

KEIZERTIMES PUBLIC SQUARE

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A public library

To the Editor:

I have always been an enthusiastic and voracious reader.

I have lived in Keizer all my life, however, I've had a Salem Library card ever since I can remember and have accrued library cards from all the cities I've lived in. I even have a Chicago Public Libraries card—the library was just a couple blocks from my apartment and it was wonderful to be able to escape the stress of a new city and a busy work life in books.

I recently bought a home in Keizer and am invested in the city and its improvement. Although the actual distance to the Salem Library might not be that far, I remember as a child growing up in Keizer it seemed like a huge distance and a pain to have to wait for my parents to accompany me the almost four miles to pick up books I was eagerly awaiting. As I grew older, having to drive or bike all the way to the Salem Library made it harder to work on projects or do research for school.

The network of libraries that The Chemeketa Community Regional Library System (CCRLS) -encompasses is a wonderful resource for children and adults alike to use for reference or for the simple joy of a new book to read. I encourage all Keizer residents to support a Keizer Library so that other kids can grow up loving to read and counting on the library as one of their favorite places to go.

Elizabeth Tomczyk
Keizer

Political rally causes stir at city council

To the Editor:

Dear Charles Glen, regarding the *ReAwaken America Tour April 1 and 2*:

On Friday, April 1, as my kids and I walked toward the event, we walked through a group of mostly young adults, holding signs in lawful protest of the event. As we walked through though, they yelled at us and accused us of being “neo-Nazi, white Supremacist, racists!” Of which I am none. They even took pictures of my minor children. “How could you take your children to a KKK rally?” they yelled.

There was a lot of singing, messages

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from God's word, encouragement to all Americans, food and merchandise. There was even some education given about Native Americans and the treatment they had to endure by political evil powers.

Now, how was this a racist rally? It wasn't. And why would I not take my family to hear a word from the Lord and experience a great time? And it was a wonderful time for about 4,000 people there. Until the end...

The *Keizertimes*, posted a photo of a young individual holding a sign at this last City Council meeting in opposition of the event. This photo portrays *actual* blatant racial hate-speech and I quote, “I am White American's Worst Nightmare.”

And in so trying to prove this true, some of us ralliers, of which many different nationalities were in attendance, found home-made, sharpened rebar spikes behind our tires. But you know, we were the violent racists? No, we are not.

Some stores did in fact close down due to our traffic; but I can guarantee the shops that boarded their windows did not do so by any threat on our part.

Any false narrative spun about violence or racism, was in fact not performed by *any* of the rally goers. Its presence, however, *was* in attendance—*outside* the gates.

Ariel Green
Keizer

Tell it like it is

To the Editor:

After enduring a U.S. President who figuratively kissed the “Russian King's” gluteus maximus every time they met, ethically-minded American men and women now enjoy hearing from the current American president ‘telling it, like it is,’ that Vladimir Putin is an amoral butcher and murderer who should be removed from his office by Russian citizens who want their government practiced by its design on paper.

Gene H. McIntyre
Keizer

How long will the West stay aligned against Putin?

By MICHAEL GERSON

Some commentators on the Ukraine war—generally in the class of foreign policy realists—are ready for the denouement before the full story is played out.

In the beginning was a failure of deterrence. After years of passive Western reaction to his adventurism—in Georgia, Crimea, Syria and elsewhere—Vladimir Putin thought he could pursue a relatively costless invasion of Ukraine. It was a miscalculation, but not an irrational one. A swift and steely reaction by President Biden was probably not the outcome Putin's intelligence services ranked as most likely. After having championed the abandonment of both Syria (as vice president) and Afghanistan (as president) to terrible fates, Biden's fortitude would not have been assumed.

As the conflict began, foreign policy realists across the ideological spectrum thought (like many others) that the war would be a rout in Russia's favor. This outcome would have had the virtue of strategic simplicity. The red line against Russian aggression could have been drawn at the inviolable borders of NATO countries. The invocation of Article 5—the mutual-defense portion of the North Atlantic Treaty—would have obviated the need for difficult strategic choices. While few, apart from America's extreme right, were rooting for it, Ukraine's swift defeat would have limited the bloodshed and resulted in a comfortable clarity of costs and risks.

Yet Ukraine refused to cooperate in the story of its own collapse. A combination of brilliant national leadership by Volodymyr Zelensky, widespread patriotic courage, NATO-provided weapons and lumbering Russian incompetence has allowed David to stop Goliath in his tracks. But rather than being conveniently killed, the well-armed giant is pausing to refit, resupply and reconsider his options.

Among an increasingly vocal group of policy realists, this shockingly positive outcome overall remains a long-term defeat for American interests. The argument goes like this: A bloody stalemate in Ukraine—featuring crimes such as the leveling of Mariupol and Kharkiv—is not only a humanitarian nightmare. Continuing this unwinnable war would cause radiating destabilization.

How long will Europe stay united against Putin when countries face energy shortages, lost jobs and the reality of accommodating millions more refugees beyond the 4 million estimated to have already fled? How will Britons react when they experience, say, a 50% or more increase in energy costs? Won't the German advocates of appeasing Putin—who are only temporarily quieted—eventually remake their argument in an atmosphere of acute economic suffering?

The U.S. economy is not as dependent as Europe's on its economic relationship with Russia. But won't the disruption of global energy markets—resulting in higher prices at the gasoline pump—place tremendous political pressure on Biden? Might



this economic dislocation help return one of Putin's few remaining allies—Donald Trump—to power?

Some foreign policy experts also warn that crippling Russia might turn it into a terrorist state, like North Korea, while it is pushed ever closer to China for support.

“The main challenge today,” Samuel Charap of the Rand Corp. argued recently in *Foreign Affairs*, “is that Ukraine's brave resistance—even combined with ever-greater Western pressure on Moscow—is highly unlikely to overcome Russia's military advantages, let alone topple Putin. Without some kind of deal with the Kremlin, the best outcome is probably a long, arduous war that Russia is likely to win anyway.” Such a protracted conflict, he warned, would “cement the current extreme level of hostility between Russia and the West,” which would undermine U.S. interests in regional and global stability over the long term.

“However distasteful it may be to reach a compromise with Putin after the carnage he has unleashed,” continued Charap, “the United States should work to secure a negotiated settlement to the conflict sooner rather than later.”

There are at least three problems with this approach:

First, any likely, hurried peace that is forced on Ukrainians would almost certainly involve territorial concessions to Russia. This would constitute another massive failure of deterrence, essentially inviting Putin to threaten and intimidate non-NATO countries.

Second, while the gung-ho provision of weapons to the Ukrainian army could eventually raise some risk of direct NATO conflict with Russia, we don't appear close to that point yet. Biden has been correct to avoid a no-fly zone, but he is not yet close to exhausting the number and sophistication of missiles that could be responsibly sent. Missiles to take out more planes, more ships, more tanks. NATO needs to test the further limits of possible victory against Russia in Ukraine. It hasn't yet.

Third, this might be our generation's best, and perhaps only, chance to enforce true limits on the greatest threat to European and world peace. Under Putin, Russia is already a rogue, terrorist state, closely aligned with China. How will the effective accommodation of Russia's barbaric aggression make global stability more likely?

Rallying their peoples to accept the temporary economic burdens required to confront Putin is now the main challenge for European leaders and the U.S. president. It will not be easy, but it will certainly be easier than following the Zelensky example.

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