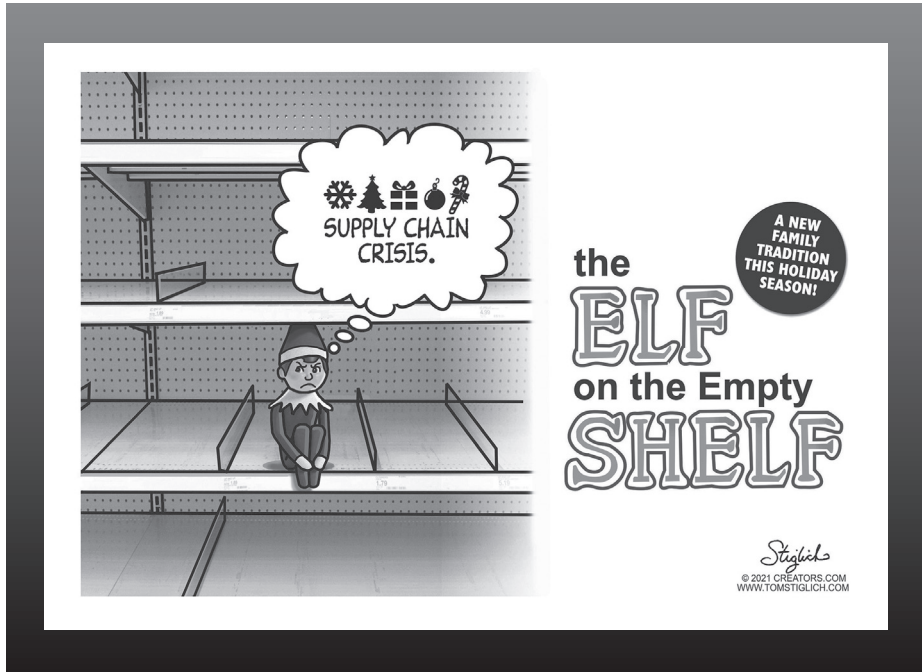


KEIZERTIMES PUBLIC SQUARE

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



A seat on the city council

Thursday, Dec. 9 is the deadline to submit a letter of interest and a resume for those who want to be appointed to the vacant Keizer City Council position. Applicants will be able to make a brief presentation and take questions from the sitting councilors on Dec. 20. This is a golden opportunity for those who want to be part of setting policy for the city of Keizer.

This is the time for those from historically underrepresented groups to seriously consider throwing their hat in the ring. They do need to recognize that a city councilor represents all 40,000 residents. A councilor can—and should—watch over the interests of those in the community who feel they have been invisible.

For almost 40 years the city council has been compromised of friends and neighbors. Common sense has been the hallmark of decisions made by dozens of women and men who have served since 1982. There is little stomach for ideological diatribes. Every councilor brings their experience, knowledge and background to their position. Keizer is a beautiful tapestry of backgrounds, ethnicities and opinions. Everyone has the right to express themselves, either as a councilor, or a resident addressing the council.



Some may say that being a city councilor is a thankless job, but that is not true. Decisions that affect our daily lives are made at the local level with school boards, county commission and especially city councils. Serving ones' community as a city councilor is a noble job, far from thankless.

When pondering applicants for the vacant seat, the city council will no doubt consider experience. Through the years, many Keizer city councilors got their start by volunteering for any of Keizer's citizen committees and boards. That experience is good but it is not essential. We think the best qualification for a future city councilor is a desire to see that Keizer maintains its desirability as a place to live and do business.

Leave the rabid politics to those in Washington, D.C., in Keizer we want our councilors to be polite, moderate and neighborly. In other words, we would like to see our council as if painted by Norman Rockwell.

—LAZ

Reporters, question yourselves

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

If you have any doubt about whether the White House press corps has a different standard for President Joe Biden than for former President Donald Trump, consider the press briefings that followed their first physicals as president at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Biden's physical occurred Friday, Nov. 26.

On reflection, Team Trump was too transparent when then Press Secretary Sarah Sanders brought Ronny Jackson, then physician to the president, to the briefing room where he answered press questions for nearly an hour in January 2018.

Here's a sampling of some of the more egregious press questions.

— "Are you confident of his prostate health?"

— "There have been reports that the president has forgotten names, that he is repeating himself. Are you ruling out things like early-onset Alzheimer's? Are you looking at dementia-like symptoms?"

— "Do you have a life expectancy range for him based on his results?"

— "Did you see any evidence of bone spurs?"—a reference to the cause for Trump's fifth Vietnam-era draft deferment. (Jackson said the medical team didn't check for bone spurs.)

— Given Trump's age, then 71, "Will you give cognitive testing in the future?"

