

Public Square

Public Square welcomes all points of view.

Published submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Keizertimes*. Submit a guest opinion, column or letter to the editor to publisher@keizertimes.com.

Keizer values

Voters overwhelmingly approved changes to the Keizer city charter in Tuesday's election. The Charter Review Task Force, led by City Councilor Elizabeth Smith, worked for more than a year, combing over every line of the original document, first approved by voters in 1983, to bring it up to date.

The biggest change was the deletion of Section 44, which prohibited the city from extending minority status to individuals based on sexual orientation and expanding funds that "promote homosexuality or express approval of homosexual behavior."

The section became moot when the Oregon Legislature rendered the changes unenforceable, but it remained a blemish on the city. Other cities that adopted similar changes found themselves losing opportunities to host events, like conventions, as a result of having the language on the books.

The approval by voters of the new city charter is a good thing and the win with 67% of the vote demonstrates that Keizer is ready for the next step.

At the city council meeting on Monday, Nov. 2, a number of residents spoke passionately about values in Keizer, specifically demanding the city and its leaders make a declarative statement denouncing white supremacy.

The council will hold a work session next Monday to discuss a "statement of values" regarding the city's stance on diversity, equity and inclusion. It is important the discussion comes right on the heels of the city charter revision approval.

The proposed Keizer Statement of Values states "all people shall be treated with dignity and respect." The statement lists the federal definition of

protected classes of people as well as the addition of Oregon protect classes. The protected classes include race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, disability, source of income, marital status, sexual orientation and gender identity.

If approved, the values statement commits the City of Keizer to take action to be a city that "welcomes every person." The city would be committed to ensure all members of the community are free from acts that are rooted in racism, discrimination, intolerance, bigotry and hostility.

The sooner the Keizer Statement of Values is finalized and approved, the sooner the city can move forward. Words are most important when backed up with actions. It is disheartening to hear when anyone has a view of Keizer being unwelcoming. Keizer wants to be a place where people want to live and businesses want to locate,

—LAZ

editorial

Thank you for service

In the United States there are approximately 17.4 million veterans of all the armed forces. Next week, America marks Veterans Day, when we honor and celebrate those who served and sacrificed for their country.

Regardless of their rank or position, every military veteran should be proud of their service. Since the draft was abolished in the 1970s, our armed forces have been manned by men and women who have volunteered.

Americans have served, and continue to serve, in spots around the globe, from Korea to Afghanistan to Bosnia and everywhere in between.

Other nations may have more per-



sonnel in uniform, but the American military is more dedicated to its mission, and the American military is the envy of the world. They are well trained and have the equipment they need.

Service prepares one for life after the military; the skills learned are easily transferred to civilian life. However,

the issue of homelessness for veterans is a dark stain that must be addressed. Also, an alarming number of veterans take their own lives each year.

A country that values its veterans must assure that those who served and sacrificed for all of us have the quality of life they assured for the country.

"Thank you for your service" must always be said from the heart. Let us guarantee that our words are supported by programs to alleviate homelessness and suicide.

Our veterans gave their all, let's do the same for them.

—LAZ

And then there were none

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

In the first months of President Donald Trump's presidency, the briefing room was standing room only. Around the room's 49 assigned seats for the press, with the front rows reserved for big media, reporters with smaller news outfits jostled for space and a chance to pose a question of then-White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer.

Playboy's Brian Karem named those of us standing in the sidelines "the aisle people." Trump was a full employment act for political journalists. Networks and newspapers couldn't get enough of a story that sold itself to news consumers. Trump himself has been more accessible to the press corps than predecessors who had nicer things to say about the Fifth Estate.

Three press secretaries later, the briefings have come to a standstill. What used to be a must-see spectacle has evaporated. Blame it on the coronavirus and Trump's idiosyncratic mandates.

Trump and Kayleigh McEnany, his fourth press secretary, both tested positive in early October, which made briefings untenable. After McEnany was able to return to work, she was focused on the campaign trail. There hasn't been a press briefing in about a month.

Not a first. Trump's third press secretary, Stephanie Grisham, did not preside over a regular briefing where she took questions during the nine months she held the prestigious post.

Enter the White House Coronavi-

rus Task Force that brought energy and new characters to the Trump Show—with Drs. Anthony Fauci and Deborah Birx informing the public about a pandemic that required Americans to do things—socially distance, stop working and stay home—that went against their instincts.

They had a different approach than Trump, which added dramatic tension.

Partisans fault Trump for not taking extreme shutdown measures in January or February. They forget how skeptical many Americans were, that many blue state governors hesitated to close nonessential businesses and that local officials generally had a better sense of what they needed to do and could accomplish.

After taking the job in April, McEnany brought back the back-and-forth, but also COVID-19 changed how the administration communicated with the people.

The briefings got smaller because the White House Correspondents' Association, more concerned about the health and safety of its members than the White House was about its staff, worked out a plan that strictly limited who should work in the press area and when. The WHCA set up a rotation schedule for 14 seats, banned reporters standing in the aisles and discouraged members from working at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. unless they were in the press pool or had their turn in one of the 14 seats.

The new order worked well for folks such as me. To her credit, McE-

many tried to call on everyone in the room—not just the front rows—and that provided chances to ask questions about Las Vegas and an administration decision to deny Paycheck Protection Program funds to small casinos, which the administration revoked.

At the same time, *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* stopped sending reporters to briefings—despite journalists' designation as essential workers. Not a coincidence: The left wing had begun to call for journalists to boycott White House events during an election.

