

# K PUBLIC SQUARE

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# Letters



## \$8 million to spend

At a work session on Monday, Aug. 23, the Keizer City Council will discuss how to spend more than \$8 million, the city's share of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds authorized by Congress last spring.

That \$8 million is approximately one quarter of the city's annual general budget. Depending on what is ultimately decided by the council, that money can do a lot of good for a lot of Keizer residents.

We think the council should be very thoughtful in how to use that money. This is a once-in-a-lifetime financial windfall. There is no shortage of projects here in Keizer. Mayor Cathy Clark is a champion of regional collaboration, pooling Keizer's ARPA funds with Marion County and surrounding cities to leverage much more than our \$8 million can do alone.

If the council decides that the money should be spent in Keizer, it should consider all the options that would benefit the greatest number of city residents. That could include splitting the money between various departments—upgrades in the city's many parks, equipment for the police department or sidewalks in neighborhoods where there are none.

## Editorial

Interim City Manager Wes Hare broached the idea recently that the money could be used on the big projects such as at the Willow Lake Waste Treatment plant that would potentially give some fee relief.

Once the money is spent, it is gone. It would be best if residents were to benefit from the fruit of congressional largesse for the foreseeable future. The Keizer city council has always been good stewards of money, we are confident they will make the best choices for the city, but they will not make any decision without input from the public.

How would you spend \$8 million to benefit the greatest number of people? You will have your chance to voice your opinion before any council vote is taken.

— LAZ

## Ego led to Afghan disaster

**To the Editor:**

Throughout recorded history, humankind has often allowed itself too much ego, along with its first cousin, arrogance, in decision-making and related action. That condition, a basic in human nature, explains in part at least why we spent more than 20 years, trillions of dollars and 2,400 American lives adding up to a failure caused by allowing ego to drastically exceed anything resembling the original mission.

Yes, we know why we went into Afghanistan. After 9-11, perpetrated by a collection of Saudi Arabs terrorists who decided that taking down U.S. commercial and federal buildings with Americans inside would somehow even the score from the presence of U.S. troops and American war machines that desecrated their sacred Muslim homeland. The facts revealed that these Saudis were trained for their mission of destruction in Afghanistan.

We could have assembled U.S. Armed Forces in sufficient quantity to invade Afghanistan and make certain thereby that any and all further threat to our land and people was totally eliminated. Afterwards, our spy satellites, which can see a grain of sand from high in the sky, could have kept a close watch on everything taking place in Afghanistan and returned should a new threat reappear. Meanwhile, Afghanistan, a land without natural resources, sightseeing or outdoor attractions was always unlikely to attract American investors or curious travelers.

What we did instead was occupy that downtrodden nation, using the egoistic idea of making it into our image, known as "nation-building." Such a way

of conducting our business overseas has not worked well anywhere, as it has always presumed that our values, beliefs and way of life would be readily adopted in conquered lands. As before, that mindset has proven a failure in Afghanistan. Should American leaders conclude it in our best interest to invade another nation that attacked us, please let a return of "fire" not evolve again into nation building.

**Gene H. McIntyre**  
Keizer

## America's face vs. heart

**To the Editor:**

Hindsight with history is easy. America's facial transformation in a few months is a radical turn around to the left, often opposite of many American values, history, beliefs, traditions, laws and security. The real heart of what makes America great has been subtly hijacked due to government, Big Tech censorship, media disinformation — all from within. Not exactly positive "Remaking of America or Build Back Better." Elections have consequences, we get what we elect.

Many of these happenings are often blamed on Trump, Republicans, conservatives, white supremacists, Sadly, much is without congressional approval—just executive orders or political push. Lord willing, "America's Heart" is grounded enough that this is just a wake-up call to beat these temporary agendas. Stay in touch, stay tuned, stay aware, stay focused, stay involved. America's true character will overcome. It's up to each of us Amer-I CANS.

**Robert L. Beckner**  
Gervais

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## KEIZERTimes



**PUBLISHER & EDITOR**  
Lyndon Zaitz  
[publisher@keizertimes.com](mailto:publisher@keizertimes.com)

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
Matt Rawlings  
[news@keizertimes.com](mailto:news@keizertimes.com)

**REPORTER**  
Joey Cappelletti  
[editor@keizertimes.com](mailto:editor@keizertimes.com)

**ADVERTISING**  
Bill Phillips  
[advertising@keizertimes.com](mailto:advertising@keizertimes.com)

**PRODUCTION MANAGER & GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
Andrew Jackson  
[graphics@keizertimes.com](mailto:graphics@keizertimes.com)

**LEGAL NOTICES**  
[legals@keizertimes.com](mailto:legals@keizertimes.com)

**BUSINESS DESK**  
[billing@keizertimes.com](mailto:billing@keizertimes.com)

**RECEPTION/SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
Robin Barney  
[reception@keizertimes.com](mailto:reception@keizertimes.com)  
[subs@keizertimes.com](mailto:subs@keizertimes.com)

WHEATLAND PUBLISHING CORP.  
142 Chemawa Road N, Keizer, Oregon 97303  
Phone: 503.390.1051 • [www.keizertimes.com](http://www.keizertimes.com)

**COMMUNITY REPORTER**  
Brooklyn Flint  
[reporter@keizertimes.com](mailto:reporter@keizertimes.com)

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