

Public Square

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Is Claggett Creek in trouble?

By JIM PARR

With the continued dry weather and back-to-back very dry years, you may be wondering “what keeps Claggett Creek flowing this time of year”? If you take a look at the creek now you will notice that there is presently very little flow. You will also notice extensive growth of stream side and bank vegetation and mats of floating aquatic vegetation covering most of the surface.

According to the Oregon Water Resources Department, the base flow of most of our urban area streams is maintained by ground water discharge. Water stored in the upper soil profile is replenished by annual rainfall plus some transfer of ground water from deep aquifers to the surface for domestic use and large and small scale irrigation. Ground water is released and drains into streams where the stream bed intersects the shallow water table. This typically occurs in gullies, at the base of bluffs, and where depressions occur that form wetlands. Claggett Creek encounters all of these geologic formations along its course.

The creek, which originates in Salem just east of Interstate 5, winds its way through north Salem and into and through Keizer to its terminus at Clear Lake. From there the water slowly makes its way to the Willamette River via a maze of sloughs, backwaters, and bayous. During summer weather, it may actually never reach the river. During the wet season, the creek, directly and indirectly, meets the river just upstream of the Wheatland Ferry landing.

During the spring months of 2015, the United States Geological Survey, Water Quality Division, conducted comprehensive sampling and monitoring of urban streams and water ways at numerous sites throughout the Willamette Valley and the Puget

Sound lowlands.

The purpose of the study was to determine the impact of urban areas and agriculture upon the water quality of these streams. Included in the study was Claggett Creek which was sampled numerous times at Lockhaven Drive and River Road. Stream water, bottom sediments, and vegetation were sampled and monitored for contaminants that are indicators of stream health.

When the sampling data was analyzed, Claggett Creek was found to have scored poorly in comparison to most of the other streams included in the regional study. Here in general is some of what they found.

- High levels of salts and plant nutrients were found which is indicative of fertilizer runoff from yards and farms that reaches the creek. The high levels of plant nutrients in the water has led to excessive growth of stream bank and in-stream plant growth. The thick grass and vegetation along the creek may look attractive but it eventually decomposes and the decomposition process consumes oxygen. Measurements confirmed low levels of available or dissolved oxygen in the water and sediments which, along with high water temperatures during the warm season, make it difficult for aquatic life to thrive in the creek. The high water temperatures are mostly caused by the lack of shade and low warm season flow along most of the stream course.

- Several organic pesticides (insecticides and herbicides) including 2,4-D and glyphosate at levels or concentrations of concern were found in the creek. Other toxins found in the stream bed sediments include heavy metals such as elemental mercury and low level radioactive nuclides which are found naturally in the valley sediments but could also be from runoff

from industrial sites and operations. Runoff from roads and highways is another possible source.

Why should anyone care about the status of Claggett Creek since hardly anyone expects to see trout and salmon living in the creek? As a drainage, the creek receives what runs off of the land that comprises the Claggett Creek watershed. Thus it is a useful indicator of the health of the environment through which the stream flows. And what reaches the creek eventually makes it to the river. Where the flow slows and ponds, the water evaporates and also percolates downward to the water table with potentially negative impacts to the shallow aquifer.

Thanks to the work of the Claggett Creek Watershed Enhancement Council and the City of Keizer, water quality has improved in recent times. We can continue to improve the health of Claggett Creek by using less pesticide and fertilizer on our lawns, gardens, farms and roadsides. Our environmental agencies can further assist businesses and industries to minimize industrial runoff. More native stream side trees and shrubs can be planted to provide shade to lower water temperatures. Constructing artificial rapids or enhancing existing rapids where the gradient is sufficient can agitate the water which will increase dissolved oxygen levels.

Working together, people in southeast Portland and Salem brought salmon and trout back to once neglected and polluted Johnson and Mill Creeks and to sections of Pringle Creek. With all of the limitations that exist, Claggett Creek will probably never be a fishing stream but we should work to ensure that it becomes and remains safe for kids and pets to play in and for wildlife to safely utilize.

(Jim Parr lives in Keizer.)

A most consequential presidency

By PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

Now that Donald Trump has accepted the nomination for a second term, how his presidency has already altered the orientation of his party is on display.

Under Trump, the GOP ceased to be a party of small government whose yardstick of success was how close it came to a balanced budget.

Trump signed on this spring to \$3 trillion in deficit spending to rescue the economy from a depression into which the government had shoved it to control the spread of the coronavirus. He is prepared to spend a trillion dollars more.

By opening new lands and seas to exploration, building pipelines, permitting fracking and slashing regulations, Trump has brought the U.S. to an energy independence which other presidents only promised.

The Trump GOP has abandoned an ideological commitment to free trade that dates back to the Kennedy administration and reembraced the economic nationalism of the 19th-century Republicans who built the world's greatest industrial and manufacturing power.

Globalism has been relegated to the ash heap of history as our populist president trashed the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris climate accords, and began to impose tariffs on countries that have looted America's manufacturing base.

While Trump has been prevented by the Russophobia of our Beltway elites from seeking a detente with Vladimir Putin, he has managed to avoid a military collision.

Trump has also ended the decades-long freeriding of NATO allies on the U.S. defense budget, convincing many of them to contribute more.

He has made the Republican Party the pro-Israel Party, recognizing Israel's annexation of the occupied Golan Heights and East Jerusalem by moving the U.S. embassy there. He effected the recognition of Israel by the UAE

in return for Bibi Netanyahu's postponement of the annexation of the 30% of the West Bank envisioned in Trump's own “Deal of the Century.”

While Trump has not extracted this country from the forever wars of the Middle East -- Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria -- he routed ISIS and kept us out of Libya's civil war.

