

Opinion



Defunding cops is not a solution

The call across the United States for defunding municipal police departments comes after the killing of George Floyd at the knee of a city policeman in Minneapolis.

The resulting protests across the country have been accented by the call for total reform of policing in the United States, up to, and including, dismantling police departments. Some say the departments can be replaced with community policing.

A majority of the Minneapolis city council announced their intent to defund and dismantle that city's police department. They seek to shift funding toward a new model of community-based policing, but they give scant details of what that would look like. They, like other municipalities, are putting the cart before the horse. You cannot eliminate a police department without having something ready to replace it.

Abolishing a police department is against the very best interests of society as a whole. Police are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They patrol our neighborhoods, they protect

and serve our communities. They quickly respond to emergency calls day and night.

Proponents of police defunding call for funds to be shifted from law enforcement departments to areas such as social services, housing and job creation. All noble goals.

In the nation, there are valid criticisms of law enforcement that include racial profiling, brutality, militarization and racism. Most police officers do it right—they care about their communities and its residents. They engage with citizens, communicate with kids; they put forward the positive face of policing. It is heartening to see images of officers across the United States march and kneel with protesters. Some Keizer police staff joined in solidarity with protesters in Salem last weekend.

Here in Keizer there have been no widespread cries of police brutality. Our recent police chiefs have provided a force the community supports.

Kids are told when there is trouble run to a cop. Unfortunately, many black kids are told to steer away from a cop. It is the dichotomy of how dif-

ferent segments of society relate to law enforcement.

There has been talk of police reform for a long time. Protests against police brutality have ebbed and flowed across the nation since the death in 2014 of Eric Garner at the hands of police officers in New York.

A new paradigm in policing in America calls for culture change. Changes have to begin at the top, which means with city mayors and city councils, then with police chiefs and down through the ranks. The first steps should be a deep look at the hiring process and psychological evaluations. The following step should be the training of recruits. We can assume an overwhelming majority of applicants want to enter law enforcement for the right reasons: to serve and protect their communities. Most serve with integrity and honor throughout their careers.

That is cold comfort for citizens who feel they are treated differently and more harsh than others. Dismantling police departments is not the answer—the answer is cities need to assure their patrol officers are part of the solution, not the problem.

—LAZ

editorial

Don't let them go hungry

COVID-19 has up-ended life as we know it. Many people have been out of work as their employers shut down at Gov. Kate Brown's order. Those who were fortunate got their \$1,200 federal stimulus check, or unemployment checks from the state.

Those who are less fortunate have to figure out how to survive, especially when it comes to putting food on their family dining tables. Any lifeline,

especially food banks, becomes vitally important to our neighbors who need a helping hand.

The pandemic has decimated the shelves at Keizer Community Food Bank and they need to be restocked. In normal times, the food bank is always in need of donations; these days it is desperate need of food and cash donations. We all have our challenges now, some more than others. We shouldn't

let our neighbors go hungry. We ask the community to show its generosity again by donating food or money. Food banks are able to buy food at wholesale prices, cheaper than the public is able to buy food on sale. Financial donations are going to supply more food for people in need when you donate to a food bank, and allow the food bank to buy what is needed to stock the shelves.

—LAZ

Library stands against racism

To the Editor:

The Keizer Community Library acknowledges the pain and suffering caused by the deadline impacts of institutional and systemic racism in our communities. As a culture, and as individuals, we lose something of ourselves when injustice happens to any one of us.

As a community library we work to bring people together, to explore ideas, to learn and grow; and, in the process, earn the trust of our patrons. Libraries hold dear the First Amendment and the right of intellectual

freedom. To those ends, we support the right to peaceably assemble, organize and protest for change. Many of the changes in our country have taken place because brave people have stood

tall against oppression. We stand in solidarity with their voices and their efforts and we applaud individuals, organizations and leaders who are working for change.

We recognize the trauma, anger and frustration that yet another tragedy creates for all of us, in particular the Black community, indigenous peoples and other communities of color. We believe the people should enjoy the

privilege of being safe on their own streets and in their own home. And, we believe diverse communities are stronger when everyone feels secure and valued.

We are all diminished when we are silent in the face of violence. To be silent is to be complicit. The Keizer Community Library commits to standing up against racism and oppression. We also believe everyone in our community is willing to do the same.

Paula Guiles Keizer

(The writer is the president of the Board of Directors of the Keizer Community Library.)

letters

Bravery in service of the US

When interviewed, young people believe they are free of harm. That false sense of believing in their immortality has made them fodder for leaders since the beginning of time, who've used their youth to battle adversaries. Nevertheless, there are always a few among those facing a battle who are mature and wise enough to realize a high probability their end is nigh.

A recent commemoration brought this subject up: D-Day, June 6, 1944. That date was when thousands of Allied troops faced the juggernaut Nazi Germany war machine mightily entrenched along the northwest coast of France.

The invasion had been planned for a couple of years. While it is likely that many Allied troops knew their participation was inevitable. The bottom line is, no matter those troop numbers harboring young men with delusions of grandeur, when the troops were about to wade ashore into a virtual tsunami of bullets, they experienced fear with a desire to run away.

Yet, the natural fear felt when faced with the likelihood of being hit by a high-speed projectile did not deter them from scrambling out of those landing crafts and into the surf to face the gut-wrenching Wehrmacht. Looking at the landing site from the safety of the landing craft, each had to grip-hard his bravery that morning, even though they'd been trained for months to put up a good fight. It was later verified that 2,499

American troops died that day while many others followed the first wave of attack and did so at Normandy until August, 1944.

