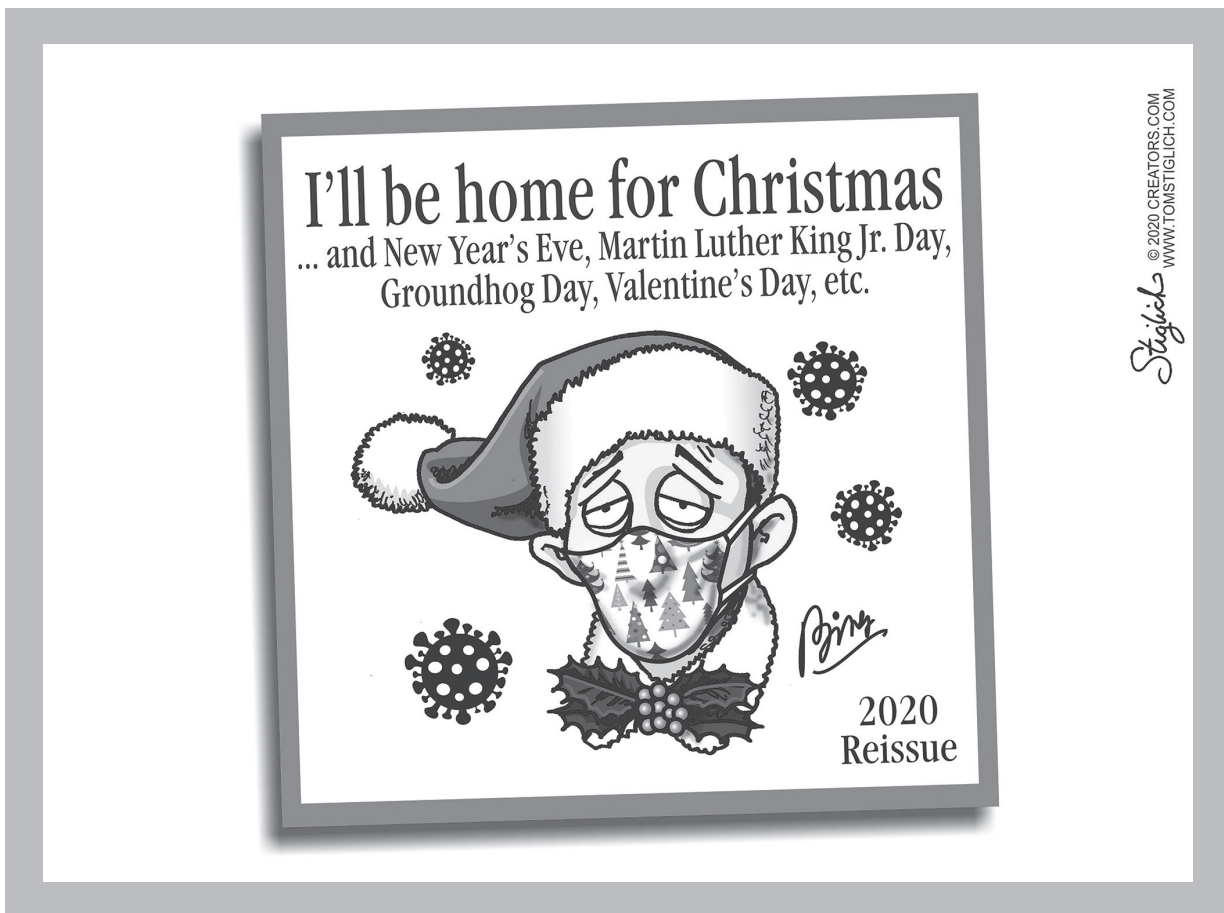


Public Square

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.



Surviving new COVID restrictions

Governor Kate Brown's ordered a state-wide two-week freeze that went into effect on Wednesday, Nov. 18. The freeze implemented new measures to limit gatherings and stop the spread of COVID-19, which has been surging throughout the state in the past two weeks.