Where does it go from here?

If Joe Biden wins this week, the briefing room will be back in business and big media likely will flock to the center of power to lob softballs at the new president and his new press secretary.

But given Biden's limited press availability during the campaign, the often fawning questions directed at the Democratic nominee and his team's quickness to shut down any reportage on Hunter Biden's cashing in on his father's connections, the result could be more civility but less information.

If Trump wins, he will be governing in a shrinking bubble.

The 45th president doesn't talk to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. He berates former stars in his White House team. Then he retreats to the warm embrace of his rallies rather than find a way to bridge divides. Is the now empty briefing room a metaphor for the Trump presidency? Figure it wouldn't happen to any other president. (Creators Syndicate)

other voices



Submitted photo

Gayle Bachik took her *Keizertimes* with her when she visited Idaho recently. You too can have your photo in the *Keizertimes*. Simply take the paper to your destination, snap a picture with you and your group holding it, and send the photo along with everyone's first and last names to kt@keizertimes.com.

PARADE, continued from Page A1

public will be asked to watch from home or online.

The council approved use of funds that would traditionally be used to televise the parade to televise the tree lighting instead.

GIVING BASKET TREES GO UP

Beginning Monday, Nov. 9, trees for the Keizer Network of Women's Giving Basket program will be on display at a number of local retailers.

Tags on the trees include the holiday wish lists of local children, identified through their schools. Those who take a tag are asked to return the items listed, unwrapped, to the location the tag was taken from.

Trees will be located at: the Human

Bean, St. Edward Catholic Church, Columbia Bank, Los Dos Hermanos, Willamette Valley Bank, Courthouse Club Fitness, Physiq Fitness, Keizer Liquor Store, Copy Cats Keizer, NW Dental Arts, Carlisle & Smith, Bolt, Celtic Storage, The Chicken Shack, Keizer Church of Christ, Mommy & Maddy's, Luepitz Contractors and Grove, Mueller and Swank.

Volunteers will assemble to sort through donated food items on Wednesday, Dec. 9, and wrap the gift on Thursday, Dec. 10.

Instead of an annual gala to support the event, the Keizer Chamber held an online auction to benefit the giving basket program. It raised \$48,000 to help cover the costs of the expected additional need this year.

"We are expecting to support about 250 families this year," Bethell said.

WARMING, continued from Page A1

Anyone over the age of 18 is eligible to volunteer with no prior experience necessary. Volunteer applications can be found at www.arches.volunteerhub.com.

After applying potential volunteers must read the volunteer manual and attend a volunteer training. When training is completed volunteers can sign up for shifts on www.arches.volunteerhub.com with the password they used to send in their application.

Each volunteer will be assigned a role for the shift they choose to work. Shift one is 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., shift two is 10:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. and shift three is 3 a.m. to 7:30

a.m., the centers ask that volunteers come 30 minutes early to their first shift and come prepared to go outside if necessary.

Guests and volunteers can receive free transportation through Cherriots Monday-Saturday after 6 a.m. and before 11 p.m. When boarding a bus ask the driver to take you to the nearest warming center. Warming centers are located at South Salem Friends Church, 1140 Baxter Rd SE, Salem, Capital Park Wesleyan Church, 410 19th St SE, Salem, and Salem First Presbyterian, 770 Chemeketa St NE, Salem.

For questions or more information contact Salem Warming Network at salemwarming@mwvcaa.com or by phone at 503-399-9080.

New volunteers appointed to city committees

The Keizer City Council approved several appointments to city advisory committees Monday, Nov. 2.

- Hersch Sangster was appointed to the Keizer Budget Committee.
- Dustin Karschstetter and Mathew Poteet are new appointees to the Keizer Parks Advisory Board. Clay Rushton and David Loudon were re-

appointed to the committee.

- Bob Busch and David Loudon were appointed to the Keizer Points of Interest Committee.

- Natalie Janney was appointed to Stormwater Advisory Committee.

- Isabella Biondi will serve the remainder of a term as youth liaison to the Keizer Public Arts Commission.

Keizertimes

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



EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Lyndon Zaitz
publisher@keizertimes.com
2019-2021 President
Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

facebook

facebook.com/keizertimes

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

twitter

twitter.com/keizertimes

MANAGING EDITOR

Eric A. Howald
editor@keizertimes.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Matt Rawlings
news@keizertimes.com

COMMUNITY REPORTER

Lauren Murphy
reporter@keizertimes.com

ADVERTISING

advertising@keizertimes.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER & GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Andrew Jackson
graphics@keizertimes.com

LEGAL NOTICES

legals@keizertimes.com

BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet!
ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE

\$59.99

MO. for 12 Mos.

America's Top 120 Package

190 CHANNELS

Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-866-373-9175

Offer ends 1/31/21. Offer includes Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper+2 or Hopper+3. \$15/mo. Uplift fees may apply based on credit qualification.

Local veterinary clinic switching to urgent care only

A veterinary clinic in Keizer has changed its mission and taken a new name.

VCA Iris Animal Hospital will reopen as an urgent care only facility and will operate under a new name: VCA River Road Animal Clinic.

In an email to their current clients, VCA Iris Animal Hospital said they listened to the community and recognizes the current heavy burden on

veterinary emergency hospitals.

The animal hospital will help pet owners transition care to other veterinary clinics. VCA has three other clinics in the Salem area—VCA Salem Animal Hospital, VCA Vitality Animal Hospital and VCA Keizer Veterinary Hospital.

VCA Iris Animal Hospital is located at 4975 River Road N.