Meanwhile, opinion leads me to believe that hardly a single leader among those at the U.S. federal level—excepting the late Senator John McCain and perhaps a handful of others—would have been able to board the landing craft much less head out into the English Channel on that fateful morning; a day that marked the beginning of the end of Nazi Germany.

gene h. mcintyre

police scanner

SUNDAY, MAY 31

8 a.m. - Vandalism in the 1000 block of Drexler Lane NE.
11:23 a.m. - Sudden death in the 1000 block of Shady Lane NE.
12:13 p.m. - Sudden death in the 600 block of Lockhaven Drive NE.
4 p.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 300 block of Sandy Drive N.

MONDAY, JUNE 1

9 a.m. - Theft by deception in the 1000 block of Barnick Road NE.
10:23 a.m. - Shoplifting in the 5000 block of River Road N.
1:57 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 2000 block of Aldine Court NE.
8:30 p.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 4000 block of River Road N.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

1:10 a.m. - Driving under the influence in the 300 block of Dearborn Avenue N.
10:07 a.m. - Traffic accident at the intersection of Lockhaven Drive N. and River Road N.
11:22 a.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 1000 block of Susan Court NE.
11:44 a.m. - Telephonic harassment in the 1000 block of Fir Cone Lane NE.
10 p.m. - Unlawful entry to vehicle in the 4000 block of Bailey Road NE.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

6:05 a.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 5000 block of River Road N.
2:13 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 3000 block of River Road N.
2:57 p.m. - Theft in the 900 block of Leeward Court N.
8:48 p.m. - Fleeing or attempting to elude police officer in the 5000 block of River Road N.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

7:53 a.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 4000 block of River Road N.
12:53 p.m. - Restraining order vi-

olation in the 1000 block of River Rock Drive NE.
2:21 p.m. - Sudden death in the 700 block of Plymouth Drive NE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5

4:15 p.m. - Crime damage in the 3000 block of Cherry Avenue NE.
5:55 p.m. - Vandalism in the 5000 block of River Road N.
9:46 p.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 3000 block of River Road N.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

9:15 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 4000 block of Thorman Avenue NE.
9:59 a.m. - Theft in the 6000 block of Bingtree Court NE.
10:20 a.m. - Identity theft in the 5000 block of Verda Lane NE.
11:40 a.m. - Disorderly conduct in the 4000 block of River Road N.
7:10 p.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 3000 block of River Road N.
10:57 p.m. - Assault in the 4000 block of Harcourt Avenue NE.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

1 p.m. - Menacing use or display of weapons in the 4000 block of Gary Street NE.
1:25 p.m. - Parole violation in the 3000 block of Cherry Avenue NE.
1:28 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 5000 block of 10th Avenue NE.
8:35 p.m. - Driving under the influence of intoxicants in the 1000 block of McGee Court NE.
9:20 p.m. - Assault in the 1000 block of Orchard Court N.

MONDAY, JUNE 8

12:28 a.m. - Menacing use or display of weapons in the 3000 block of Partridge Lane NE.
4:09 a.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 1000 block of Willow Lake Road N.

2 Keizerites nominated to state advisory roles

Two residents of Keizer were recently nominated to serve on state boards and commissions by Gov. Kate Brown.

City Councilor Roland Herrera was nominated to serve on the Committee on Judicial Fitness and Disability. The Commission reviews complaints about Oregon state judges and justices of the peace and investigates when the alleged conduct might violate the state's judicial code of conduct.

Herrera will serve a four-year term.

Rachael DeBarmore was nominated to serve on the State Board of Pharmacy. The Board of Pharmacy "serves to promote and protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring high standards in the practice of pharmacy and

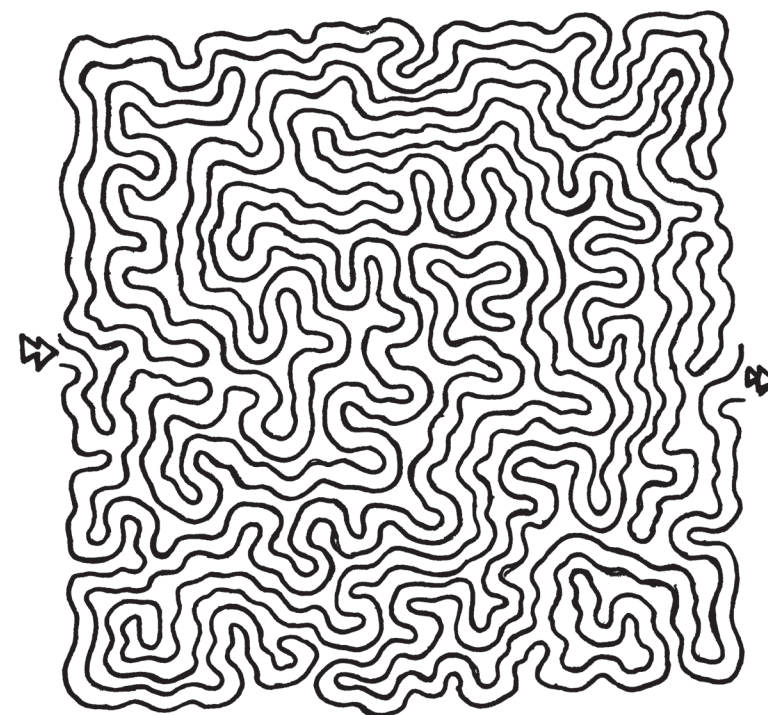
through effective regulation of the manufacture and distribution of drugs."

DeBarmore will also serve for four years.

While a confirmation hearing has not yet been scheduled, the Senate Committee on Rules—per committee rules—can consider nominations once 21 days have passed after the date of submission.

"State board and commission members bring their diversity of backgrounds and life experiences to provide valuable expertise and insight into a wide range of issues facing state government," Brown said in a press release. "Their contributions help lead to policies and strategies that better enable us to serve and represent all Oregonians."

maze



Maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer

sudoku

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