

Public Square

Don't shoot the messenger

By LYNDON ZAITZ

Too many want to shoot the messenger, especially in times like these, with the coronavirus pandemic.

When reputable press outlets report on what is happening, some blame the media for fanning the flames of COVID-19 hysteria. It is not hysteria when you or a loved one has been diagnosed.

Cases of COVID-19 are surging throughout the country, including many states that reopened sooner than was prudent. The governor of Texas had to pause the state's reopening efforts and is making it mandatory to wear masks in some counties. Health experts have said all along that social distancing and wearing masks are key to slowing the spread of the insidious virus. Yet, some still flout that advice and turn wearing a mask during a pandemic into a battle of personal rights and liberties.

Society has had to deal with health recommendations in a matter of weeks. It took years for the public to accept and buy into the need for seat belts. There are people today who don't wear their seat belts while in their vehicle, but that number is, arguably, minute. Can we expect hundreds of millions of people to make change on a dime? We should. No one would put their toddler out on a busy freeway, that's just crazy. The metaphor is apt for wearing a mask. You may not get hit by a truck, but why not do everything in our power to stay safe and healthy?

zaitz
writes

We all wish COVID-19 would be done and over. Nature doesn't work that way. We must all remain vigilant for ourselves and others. It is important to keep in mind of where we are:

- The pandemic is not over even if the economy's reopening enters into different phases. Reopening doesn't translate into 'over.'
- Many of the newest cases are hitting Millennials and GenZers; their death rates may be lower than older people, but the effects will be long lasting.

• A person can feel fine but be asymptomatic, meaning they carry the virus and can spread it to others without knowing it, thus the importance of distancing and masks.

• Of course more tests for COVID-19 will result in more reported cases. If someone has COVID-19 but doesn't get tested, they still have the disease.

• No government official wakes up in the morning wondering how they can mess up the day of the public. We don't know everything there is to know about COVID-19, but thousands of scientists and researchers are working tirelessly to understand the virus and how to combat it.

On COVID-19 pundits trade in opinion and ideology. The media reports on the facts and news of COVID-19. Don't shoot the messenger presenting information that is key to surviving this pandemic.

(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the *Keizertimes*.)

What is the solution to systemic racism?

By RAMIRO NAVARRO

My name is Ramiro Navarro and I am running for State Representative for House District 25. I had really hoped that my first letter to the *Keizertimes* would be to outline my policies and history of advocacy, but today I felt like I had to address something that's been weighing heavy on my mind. With the recent opinions on riots, police defunding and support for school resource officers, it seems that we have forgotten how we've gotten to this point in the first place.

I'd like to start off by saying racism is as American as apple pie. That is to say that although it didn't originate here in America, it sure has become something we're known for. This isn't news that we are just now learning. This is an issue that has been documented for ages, but we are just now looking at the bizarre statistics. So the question shouldn't be whether or not racism exists but rather why it continues to exist here? The short answer to that is because America, or in this case Oregon, has provided the atmosphere.

When Oregon was still a territory, Black exclusionary laws were passed to prevent Black people from living here for longer than three years, and then another law was passed to prevent them from re-entering after leaving. When Oregon became a state there was a clause in our state constitution that prohibited Black people from owning property or making contracts.

While that racist law was repealed, the language still existed in the state constitution until 2002. It was finally removed but even then, only 18 years ago, 30 percent of voters were in support of keeping the discriminatory verbiage. I have to mention this today after a conversation I had with an individual here, in my hometown, that believed two percent of our state population commits 50 percent of the crime, which is why Black people account for 10 percent of the total incarcerated population.

It's been documented that Oregon's history hasn't been kind to people of color and yet some still refuse to believe Oregon's criminal justice system isn't fair for all.

I'd like to clarify what I know to be true that I believe is a misunderstanding regarding the Black Lives Matter movement. The movement is saying we need to pay attention to the disproportionate amount of minority lives impacted by police violence and systematic racism in our nation because they are the most at risk. It isn't saying Black lives matter more than others. That perception is being pushed by bad-faith actors who are saying All Lives Matter, knowing they are the very people the message is intended for.

Another translation can be found in Matthew 18:12, "If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety and nine and go into the mountains looking for that one which has gone astray? And if he so finds it, he'll rejoice more of that one sheep, than of the ninety-nine which had not gone astray."

