

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.

Democracy prevails

Our democracy has prevailed. Joseph R. Biden was inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States without incident on January 20.

The feared protests did not materialize and mar America's transfer of power; it was peaceful.

The new president's inaugural address was short but pointed: paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln's remarks of 1863, he said "My whole soul is in this." He called for unity and said that not every disagreement is a call for fiery battle. Regardless of how Americans voted in the election, Joseph Biden is president of the country now.

The nation has turned the page to a new administration. It faces huge challenges few new presidents have had to confront. There will be, no doubt, immediate sniping at the new president for his policies and decisions. President Biden deserves the opportunity to demonstrate to

the citizens of the United States that he has the best interests of America and its people at heart.

The Biden administration will deal with the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the messy rollout of the coronavirus vaccines, an economy reeling from months of business closures and inequality. The president has a daunting burden, which can be lightened if Congress works to be part of solutions.

Biden's call for national unity can seem like platitude but it is what is needed. He said, "We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal. We can do this if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts."

He added that he will fight for all Americans including those who did not vote for him. There is always a percentage of people who don't

accept a president as 'their' leader—that's part of democracy. Yet every new president should be given the benefit of the doubt.

Americans have the ultimate power in the nation. They have made their voices heard when they do not support policies and decisions made by a president. If Biden overreaches and tries to push through initiatives that people believe are wrong, they will speak out.

The new president is a decent man whose experience and background will serve him well. He has enjoyed triumphs and endured tragedies; his finest trait is that of empathy; he can relate to his fellow Americans in a way few presidents have.

Joseph Biden's "whole soul is in this." For the challenges America faces that may just be enough to be what we need.

—LAZ

Power lines down

By JIM PARR

Last week's wind storm left a few Keizer neighborhoods without power for the better part of two nights and days, long enough to get one's attention.

After a few days and nights without power, you begin to adapt. Projects and chores that require light have to get done before sunset. You have to figure out ways to get all of your devices charged so that you can communicate. At night you find yourself automatically reaching for the light switch when entering a dark room even though you know that the power is out. What and how will you eat? Don't open the fridge, preserve the cold, and so on.

Living without power can be good training. How is your battery supply? Do you have a way of preserving your cold storage food in case of a prolonged power outage? Is your battery-operated radio nearby? Sitting quietly in the dark you begin to realize what a luxury reliable electric power really is.

And as you sit out the quiet and dark, you might begin to wonder what was it like for early man who at night huddled in a cave perhaps with a small fire dying out and unable to sleep as he kept a nervous eye and ear out for what ever enemy or predator might attack in the dark. Sunrise and light could not come soon enough.

You might also wonder just how our electric power supply and distribution system was constructed? What and who brought electricity to developing communities such as Keizer? Have you heard of the Rural Electrification Act (REA)? Prior to the mid 1930s, 90% of rural America, especially in the west, lived in darkness after sunset. The REA was passed by Congress in May 1936 as a way to improve life in much of America by bringing electricity to rural farms and communities.

In 1949 the Act was authorized

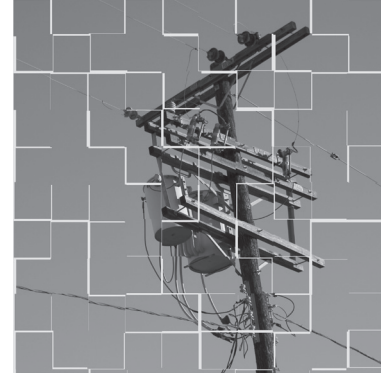
to bring telephone service to these same rural areas. The program operated by providing low cost loans to cooperatives and utility districts that were formed and tasked with bringing power and telephone service to their areas of geographic responsibility. The REA was terminated in 1994 and its mission transferred to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). It was and is one of our country's great achievements.

Our current system is an amazingly complex infrastructure and service that exists because of the efforts of talented inventors, innovators, engineers, scientists, and an expert work force that maintains the system. A work force that will, during outages, work day and night in dangerous conditions to get the power restored. Perhaps we too often take the existence of constant and reliable power for granted. It sure is exciting when the power is suddenly back on. For a short while it seems like a luxury.

Despite the work of the REA and its successor, the RUS, there are still areas in the country that do not have electricity. For example, remote parts of the Navajo Indian Reservation are still without electricity and running water and, without running water there are no sewer systems. Perhaps these areas are so far beyond the "end of the line" that the economics of extension just don't pencil out. Or perhaps the commitment to make it happen just isn't there. Or perhaps it is by choice. Not everyone wants to live on the grid. Any or all of these possibilities might exist but this doesn't mean it can't be done.

The REA played a major role in the modernization of America. It bettered the lives of rural people throughout the country and was made possible by Congress and supportive presidents. It made possible the potential that a developed West could and would eventually bring to the country.