The pandemic will alter Thanksgiving plans for hundreds of thousands of families. The freeze will force restaurants to offer take-out and delivery only, which will leave bars on the razor's edge of survival. Most businesses will be affected, either by having to close or to limit in-person traffic.

The holidays are going to be different—most events have been cancelled, including Keizer's Holiday Lights Parade and the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree at Walerly Plaza. Fortunately, the Gubser neighborhood's Miracle of Christmas light display

will go on while observing social distancing.

Fatigue with pandemic rules and restrictions is understandable. Americans are doers—we don't do well when told to hunker down at home, especially during the dark days of fall and winter. The rules, restrictions and freezes are not punitive. Our leaders are making the best decisions they can in a bad situation.

The food and beverage industry has borne the brunt of the COVID restrictions. A robust contact tracing program would show that few of the burgeoning cases come from restaurants and bars. The recent surge is reportedly coming from private gatherings; Halloween parties resulted in more cases than dining establishments.

Our society is in this together. If we don't watch out for each other, who will? Health experts on every level have been insistent that wear-

ing face masks is key to controlling the coronavirus, yet many view that as a trampling of personal liberties. It is not.

Oregon has been diligent in masking and social distancing. The state has one of the lowest death rates in the country and ranks 40th in the nation with less than 60,000 coronavirus cases. Texas and California have both had more than 1 million cases. By adhering to pandemic rules Oregon flattened the curve, we can do it again.

We must heed the experts when it comes to matters of our health and the coronavirus. When we let our guard down due to virus fatigue or personal beliefs we don't just endanger ourselves but others as well.

If we Oregonians tap into our pioneer spirit, we can get control of COVID-19 until a vaccine is available, which appears to be tantalizingly close.

—LAZ

editorial

We can still be thankful regardless of 2020

By LYNDON ZAITZ

There may be fewer people around our collective Thanksgiving tables this year. The holiday may be less than celebratory in the time of a pandemic yet we have to find the resolve to be thankful. Take away politics, financial hardships, COVID and what have we got?

We have the beauty of family and friends we love. We have natural beauty all around us. We have the adorable hijinks of our dogs and the yawning non-chalance of our couldn't-care-less cats.

The people in our lives are the ones who make our lives. What would any of us be without the love and support of family? They may not be sitting across the holiday table but they will be there in our hearts and minds. As social beings it is hard to forgo the gatherings we cherish, but there are ways to connect—as we have been doing during COVID—phone, Zoom, Facetime, etc. The key is to connect with the ones we love.

We live in a spectacular part of the

world. Visitors to Oregon proclaim that we live in God's country. We do and we're thankful for that. Natural beauty is just one of the many reasons we are thankful to call Oregon home. This time of year I am mesmerized by the geese flying over my house. I realize they are much less of a nuisance when they are in the air. I am intrigued by the birds and wonder why two birds often fly by themselves as opposed to with the rest of the flock. It did my heart good when I observed a young woman watching the flying geese with her child. They were enjoying nature. That's something to be thankful for.

My pets don't care that a holiday is coming up. Oh, they care when a piece of turkey finds its way to the floor. And they do care when there are shiny things to play with hanging from a Christmas tree, otherwise the holidays elicits little more response than rearranging their sleeping positions.

The annus horribilis that is 2020

offered plenty of reasons to be frustrated, angry, scared and depressed. I don't have control over many things that happen in the world, but I can control how I react to them. I will look forward with positivity and grit.

I look forward to Christmas when my brothers in California and I carry on a new tradition: the one dollar gift exchange. We give each other 10 gifts that cost \$1 each and one gift valued at no more than \$5. After several years it becomes exceedingly challenging to find that many gifts; you find yourself repeating yourself.

Baking of potica, a Slavic walnut roll bread we grew up enjoying every Thanksgiving and Christmas has fallen to me. My kitchen may be a disaster when I've finished but the love emanating from the stove is unmistakable.

