

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.

To the Editor:

Last night (Monday, Dec. 7), there was a public hearing at the Keizer City Council to determine how to “fix” the issue of 10 feet of damaged sidewalk located on Harcourt Avenue at the side of a residence (1360 Ivy Way NE, Keizer, Oregon). Fixing the sidewalk would have caused the removal of two perfectly healthy, magnificent trees – trees that are heritage-like landmarks for this area of Keizer.

The council voted for the simple solution of removing the sidewalk and retaining the trees. This outcome was not too surprising since the council continues to demonstrate a commitment to making this community a vital and enjoyable place to live.

However, I was surprised to learn that members of the council personally visited the site beforehand to make sure they understood all aspects of the issue. And I was thoroughly impressed with the all effort the council made in getting to the right decision.

Many thanks to the mayor and the councilors for all the time and effort they contribute to making the City of Keizer a very special community.

**Barbara Hunter
Keizer**

To the Editor:

We know that we are called to love, our God, our neighbors, ourselves, and even our enemies, but I had never truly applied that love to “love of country.” Many of you are way ahead of me on this. We know that love requires self-sacrifice and that we acknowledge our failings, but not dwell there. We must see beyond the bad and look at the good and the potential in all and “feed” what is good. “What we feed, good or bad, is more inclined to grow.”

I’ve recently read two books that clarified my way of thinking about

letters

love of country. *The 5,000 Year Leap* by W. Cleon Skousen and *If You Can Keep It* by Eric Metaxas; I recommend both. At the birth of our nation they understood they had something very special in a free country with a form of government never attempted

before. Loving America was a given for them. But our wise founders knew that this freedom was not to be used frivolously, but for the betterment of all. This amazing way of life could only be sustained by “virtuous” people. If we failed, our government would fail.

I believe we still have something very special in America, we have been blessed beyond measure, but how much longer can we expect those blessings to continue? Our nation has become extremely divided; even a world-wide health crisis, that at one time may have brought us together, has caused further division. United we stand, divided we fall. Galatians 5:15 says, If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Metaxas says that part of being a virtuous people involves sacrifice. It requires us to own and deal with the bad in America, but simultaneously look past it to what is still good and true and noble in this country, its hope and its promise... and to feed it. He says we need American heroes that once again will inspire us to become better people and we need strong moral leaders to call us to higher ground. We need to be fed and we need to feed each other. Love is a powerful tool for individuals and for country. I pray we can find the ties that bind us together and go forward into 2021 with a new sense of love for our country, its people, and the whole world, which will be watching and waiting to see if we succeed.

**Nancy Vowell
Keizer**



What Biden’s first 100 days could look like

By **PATRICK J. BUCHANAN**

The Biden-Harris administration will confront “a pandemic, an economic crisis, calls for racial justice and climate change. The team being assembled will meet these challenges on Day One.”

So declares the transition team of Joe Biden, to echo what he’s defined as the lead items on his presidential agenda. And if this is his agenda, then how our presumed 46th president will proceed suggests itself.

The COVID-19 pandemic is now close to its apex, with a million new cases and a death toll in excess of 10,000 each week. We appear to be near the crest of the “second wave.”

Biden’s emphasis, as he has signaled, will be on slowing down the spread of the virus by universal masking and locking up and shutting down sectors of the American economy.

Yet, even as the worst of the pandemic appears directly ahead in December and January, the last six weeks of Donald Trump’s presidency, the light at the end of the tunnel may be sighted within Biden’s first 100 days.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which have proven 90-95% effective against the virus, begin to come on line this month. By the end of Biden’s first 100 days, May 1, the beneficial effect of scores of millions of vaccinations should be visible to all, and the pandemic should be seen as irretrievably receding.

At least, that is the hope and expectation. And the media would naturally attribute the new dawn not to the triumph of Trump’s Operation Warp Speed but to the new president.

Biden’s response to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will almost surely be along the lines of what Congress is now debating, contingent upon whether Mitch McConnell is prepared to accept what comes over from the House.

A trillion-dollar package seems baked in the cake, as the country would not long tolerate congressional inaction if the pandemic were still raging through the population as it is today.

As for racial inequality, the pandemic has exposed, deepened and widened it. The surge in shootings and killings in major cities during the pandemic is hitting the Black communities hardest.

The decline in test scores at schools where kids have been kept away from formal classes since March is most pronounced among minorities. Black and Hispanic workers in service industries are a disproportionate share of the victims of the pandemic.

If half a century of social progress after the civil rights revolution of the ‘60s and eight years of the first Black president have failed to reduce racial disparities in income, wealth, employment and incarcerations, does anyone believe Joe Biden has the solution?

As for climate change, John Ker-

ry, the new climate czar, will begin his tenure after a year of the deepest reductions in carbon emissions in recorded history.

By Dec. 31, U.S. carbon emissions will have fallen 9% from the end of 2019. Emissions from cars and aircraft fell 4% in 2020, from power 2.8%, and from industry .6%. On the flip side, forest fires reduced the 9% cut in carbon emissions by fully one-third.

Yet, it is in foreign policy where the traps appear.

The drawdown in U.S. troops in Afghanistan, to 2,500 by Jan. 15, will leave us with the smallest contingent since the U.S. plunged into that country to remake it more in our image in 2001.

And the troop drawdown comes at a time when the Taliban control the largest swath of Afghan territory since being overthrown 19 years ago. The possibility of a collapse in Kabul, chaos ensuing and the country disintegrating early in a Biden presidency cannot be ruled out.

Would Biden be willing to preside over an American defeat similar to that in Vietnam in 1975?

But the truly formidable challenge for a President Biden will be China, which is not the China of 2016 that Vice President Biden recalls.

While the U.S. refuses to recognize China’s claims to disputed islets in the East and the South China Seas and has committed itself to defend the Japa-

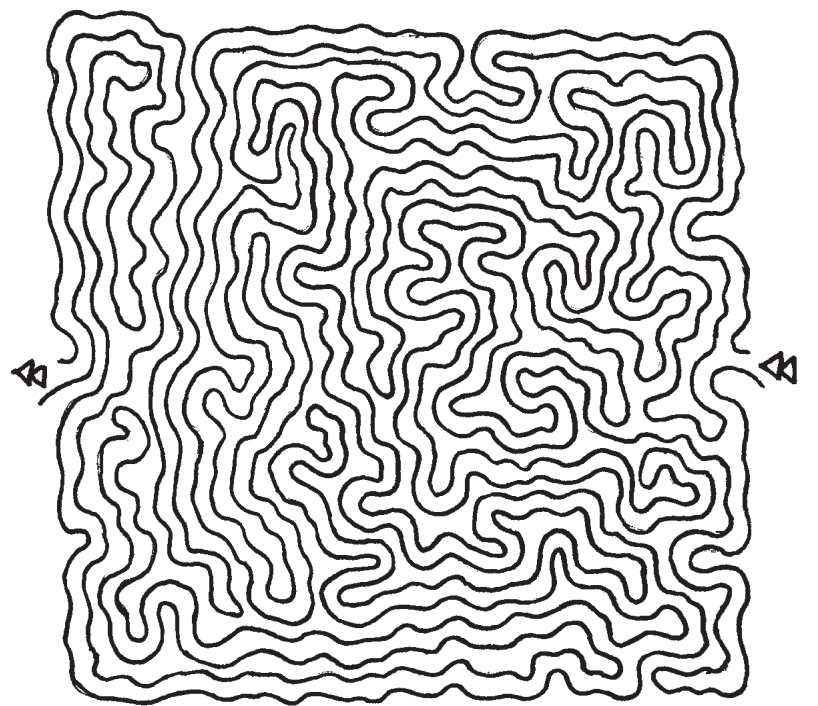
nese and Philippine claims, Beijing has not backed away from its claims and, indeed, has grown increasingly belligerent in making them. The U.S. has also been thickening ties to Taiwan.

Yet, what many Americans see as a democratic island of 25 million whose defense is a moral obligation and strategic necessity, China sees as a break-away province, and signals in every way that it would fight a war rather than let Taiwan go.

These issues are likely to be decided in this decade. And it is hard to see how the U.S., 7,000 miles away, with a slowly shrinking share of the world’s economic and military power, would prevail indefinitely over a China that has the advantages of proximity and population, and whose power is steadily rising in relative terms to that of the United States.

Via www.creators.com.

maze



Maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer

sudoku

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

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Keizertimes

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

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



EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Lyndon Zaitz
publisher@keizertimes.com

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facebook.com/keizertimes

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