— "Does he take any sleep aids?" (Yes, Ambien occasionally during foreign trips.)

— "How much sleep does he get on average?"

CNN sent Dr. Sanjay Gupta to the briefing. Gupta challenged Jackson for asserting that Trump's health was "excellent" for his age, given that Trump was taking cholesterol-lowering medication and Gupta saw evidence of heart disease and borderline obesity. (Jackson credited Trump's health to "great genes.")

Not all of the questions are out of bounds, but the very number of questions about Trump's mental state was over-the-top. If then Press Secretary Sarah Sanders' plan had been to make the press look like a pack of jackals to the GOP base, she succeeded.

Press Secretary Jen Psaki no doubt



learned from the Trump experience. She did not usher physician to the president Dr. Kevin O'Connor into the briefing room after Friday morning's physical.

Instead, Psaki released a six-page letter written by O'Connor after the briefing, which gave her license to avoid answering questions about it.

O'Connor offered that Biden "remains a healthy, vigorous 78-year-old male, who is fit to execute the duties of the Presidency." (The next day, Biden turned 79.)

O'Connor also wrote that since the last year, Biden experienced more frequent "throat clearing," probably because of esophageal reflux and allergies, as well as "perceptibly stiffer and less fluid" ambulatory gait.

The timing was fortuitous. Biden's annual physical, which included a colonoscopy, was held during a packed news day that included the traditional Thanksgiving turkey pardon and House passage of the Build Back Better Act. That meant less time for questions on Biden's physical—and most of those questions were about the logistics of the exam.

There were no questions about the asthma for which Biden got five draft deferments.

There were no questions that referred to Biden's two brain surgeries more than two decades ago, no questions about his atrial fibrillation or what O'Connor described as "moderate to severe spondylosis." There was no question about the "mild sensory peripheral neuropathy of both feet" and whether it might have played a role in Biden fracturing bones in his foot while playing with a family dog a year ago.

Amazingly, there were no direct questions about whether Biden was given a cognitive test or if he had a psychiatric exam. No such tests were mentioned in the O'Connor letter.

Was the kid-glove treatment proof of bias, or did the press corps get played? Try: both.

(Creators Syndicate)

Are we destroying our cities?

By GENE H. McINTYRE

For several days recently, a Portland TV station asked: "Is Portland over?" The news anchor answered his own question several days over while others in the community offered their take on the subject. At an amusement level, such a question invites guffaws, ridicule and derision due to the fact that more than 600,000 human beings live within Portland's city limits. Isn't such a question a silly waste of time, eliciting nonsense should it be answered by "Yes"?

However, another angle on the question may not be so silly or ridiculous. After all, for most of my seven decades of life, there has been in our world the ability of humans to build weapons of destruction that could vaporize Portland, converting it into a pile of dust along with some unrecognizable debris. At first in 1945, only the United States had an atomic bomb, whereas now many others do, some allies, some enemy powers, some less reliable, some sound of judgment, while a much more powerful hydrogen bombs and other secret weapons have been added over the years to the arsenal of those that can deliver mass destruction.

In a few weeks a U.S. built rocket will be launched into outer space whose purpose is an attempt to find other planets in other galaxies that can support life by carbon-based creatures such as those that have developed on Earth over eons of time. One of the issues of greatest interest, if intelligent beings can be found and ultimately contacted, is to determine whether



these creatures of another world similar to ours have matured enough to reach a place where they have ridden themselves of weapons to harm and kill, hatefulness and distrust there having been abandoned. Every grown person knows we have not reached that place of peaceful togetherness where all human effort could be devoted to a state of health and safety for everyone. No, in fact, we, as the dominant species, have found it necessary to war and destroy since humans came into existence, some 300,000 years ago. In fact, when it gets down to particulars, humans find it challenging to get along even with those persons they profess to love, cherish and say 'they can't live without.'

We may never reach a place in our dealings with one another where we are safe and secure from destruction, to a point now of prospective total annihilation. If a modern war is launched between those, for example, in possession of hydrogen bombs, all life, not just human life, could be destroyed and our planet thereafter circling the Sun without a single living creature taking notice of time, the tides and sometimes tenderness among the mammals.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer.)

PUBLISHER & EDITOR
Lyndon Zaitz
publisher@keizertimes.com

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:
Facebook
Instagram
Twitter

WHEATLAND PUBLISHING CORP.
142 Chemawa Road N, Keizer, Oregon 97303
Phone: 503.390.1051 • www.keizertimes.com

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

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT SALEM, OREGON

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
Publication No: USPS 679-430

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to:
Keizertimes Circulation
142 Chemawa Road N.
Keizer, OR 97303