It may not seem like it, but the world offers things to be thankful for. As the song goes, what a wonderful world. Being thankful in 2020 isn't as hard as one may think. You have to look in the right place.

(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the Keizertimes.)

on my mind

Rallying cry?

By JOHN TEAGUE

(Letter sent by Chief John Teague to the Keizer mayor and city councilors. Published with permission.) Mayor,

The first of the ancient cardinal virtues was *prudence*, practical wisdom. You exhibited *prudence* last night in your hesitancy to publicly read John Morgan's letter. His allegation that Keizer's police officers once rallied around a racial slur, exciting themselves to beat people, shocked your conscience. I will say this up front: at best, John was careless with his words.

Benny Williams was correct that "Black lives matter!" is a rallying cry,

a statement around which people rally to put forth their collective idea and energy. That Keizer's police officers ever rallied, even in jest, to beat people is simply untrue. I worked for Keizer PD throughout the '90s. I was a union officer in the early years and promoted to sergeant in 1994, and I was involved enough to have known of any collective motivation among the officers. We never rallied, much less to assault immigrants.

John may argue that he intended to attribute his statement to Chief Stull alone. If so, again, he chose his words carelessly. Stull was so alienated from the rest of the department that he couldn't rally

even a handful of police officers to his side, and any exclamation that he might've begun with "Let's" was a non-starter. That he quickly developed a hostile workplace and had no support among the officers is clear in the Park report, the report that led to his firing. The report was written in May of 1997. Nowhere in its 113 pages is there any mention of the alleged rallying cry. Neither is it mentioned in the 30 pages of John Morgan's and Wally Mull's co-authored termination memo to the council that met on June 30, 1997. Quite frankly, the police officers never rallied around the idea or otherwise tolerated the notion that they should beat anybody.

Having said all of that, we were not without our sins: like all police officers everywhere, we believed the academics when they told us that the work we did could never affect crime; subsequently, we policed without any thought to the consequences of enforcement. That has changed markedly—rather than only fighting badness, we now cultivate goodness—but even in the '90s the men and women who policed Keizer were good people, intolerant of immorality in their work and among their members. That has not changed.

(John Teague is Chief of Police for the city of Keizer.)

from the chief's desk

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Votes for progressives

To the Editor:

The dust has settled and the votes have been counted. Keizer can be proud of the quality of the candidates who stepped up to serve on city council and as state representative.

The three progressive candidates made a good show against establishment candidates and an incumbent. Dylan Juran received a respectable 45% of the vote, and Michele Roland Schwartz barely lost in a squeaker. Michael DeBlasi had a very tough uphill battle against incumbent Laura Reid, but received over 6,000 votes. All candidates ran with enthusiasm, integrity and honesty. We thank them for that and know that they will continue to serve our community the same way.

The race for House District 25 was closer than many thought would happen. Ramiro Navarro, a newcomer from Keizer without wide name recognition, no elected experience, and very little money, gave multi-term incumbent Bill Post a real run for his money, garnering a respectable 43% of the vote from almost 15,000 voters. That is a real indication of need for a change in House District 25. Bill Post has very little to point to in his terms in the state House, except when he abandoned his job and walked out rather than stay and see the democratic process through.

Mr. Post called the supporters of Navarro and other progressive candidates a "gang." Most Americans would call them an "alternative" candidates who filed and ran campaigns offering a different vision for the future, which is the way elections are supposed to operate.

The 2020 election has shown that Keizer is changing and we welcome those who step up and want to be part of the future.

Kathy Lincoln
Keizer

The times are a changin'

To the Editor:

It seems that my state Rep. Bill Post (Tea Party, Trump Party, whatever) is a little cranky after a group of Democrats, led by City Councilor Roland Herrera and my wife, Carol Doerfler, supported three candidates for Keizer City Council who were not (horrors!) darlings of the Chamber of Commerce.

