

KEIZER PUBLIC SQUARE

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

Rally can't be stopped

The Reawaken America Tour, scheduled to be held at Volcanoes Stadium in early April has caused an uproar in some quarters of Keizer. An hour of this week's city council meeting was taken up by citizens addressing either their support or opposition to the gathering.

Scheduled to come to Keizer are former Trump National Security Advisor Mike Flynn and Mr. My Pillow himself, Mike Lindell.

The tour was relocated to Keizer after the city of Redmond denied the use of their exposition center. The denial in Redmond had nothing to do with content, message or personalities, it was because organizers said they would not adhere to mask mandates then in place.

Some were asking why the city of Keizer was allowing the group to hold a rally, on city property, no less. The city has no say in what happens or who comes to the stadium.

Due to a waiver implemented at the time of its creation, the owners of the stadium are not required to get permits for events other than baseball games. The stadium is private property, leased from the city.

Who pays?

To the Editor:

Russia is destroying the infrastructure and human habitat of Ukraine as well as polluting the countryside, the streams and soil. It will all have to be cleaned up and rebuilt. The cost to do so will be enormous.

Hopefully, someone is keeping a list of the inflicted damage. Send the repair bill to Vlad Putin. Let him pay for the restoration.

Jim Parr
Keizer

Rally in Keizer

To the Editor:

Sadly, there will be no carnival rides at KeizerFEST in August. Thrill shows are all booked.

But, not to worry, stomach churning excitement is coming to town even sooner—in April.

Editorial

City leaders follow Oregon's free speech laws, which are quite muscular. The city couldn't stop the Reawaken America Tour even if they wanted to.

Some of those speaking before the council cited their concerns about violence. The Keizer Police Department is not expecting clashes outside the gates of the stadium, but as Chief John Teague said, the police will respond if needed.

As former city councilor Brandon Smith said in his remarks before the council, "This is a great country, where people can express their opinions." Yes, and that's a reality that gets lost in too often in our current political climate.

Everyone has the right of free speech. Everyone also has the right not to go to a gathering whose message they disagree with. Don't like the message of the Reawaken America Tour? Then don't go.

— LAZ

Letters

The Q-Ship of Fools Conspiracy Propaganda Big Lie Tour plays Volcanoes Stadium on April 1 and 2. Fox faves and Breitbart blabbers—live in Keizer. Mike "The Turncoat" Flynn, Roger "The Supremacist Pop" Stone, Mike "Pillow Stuffing" Lindell, and more, all presented by The River "Church."

The Too Cookoo for Redmond Expo will surely cement Keizer's spot as a Mega MAGA-lopolis. \$250 tickets, we're told, are selling like guns and ammo.

Expect longer than usual lines at In And Out.

Martin Doerfler
Keizer



Congress, take the lead

By MARC A. THIESSEN

The most important and overlooked words in President Volodymyr Zelensky's address to Congress last week were: "Members of Congress, please take the lead."

Zelensky clearly understands where the momentum is in Washington for helping Ukraine—and it's not at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. The fact is, at every step along the way President Biden has been repeatedly pushed into doing more for Ukraine thanks to bipartisan pressure from Congress.

Rep. Jimmy Panetta, D-Calif., points out that Biden opposed a ban on Russian oil, but then "we came out strong for an oil embargo. Next thing you know, they backed off it and then they did it their own through executive action." The same was true for revoking Russia's "most favored nation" trade status. "The administration pushed back on us and said, 'Don't do it,'" Panetta says. Then bipartisan legislation began gaining steam in Congress, and "next thing you know, they come out and say, 'Oh no, we're for removing them.'"

On Wednesday, Biden announced a new arms package for Ukraine, including 800 additional Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, 2,000 Javelin anti-tank missiles, 1,000 light anti-armor weapons, 6,000 AT-4 anti-armor systems and 100 armed Switchblade drones. The question is: What was Biden waiting for? Ukrainians are fighting for their lives. He could have delivered every element of that package to Ukraine weeks ago and saved countless innocent lives. But he didn't act until after Zelensky made his plea to Congress.

On everything since the war began—from sanctions to military support—it has been Congress in the lead. Now Zelensky is hoping that Congress can lead when it comes to providing MiG fighter jets.

In his address, Zelensky invoked the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, "when evil tried to turn your cities... [into] battlefields, when innocent people were attacked, attacked from air." He then showed a heart-wrenching video of the destruction Russia has wreaked from the air over Ukraine—missiles hitting high-rises, buildings in flames, dead children, babies crying, bodies being pulled from the rubble. It moved many to tears.

"Russia has turned the Ukrainian sky into a source of death for thousands of people," Zelensky said. "You know how much depends on the battlefield on the ability to use aircraft, powerful, strong... aviation to protect our people, our freedom, our land... You know that they exist, and you have them, but they are on earth, not... in the Ukrainian sky... I need to protect our sky."

How, in God's name, can we deny him the planes he says he needs to do so?

But the Biden administration continues

other VOICES

to claim that Ukraine does not need the MiG fighter jets. Well, if that is true, why is Zelensky spending so much time and political capital pressing for them? Why did he make them a centerpiece of his address to Congress? Why did he tell the Canadian Parliament earlier this week: "Give us planes, we tell our partners. They answer: Soon. Be patient a little. Everyone is deeply concerned. They just don't want to."

The administration says MiGs are less effective, and more provocative, than Stingers. That makes no sense. If they are less effective, how can they be more provocative? The fact is, Russian President Vladimir Putin doesn't want us to send MiGs to Ukraine for a reason -- because, like Zelensky, he knows they would help stop Russia from destroying Ukrainian cities and killing civilians.

"I cannot stress this enough," Panetta says, "They need to provide them with those MiGs." There is bipartisan support in Congress to do so. On Sunday, the 58 members of the Problem Solvers Caucus urged Biden to facilitate the fighter jet deal.

Sens. Rob Portman, R-Ohio; Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.; and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., traveled to the Polish-Ukrainian border last weekend. Afterward, Blumenthal said Biden should provide the planes. "Ukrainians can win a fair fight on the ground. Right now, they have encountered a reign of terror in the skies." Klobuchar agreed, saying "I'd like to see the planes over there."

On CNN's *State of the Union*, Portman said of the MiGs: "What we have heard directly from the Ukrainians is they want them badly. They want the ability to have better control over the skies in order to give them a fighting chance. So, I don't understand why we're not doing it."

The most likely reason is that Biden seems more afraid of provoking Putin than he is of letting Ukraine lose. He slow-walked military aid, clearly not expecting the Ukrainians to last this long. But now it looks like they could not only survive but also prevail. So, it's time to stop worrying about what Putin thinks and start giving the Ukrainians everything they need to defeat him.

Just as they pushed Biden to impose the oil embargo, revoke Russia's trade status and provide Ukraine with more weapons, it's up to Congress to make that happen.

(Washington Post)

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