(Jim Parr lives in Keizer.)



Now, the left owns it all

By PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

That mob that split off from the Donald Trump rally of Jan. 6 to invade the Capitol has proven a godsend to the left.

The death of a Capitol cop has enabled the left—which spent the summer after George Floyd's death trashing "racist cops" and shouting, "Defund the Police!"—to posture as fighting allies of the men in blue.

Liberals who implored us to understand the grievances of the rioters, looters and arsonists last summer have become sudden converts to the church of law and order.

Elites who had condoned the smashing of statues and monuments to Columbus, Washington, Jefferson and Jackson as a needed cleansing of our hateful history have declared themselves sickened that Trumpists would desecrate the temple of democracy.

Had it been antifa or BLM that carried out the invasion, not one statue would have been left standing in Statuary Hall, and we would have been instructed that it was slaves who had, after all, built the Capitol building.

The media is airing endless footage of the mob marauding inside the Capitol. Purpose: to plant indelibly in the public mind the fiction that this was the deliberate work of Donald Trump and his people, and our elites are the real adversaries of violent protest.

Indeed, to protect the nation from rightist uprisings in state capitals, last weekend saw the widespread deployment of the National Guard.

Sunday was to be the day the murderous violence of the right would manifest itself.

What happened? As *The Washington Post* reported Monday:

"Authorities in cities from coast to coast mobilized a military-style defense of state capitol complexes

on Sunday, rolling out Humvees, concertina wire and thousands of National Guard troops clad in battlefield helmets to defend against a possible onslaught of rioters whipped up by the baseless claims of the American president.

"The assault never came. Despite warnings from the FBI and boasts from armed, far-right extremist groups, security forces in every instance outnumbered scattered groups of demonstrators, and there were no reports of violence."

In anticipation of this week's inauguration, 25,000 National Guard had been deployed in and around D.C. to defend against right-wing mobs or would-be assassins. Three or four times as many troops are here in D.C. as there are U.S. troops in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria combined.

Now, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. And better too much security than not enough. But even given the Jan. 6 outrage, to arm our capital city as though Stonewall Jackson's Confederates were going to march up Manassas Road and capture Abe Lincoln after the Union defeat at Bull Run seems a bit excessive.

Wednesday, Jan. 20 was a historic day. Trump was gone from the White House and national power and responsibility passed to the Democratic Party.

Democrats took over the House, Senate and White House. Virtually all major media will be in their camp. They will be welcomed in a city that has never elected a Republican mayor and has no Republicans on the city council, a city that voted for Joe Biden 18-1 over Trump. The 30,000 registered Republicans in D.C. are outnumbered 12-1 by Democrats.

The government bureaucracies here are as deeply Democratic as the "deep state" that bedeviled Trump

for four years. Biden's Cabinet is the most racially and ethnically diverse ever; the majority of its members are women and people of color. Obama administration holdovers dominate the national security team.

Most of America's major cities—New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta, D.C., Baltimore, Detroit, St. Louis—are run by liberal Democrats, and, coincidentally, all experienced surges in shootings and killings in 2020.

While the figures on the criminal perpetrators are rarely reported, it appears that not a great many of the violent and lethal crimes were the work of rogue cops or white supremacists in MAGA hats.

Other problems Trump failed to solve—the pandemic now killing 3,000 to 4,000 Americans a day, the failure to get vaccines into the arms of millions of more Americans—are now Joe's problems.

Calling Trump names will no longer cut it.

Now, Democrats must decide whether to proceed with the impeachment trial of Trump for inciting a riot that began on the Capitol steps as he was speaking a mile away, a riot planned long before the rally on the Mall.

Now, Democrats can choose whether they will forego extracting their pound of flesh as the first order of business in the Senate and let Nancy Pelosi sit a while on her impeachment resolution.

Now, Democrats have it all. If they wish, they can abolish the filibuster, pack the Supreme Court, make D.C. and Puerto Rico states, forgive all student debt, and vote for slavery reparations.

One reads that a caravan of thousands is forming up in Honduras to pass through Guatemala in the hope of reaching and crossing the U.S. border when Biden becomes president.

That, too, is Joe's party's problem now. (Creators Syndicate)

editorial

other voices

Focus and mindset on housing

To the Editor:

The mental whiplash in the January 15 issue of the *Keizertimes* demands not only a "change in mindset," but "focused" scrutiny of our city leadership.

Compare the articles, *Buckle Up: Homes in Keizer white hot, extremely limited* with new City Councilor Kyle Juran's analysis of housing disparity in, *Groundwork laid for council's future efforts*.

The first highlights the less than 10 homes available for sale in Keizer, with

houses going above and beyond market value in a highly competitive market.