None of them won. Instead Keizer voters chose, an incumbent, a home

letters

builder and a lawyer accused of sexual harassment. But, the mere fact of a challenge to the status quo prompted Post to post on (anti) social media, "The leader of this gang, a current councilor will be ousted in two years..mark my words, this gang will be tossed from Keizer. I've had enough of their hostile take-over attempts."

Perhaps a serious challenge to Post from RJ Navarro inspired the un-statesman-like hissy fit, or maybe Post's knickers are in a knot after the dear leader of his party failed to carry reliably red Marion County, but whatever the cause of his pique, he should know that the "gang" ain't goin' nowhere. They will continue to field candidates for local office whose qualifications go beyond party loyalty and next time, they'll win. 'Cause Bill Post, the times, they are a changin'.

Martin Doerfler
Keizer

COVID-19 and politics

To the Editor:

Dear Mayor Clark,

I was deeply disappointed to read a letter sent from Rep. Bill Post's office on which you were a signatory asking Governor Brown to not implement a "pause" to combat the spreading of COVID-19 coronavirus.

A significant reason COVID cases are rising in Oregon and around the country is that many think they know better than the medical professionals and scientists. By dismissing "simple" strategies as wearing a mask and safe distancing, individuals are playing a deadly role in propagating this pandemic.

I find those that play politics with the pandemic abhorrent and believe they lack serious concern for the safety and well-being of their constituents. I do not see you as part of that group and hope you will resolve the disappointment I feel about your leadership right now. I hope you will consider removing your name from that letter. Instead, I implore you to send a message to Keizerites and those that visit, work, and play in our community that your first concern is for our/their lives. #wearamask #wereallinthistogether

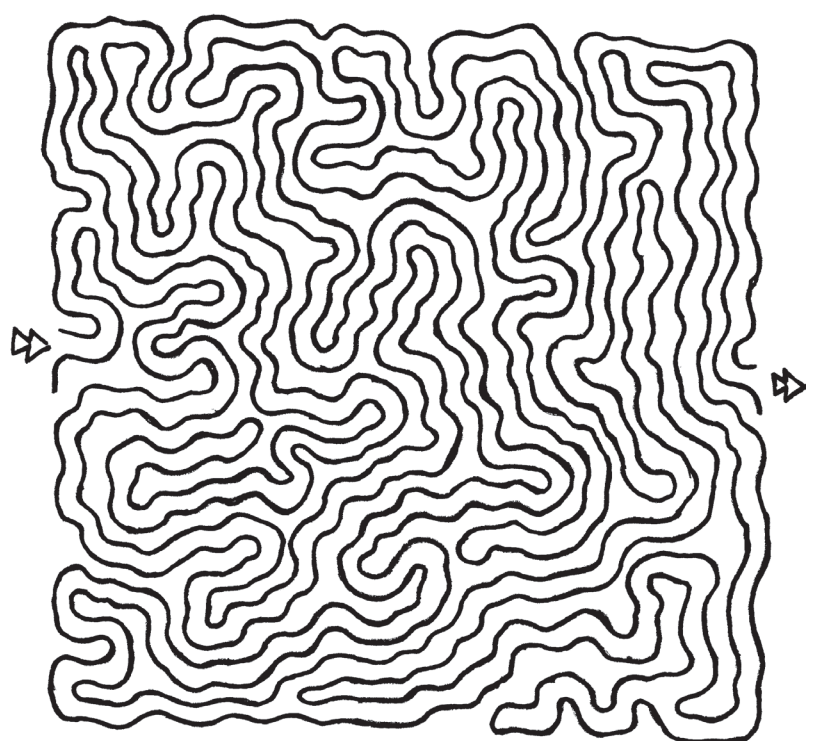
Respectfully,
Barbara McCullough-Jones
Barbara McCullough-Jones
Keizer

sudoku

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maze



Maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer