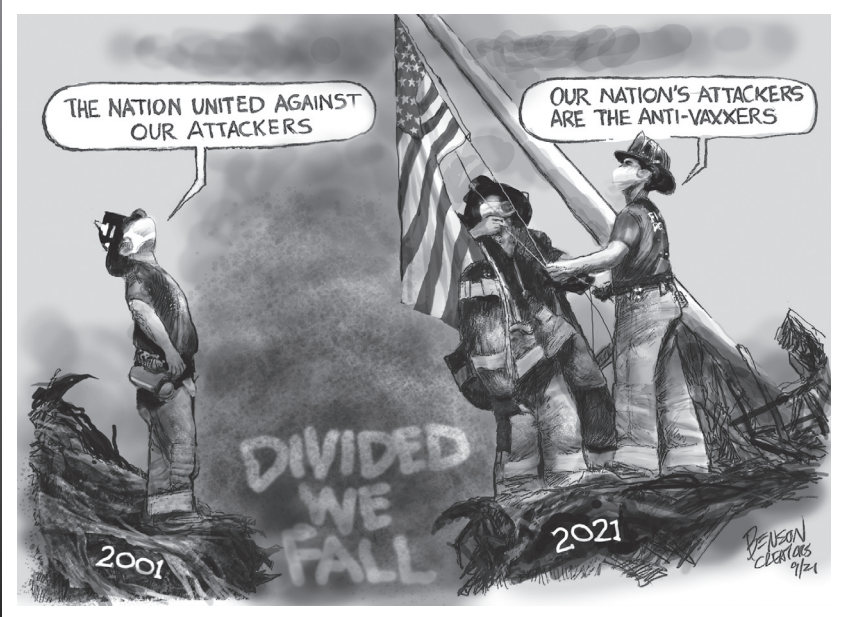


# K PUBLIC SQUARE

PUBLIC SQUARE welcomes all points of view. Published submissions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Keizertimes



## And then it rained

After months of nary a drop of precipitation, Keizer will finally see rain this weekend. According to forecasters, it could be significant rain.

The first reaction is thank, goodness... at last. The second, and more important reaction is more tangible.

After weeks and weeks without rain, every road we travel on will become slick as rain mixes with the build up of oil and other fluids since last spring. Every driver needs to be cognizant of driving conditions. It is easy to forget what streets are like after a good rain. The simple act of braking could end up with your car in the backside of the vehicle in front of yours.

Be safe and be cautious while driving on city streets and on freeways. Give plenty of space between you and the other vehicles. Slick conditions can challenge the best drivers.

It is not only our roads we need our attention. Street drains and home gutters can fall to victim to overflows brought on by heavy rain. Autumn leaves have begun their change of color and have started falling from trees. Though most leaves will end up in our yards many will find their way where they can cause flow backups on our homes and in our streets.

The best defense is a good offense.

## Editorial

Cleaning gutters is not a happy chore, but it needs to be done to protect the investment of our houses.

We will want to cheer when the rain starts falling, yet our state will still be very dry after months of drought conditions. Reservoirs are a fraction of their historical volumes. Cities that rely on those reservoirs for their water may be able to breathe again.

In Keizer we need the rain for our lawns and shrubbery, with the vast aquifer underneath use, our taps will not go dry.

We all look forward to the rain. At the same time we must remain alert to how it affects our roads and drains.

—LAZ

## SHARE YOUR OPINION

### TO SUBMIT

a **letter to the editor** (300 words),

or **guest column** (600 words),

email us by noon Tuesday:

[publisher@keizertimes.com](mailto:publisher@keizertimes.com)

## An insatiable urge to splurge

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

Last month, trustees for Social Security and Medicare let forth the grim news. Medicare Part A will be insolvent by 2026, and Social Security will follow in 2034. In years past, Washington would have considered the report a call to arms for fiscal responsibility.

Apparently unperturbed by news that could spell 9% cuts in Medicare Part A in five years, President Joe Biden still is pushing a \$3.5 trillion spending framework to fund his cradle-to-grave wish list of federal spending.

Biden also has proposed a \$2 trillion American Jobs Plan for what he calls infrastructure—the Senate passed a \$1 trillion version of the measure—and a \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, which was enacted in March.

Under the “Build Back Better” banner, Biden is pushing paid family and medical leave, a bigger child tax credit, subsidized child care, more subsidized health care, universal pre-K and tuition-free community college.

The national debt is \$28.7 trillion, thanks in part to \$5 trillion spent over the last 18 months in response to the coronavirus, Sen. Joe Manchin, D- W.Va., warned in an opinion piece in *The Wall Street Journal* in which he called for a pause in big spending.

Republicans used to champion balanced federal budgets—even if Republican presidents such as George W. Bush spent more than the government took in.

President Donald Trump campaigned for office bashing then-President Barack Obama’s doubling of the \$10 trillion national debt to just under \$20 trillion.

That didn’t stop Trump from pushing tax cuts that helped increase the national debt by close to \$7 trillion.

In 2019, Trump’s then-Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney confessed the federal government would spend at least \$1 trillion more than it took in for every year Trump held the White House.

Speaking at a Peter G. Peterson Foundation event, Mulvaney, who entered public life as a fiscal hawk, offered, “We are not going to cut our way to balance.” And: “There is no center of gravity for reduced spending in this town.”

Clearly Mulvaney did not buy into the administration’s claim that Trump’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would pay for itself. And it didn’t.

There is a residual effect. Republicans who voted for Trump’s big spending look a little squirrely when they complain about Democrats overspending.

Please note the Trump spending I cite

other VOICES

predated COVID-19, a natural disaster that left Washington with no choice but to throw money at the pandemic to mobilize the health industry to care for the sick and prevent the spread of the virus, as well as prevent the sort of panic that could shred the U.S. economy.

Biden threw money at the virus, too. And now he’s throwing your money at everything else.

In 2019, the debt owed by every man, woman and child in the United States was some \$49,000. Today, according to the Peterson folks, it’s \$86,035 per person. Two years ago, every American carried the debt for a luxury car, without the car. Now you owe the equivalent of two luxury cars you don’t own.

Asked during an August press briefing if Biden was concerned about the growing national debt, press secretary Jen Psaki responded that the debt was “a concern when he came in, and he was left with quite a debt and deficit by his predecessor. But the President has proposed a plan and package that would be fully paid for by asking corporations and the wealthiest Americans to pay a little bit more to make our country more competitive, and he feels quite comfortable with the fiscal responsibility of that.”

Beware: the likelihood that Democrats will pay the full freight of their package with higher taxes is small indeed.

Legions of lobbyists are working to chip away or eliminate Biden’s plans to increase the inheritance tax, raise corporate income taxes, eliminate popular loopholes and establish a global minimum corporate income tax.

Court challenges and corporate lawyers are likely to chip away at what’s left.

That doesn’t mean voters should give up or rely on special interests to curb the Beltway’s urge to splurge—not when each party can blame the other camp.

Asked when Congress will raise the debt ceiling by mid-October, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi responded that the House will do what needs to be done “because it’s the responsible thing to do.” What exactly? “We’re paying the Trump credit card,” she said.

As long as both parties think they can keep spending money on credit and blame it all on the other side, red ink will flow.

(Creators Syndicate)

# KEIZERTimes

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

**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)

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

**ADVERTISING**  
Robin Barney  
[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)

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
[subs@keizertimes.com](mailto:subs@keizertimes.com)

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**  
Facebook  
Instagram  
Twitter

**NEW DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICING:**  
\$5 per month, \$60 per year

**YEARLY PRINT SUBSCRIPTION PRICING:**  
\$35 inside 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