The second, noting Juran's assignment to a subgroup focused on reducing barriers to home ownership in Keizer, quotes Councilor Juran: "This is something I've noticed with employees. Most of the entry level carpenters I have hired make just above minimum wage and have no expectation of ever owning a house. It's very achievable, they just need to change their mindset, focus and make it a goal."

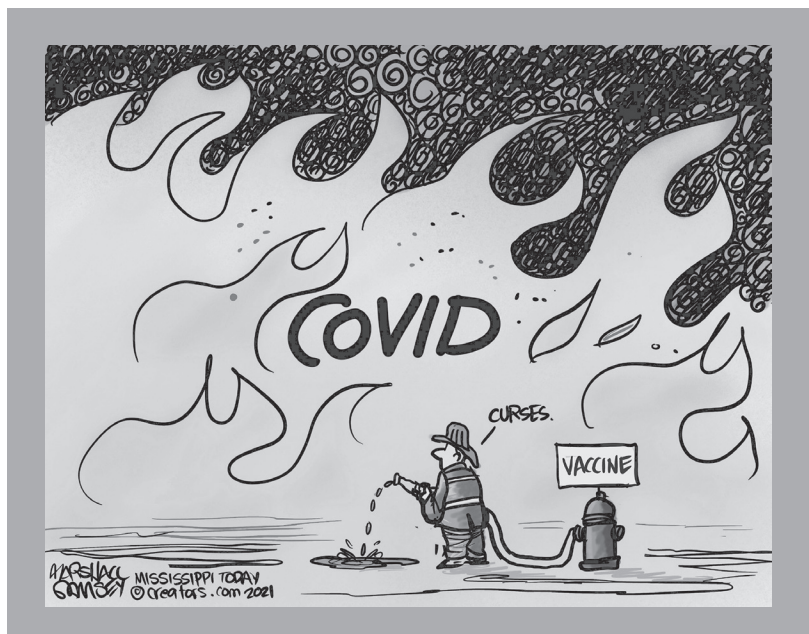
Setting aside the inherent condescension in that quote, two facts: 1) a

local real estate ad from Jan. 7, 2021: 1 bedroom, 1 bath home, \$219,000. 2) Oregon minimum wage as of January 7: \$12.75/hr. Does Mr. Juran hire at even \$15/hour? That's \$31,200/year. It takes more than a mindset and focus to make even a one bedroom house affordable.

Perhaps the Mayor should appoint Juran's employees to the subgroup addressing housing disparity. It's obvious they have a firmer grasp of reality. Juran could also set a very achievable goal of apologizing to his employees for his own mindset and commit to changing it. It's possible, with focus.

Carolyn Homan
Keizer

letters



Share your opinion

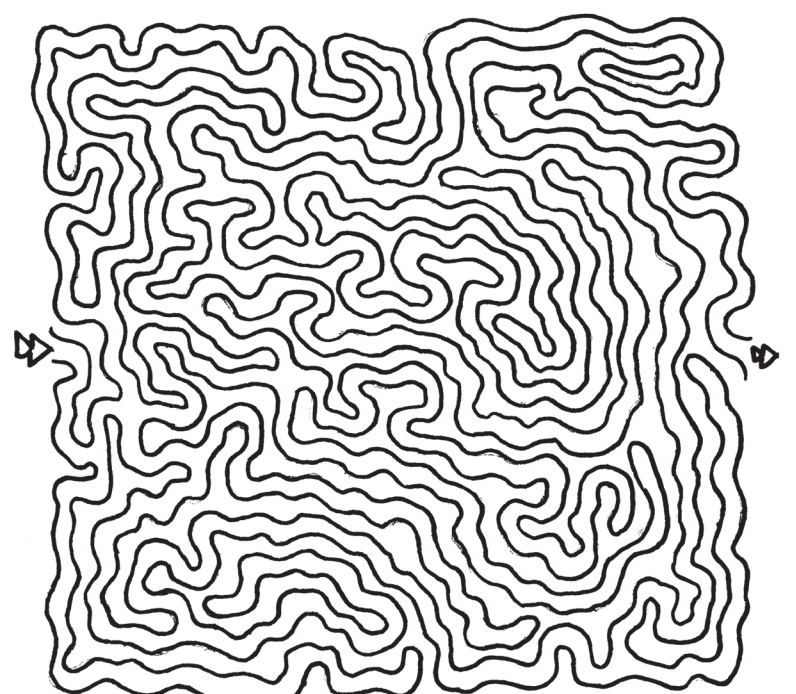
Submit a letter to the editor (300 words), or a guest column (600 words) by noon Tuesday. Email to: publisher@keizertimes.com

sudoku

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

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.

maze



Maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer

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

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