Unlike his predecessors, Trump has tabled the issue of immigration, especially mass illegal migration across the Southern border, and made progress on the border wall he made a feature of his 2016 campaign.

A discredited NAFTA has been replaced by a new trade deal, and a leftist government in Mexico City is helping prevent migrants from entering southern Mexico on their way to the United States.

Trump has done as much as Reagan to deregulate the U.S. economy and reduce taxes on workers, producers, and investors. Before COVID-19 hit in force in March, stock markets were hitting all-time highs and unemployment rates all-time lows.

He has nominated and elevated two Supreme Court justices and hundreds of federal judges.

The horizon, however, does not appear to be without perils.

Belligerence toward Beijing is being reciprocated, and China appears ready for confrontation to validate its claims in the South and East China seas and Taiwan Strait.

What Beijing is doing to America—espionage, intellectual property theft, forced technology transfers, running up \$600 billion trade surpluses at our expense—is Trump's concern, not what Beijing is doing to restrict democracy in Hong Kong.

While his outreach to North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un failed to persuade Kim to surrender his nuclear arsenal in return for recognition, trade and aid, even some of Trump's enemies applauded his effort.

If Trump loses in November, however, much of what he has done will be undone.

guest column

other voices

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Students: Check out Elks scholarships

Keizer Elks Lodge #2472 recently announced that the Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Contest is available to high school seniors who are United States citizens. Applicants do not need to be related to a member of the Elks. Applicants are judged on academics, leadership, service and financial need.

The application is completed online and must be submitted by the Nov. 15 deadline. The 500 national winners will be announced in April, after the top 20 finalists participate in the leadership weekend and interview for the top awards.

The Elks National Foundation will award 20 top scholarships from \$20,000 to \$50,000. The remaining 480 runners-up will receive \$4,000 scholarships.

Keizer Lodge #2472 will judge locally and the top applicants will be submitted to the district contest. The top applicants from the district contest will be submitted to the state contest and the top applicants from there will be submitted to the national contest.

Applications for the 2021 contest are available on the Elks National Foundation website. For complete Most Valuable Student scholarship contest details including the application, visit elks.org/scholars.

police scanner

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

12:01 a.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 4000 block of Bailey Road NE.
12:48 a.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 4000 block of River Road N.
11:46 a.m. - Arrest for violation of release agreement in the 4000 block of 5th Place NE.
5:45 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Blvd.
6:26 p.m. - Criminal mischief in the 5000 block of Trail Avenue NE.
6:36 p.m. - Arrest for aggravated assault at the intersection of 18th Avenue NE and Verda Lane NE.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17

2:18 a.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 5000 block of River Road N.
3:42 a.m. - Fleeing a police officer in the 3000 block of River Road N.
1:52 p.m. - Identity theft in the 1000 block of Northern Heights Loop NE.
3:37 p.m. - Physical harassment in the 600 block of Lockhaven Drive NE.
6:28 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 3000 block of River Road N.
10:30 p.m. - Fleeing a police officer at the intersection of Sam Orcutt Way NE and Cherry Avenue NE.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

12:05 a.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 1000 block of Shady Lane NE.
2:25 a.m. - Unlawful possession of methamphetamine in the 4000 block of Cherry Avenue NE.
7:14 a.m. - Burglary in the 700 block of Lockhaven Drive NE.
12 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 4000 block of River Road N.
1 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 3000 block of River Road N.
5 p.m. - Burglary in the 800 block of Lockhaven Drive NE.
7:37 p.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 5000 block of River Road N.
7:50 p.m. - Theft in the 4000 block of Restmore Court N.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

10:56 a.m. - Unlawful possession of methamphetamine at the intersection of Cade Street NE and River Road N.

3 p.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 600 block of Manbrin Drive NE.
6 p.m. - Sudden death in the 6000 block of Amy Lane NE.
9:30 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 1000 block of Juniper Street N.
9:41 p.m. - Arrest for unlawful possession of methamphetamine and heroin in the 100 block of Apple Blossom Avenue NE.
10 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 4000 block of 15th Avenue N.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

5:37 a.m. - Burglary in the 4000 block of Crater Avenue N.
10 a.m. - Theft in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Blvd.
8 p.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 1000 block of Northern Heights Loop NE.
8:32 p.m. - Disorderly conduct in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Blvd.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

6:56 a.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 1000 block of Galina Court NE.
5 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 5000 block of River Road N.
5:18 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 6000 block of Keizer Station Blvd.
6:52 p.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 700 block of Plymouth Drive NE.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

2:24 a.m. - Motor vehicle theft in the 1000 block of Claxter Road NE.
11:06 a.m. - Sudden death in the 4000 block of Adam Court NE.
4:52 p.m. - Burglary in the 3000 block of River Road N.
8:45 p.m. - Driving while suspended in the 3000 block of Sandra Avenue N.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

12:07 a.m. - Assault in the 700 block of Dietz Avenue NE.
10:30 p.m. - Probation violation in the 3000 block of Cherry Avenue NE.

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

2:14 a.m. - Driving under the influence of intoxicants at the intersection of Verda Lane NE and Lockhaven Drive NE.

sudoku

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.

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

letters

Inclusivity

To the Editor:

Question: When white folks are no longer the majority—soon, I'm told—would they/we not hope to be included in the civic discussion?

The inclusivity resolution proposed for adoption by city council—with no force of law—has received some surprising (disappointing) push back from a few council members and pretenders. They argue that the resolution is a step towards “sanctuary city” status. Not true. They also cast resolution sponsor RJ Navarro as a leftist radical, so politics would seem to be at the heart of their argument.

As a 50-year Keizer resident, I urge council to adopt the resolution and take one more very small step towards welcoming the future reality.

Martin Doerfler
Keizer

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