves. And they bring their own culture and political views, some of which are liberal, with them. Idaho may not always remain the conservative and largely rural paradise that they seek.

(Jim Parr lives in Keizer.)

guest column

### sudoku

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

Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.



### crossword

**Sharp**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21						22				
				23					24					
25	26	27						28				29	30	31
32								33					34	
35								36					37	
38								39					40	
41								42					43	
								44					45	46
								47	48					49
53								54					55	
56								57					58	
59								60					61	

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

#### ACROSS

- 1 Ethereal instrument
- 5 Dawdles
- 9 Employer
- 14 Milky stone
- 15 Very light brown
- 16 Labor group
- 17 \_\_\_ Verde
- 18 Kind of play
- 20 Blotted out
- 22 Belonging to Cain's brother
- 23 \_\_\_ of Wine and Roses
- 24 Broken husks of cereal grain
- 25 Open assertion
- 28 Hero sandwiches
- 32 The Outcast of Poker Flats author
- 33 Insipid
- 34 Contend
- 35 Singer Ed \_\_\_
- 36 Informal language
- 37 Sheltered inlet
- 38 Sprinted
- 39 Listened to
- 40 Extra card in a deck
- 41 Move across
- 43 Consumers
- 44 Radiate
- 45 Camping gear
- 47 Actress Shearer

- 49 A convenience
- 53 Storied blonde
- 55 Region
- 56 Heavenly hunter
- 57 Korean leader
- 58 Small brook
- 59 Surrounded by
- 60 West German capital
- 61 Loud cry

#### DOWN

- 1 Residence
- 2 Highest point
- 3 Coarse file
- 4 Rounds of applause
- 5 Describes a colt
- 6 Land units
- 7 H.S. senior, next semester
- 8 Celestial body
- 9 Spouse
- 10 Have in mind
- 11 Gold coin
- 12 Long periods of time
- 13 Not sq.
- 19 Venturesome boldness
- 21 Appellation
- 24 Distinctive kind
- 25 Diagram
- 26 Town in CO
- 27 Sphere of activity
- 28 Harsh light

- 29 Call forth
- 30 Abundant stream
- 31 Prophets
- 33 Explosion
- 36 Continued story
- 37 Mint geranium
- 39 Finishing a garment
- 40 Warm month
- 42 Dancer Gwen \_\_\_
- 45 Captured
- 46 Industrial city in the Ruhr Valley
- 47 Standard
- 48 Sundry assortment
- 49 Reverberate
- 50 PA port
- 51 Dickens character
- 52 Statueque
- 53 Tibetan gazelle
- 54 Sphere

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