It pains me to say this but I've seen first-hand how thousands here in Oregon being led astray by bad policy

and bad policymakers. As a community, we must come together as one and focus on the most in danger of being harmed. Oregon's systemic racism is real, and nothing is going to fix that issue until we admit as a community that it's an issue, to begin with.

Even those who have the privilege to say it doesn't exist, because they've never experienced it personally, are saying so because they read the reports on failed policies like Measure 11, which unfairly sentences people of color while offering white offenders plea deals for lesser charges.

Another example is a recent study by the Congressional Research Service that found very little, if any, statistics to indicate that police in schools prevent mass shootings and keep students safe. On the contrary, the study actually concluded that children (more particularly children of color) are negatively impacted by the presence of School Resource Officers (SRO) due to the use of the criminal justice system for minor offenses and the fact that SROs are typically paired with schools which have a large percentage of black and brown students. Meaning they cause more harm than they support student success and it disproportionately affects people of color.

To a hammer, everything is a nail, and with school resource officers, studies have shown that people of color tend to be the nails that stick up. To correct another misunderstanding, saying defund the police doesn't mean to abolish police here in Oregon. It means we need more tools in the toolbox; let's re-allocate funding and invest in more proficient tools.

When I was building houses for veterans here in Keizer, my tool belt held a catspaw, a pry bar, a hammer, and a nail gun along with my bag of nails. We don't expect to raise a home with just one tool so why would we expect that method to work when it comes to raising a community?

The police are still just one call away as they should be for more dire situations but being in schools criminalizing kids is not one of them. The Parkrose High School shooter was stopped not by a bullet but by a bear hug, which I think is a testament to us needing to listen to our youth because they want to be heard. When you listen, the youth are saying we need more funding for mental health services, job training, culturally informed programs and programs that foster open communication. Not handcuffs for a minor offense that starts them on the pipeline for the rest of their lives.

This is exactly what is being paraphrased when you hear Black Lives Matter or defund the police. Knowing this, I believe we can support officers in focusing on leads for local kidnappings, burglaries, and shootings while promoting school support services like more counselors, programs for graduation rates and staff-to-student ratios. After that, together we can evoke a passion in our state to make systemic change this November. That way those dark parts of our past become something that should never gain 30 percent of support.

(Ramiro Navarro lives in Keizer.)

Toy Story 4 hits Garden's cruise-in

The Oregon Garden presents Cruise-In Cinema: *Toy Story 4* on Friday, July 10. The gates open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at dusk (9:15 ish). Sound is delivered by FM radio.

All attendees must purchase their admission tickets and concessions in advance. Purchasing snacks and beverages online helps support The Oregon Gardens and are a key part of making this event profitable.

Arrive early to park and enjoy one of these options while waiting for the movie:

1. Along with your movie ticket, purchase Oregon Garden admission and enjoy a walk through the garden.
2. Make dinner reservations for the Gardenview

Restaurant at Oregon Garden Resort, which is a 2-3 minute walk from the cruise-in lot. Reservations are required.

3. Enjoy a glass of wine, cocktail, beer or dinner in the fireside lounge located at the resort. No reservation required and minors are allowed until 8 p.m.

Attendees must adhere to these rules: vehicles will be parked 6 feet apart, masks are required in the restrooms, well behaved dogs are allowed inside the vehicle. However there will not be a pet area or walking outside or the vehicle.

No alcohol is permitted at the event.

Tickets can be found online at oregongarden.org.

police scanner

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

1:13 a.m. - Arrested for attempting to elude police officer at the intersection of River Road N. and Cummings Lane N.

4:13 p.m. - Traffic accident at the intersection of River Road N. and Sam Orcutt Way NE.

5:19 p.m. - Traffic accident in the 5000 block of River Road N.

7 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 5000 block of Benevan Court NE.

7:29 p.m. - Driving under the influence on Homewood Court N.

7:55 p.m. - Restraining order violation in the 1000 block of Dearborn Avenue NE.

8:54 p.m. - Restraining order violation in the 1000 block of River Rock Drive NE.

MONDAY, JUNE 22

9:09 a.m. - Graffiti in the 3000 block of River Road N.

4:18 p.m. - Theft in the 7000 block of Park Terrace Drive NE.

5:39 p.m. - Traffic accident in the 600 block of Chemawa Road NE.

9:34 p.m. - Vandalism in the 5000 block of River Road N.

11:47 p.m. - Restraining order violation in the 3000 block of River Road N.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

12:29 a.m. - Shoplifting in the 4000 block of River Road N.

5:02 a.m. - Burglary and criminal trespassing in the 2000 block of Allendale Way NE.

6:14 p.m. - Unlawful possession of Methamphetamine on River Road N.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

2:08 a.m. - Aggravated assault in the 4000 block of River Road N.

2:30 p.m. - Vandalism in the 1000 block of Marigold Street NE.

6:19 p.m. - Telephonic harassment in the 4000 block of Rickman Road NE.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

1 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle and unlawful entry to vehicle in the 1000 block of Meadowlark Drive NE.

8:38 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 1000 block of Carilor Court NE.

10:58 a.m. - Residence burglary in the 1000 block of Marigold Street NE.

12:50 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 1000 block of Zachris

Court NE.

1:31 p.m. - Physical harassment in the 4000 block of River Road N.

6:47 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 1000 block of Candlewood Drive NE.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

2 a.m. - Residence burglary in the 1000 block of Mistwood Drive NE.

7:13 a.m. - Unlawful entry to vehicle in the 1000 block of Zachris Court NE.

12 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle and unlawful entry to vehicle in the 100 block of McNary Estates Drive N.

1:35 p.m. - Warrant served in the 4000 block of River Road N.

9:30 p.m. - Fraud use of credit card and unlawful entry to vehicle in the 6000 block of Wheatland Road N.

9:45 p.m. - Vandalism at Apple Blossom Avenue NE.

11:45 p.m. - Driving under the influence at the intersection of Verda Lane NE. and Alder Drive NE.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

12:30 a.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 1000 block of Fir Cone Drive NE.

2:04 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 7000 block of Parkplace Drive NE.

3:02 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 700 block of Lakefair Circle N.

10:25 p.m. - Vandalism in the 700 block of Dearborn Avenue N.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

12:25 a.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged at the intersection of Churchdale Avenue

N. and River Road N.

9:11 a.m. - Restraining order violation in the 6000 block of 14th Avenue NE.

11:07 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 800 block of Foothill Court NE.

11:16 a.m. - Burglary in the 6000 block of Wheatland Road N.

8:54 p.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 5000 block of River Road N.

MONDAY, JUNE 29

12:01 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 5000 block of Allendale Way NE.

1:22 a.m. - Arrested for assault in the 600 block of Rose Park Lane NE.

5:05 a.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 1000 block of Clearview Avenue NE.

8:24 a.m. - Theft of motor vehicle parts in the 1000 block of Rock Ledge Drive NE.

9:03 a.m. - Theft from building in the 4000 block of River Road N.

2:52 p.m. - Burglary in the 1000 block of Hidden Creek Drive NE.

5:12 p.m. - Telephonic harassment on the block of Apple Blossom Avenue NE.

5:26 p.m. - Theft from building in the 5000 block of River Road N.

6:14 p.m. - Criminal threats in the 1000 block of Chemawa Road N.

6:43 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Boulevard

10:47 p.m. - Physical harassment in the 100 block of Delta Court N.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

12 a.m. - Criminal threats in the 500 block of Greenwood Drive NE.

obituaries

Submit an obituary through our website at keizertimes.com or send an email to: editor@keizertimes.com

John 'Jack' Young Lathrop

Jan. 18, 1944 - June 16, 2020

John "Jack" Young Lathrop of Bronze Star for his service in the Keizer passed away on June 16, 2020

John was born in Portland, OR on Jan. 18, 1944, to Theodore Guilford Lathrop and Cora Marjorie Hamilton. John was a graduate of Oregon City High School

John was awarded the



J. Young

United States Army during his three tours of duty in Vietnam.

John is survived by daughters Robin and Regina Lathrop; sons Russell, Randy, and Thomas Lathrop; and granddaughter Charlotte Rowan Lathrop.

John will be remembered at Belcrest Memorial Park in Salem on Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m.



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