

KEIZER PUBLIC SQUARE

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

Support for a public library

It was heartening to see the council chambers filled at the Keizer City Council work session on April 6 by people showing their support for a public library in Keizer.

Yes, Keizer has a community library. It is run by volunteers with a paid, part-time manager. The Keizer Community Library, which began as a children's lending library, moved to its current location at the Keizer Cultural Center in 1998.

Several iterations of a community task force addressed the library years ago before throwing its hands up in frustration. Turning it into a public library is closer than ever.

At the work session B.J. Toewe, board vice president of the library, made a strong presentation to the council, seeking \$395,000, over three years, out of the \$8.8 million in ARPA funds the city will receive from the federal government.

The board of the library and community supporters want the city to fund, in part, hiring a librarian, which is a cornerstone to becoming part of the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library System (CCRLS). Becoming a part of CCRLS will provide expanded services for patrons of their local library—access to books and other resources from throughout the system.

How far should US go?

To the Editor:

Are we the chumps again? Kinda looks that way. This month, alone, the U.S. has made \$400 million in additional military aid to Ukraine for a total of \$1.4 billion since the Russian invasion got underway on February 24. We've supplied them Javelin's, Stinger missiles, hundreds of Switchblade loitering drones and counter-artillery radars. And the price of our oil has sky rocked because we stopped buying oil and gas from Russia.

Ukraine's President V. Zelensky wants more, demands more, and is not reluctant whatsoever to insult and otherwise curse America. Heavy weapons, he says he must have in the categories of atomic and chemical. We're trying to avoid World War III but that appears a low concern to the Ukraine leader who wants to stop the Russians no matter how certain the intervention of American fighter planes and cataclysmic weapons could provide the route to a world's end.

Meanwhile, as the news comes to us from abroad, specifically from European nations, alleged our allies and by NATO, like-minded, who just could be President Putin's next target for conquest after he annihilates Ukraine and seeks to establish a 21st century Russian Empire, are foot dragging for much of any deprivations they could experience. Germany is resisting the idea of an oil ban, European Union members are wary of voting outcomes in France, Hungary has become more entrenched in its opposition and so on and so forth. Where do they stand by way of enduring economic and political pain to stop funding Putin's war by purchasing its oil, gas and coal. They'll think about it.

Gene H. McIntyre
Keizer

More about our land

To the Editor:

Many thanks for the—hopefully introductory—article on the front page of the April 8 issue (*Does Keizer sit on stolen*

Editorial

Joining Toewe at the work session were John Hunter, executive director of CCRLS and Darci Hanning, a consultant for the State Library of Oregon. Hunter and Patterson made statements of support and answered detailed questions from councilors about the Keizer library's future.

Akin to the parks and police fees that are added to city water bills, it is hoped the library will get approval from voters to add a fee as well. There is support from across the community for a public library and all the benefits that would bring to Keizer residents.

Parks, police, library—three things that make any city desirable. Keizer residents pay for two of those. They will support a library, too; that was demonstrated by the full-house attendance at the city council's work session.

Keizer is on the path to having a public library. We are closer than ever, let's finish the task. — LAZ

Letters

land?

It was nice to hear that the city council invited the leaders of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to attend and provide perspective about our area's convoluted, even subliminated, *ownership*.

In my opinion, your story should be a lead-in to a multi-article, more in-depth discussion of this pioneer history of shaky land and rights ownership. In particular, I'd bet most folks locally are only barely aware that the Chemawa School exists, but know nothing more of its provenance or ongoing purpose.

It strikes me that something like the various (but mostly successful) Truth & Reconciliation Commissions was hinted at, where accurate history of how we got here is heard. This could be a good thing.

My own history is from the Klamath Falls area. The difficult history and treatment of the Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin tribal peoples is severely embarrassing, but I think a first real step in resolving that is truthful, balanced education about those times.

James D. Howard
Keizer

SHARE YOUR OPINION

SUBMIT

a **letter to the editor** (300 words),
or **guest column** (600 words),
email us by noon Tuesday:
publisher@keizertimes.com



Give U.N. Security Council seat to Ukraine

By MARC A THIESSEN

In a fiery speech Tuesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called out the U.N. Security Council for its utter fecklessness in responding to Russia's horrific war crimes in his country. The United Nations is incapable of holding Russia to account, Zelensky said, because Moscow "turns the right of veto in the U.N. Security Council into a right to kill." Member states should "remove Russia" from the Security Council, he said, or "dissolve yourself altogether."

Zelensky is absolutely right. But we should take his bold proposal a step further. Not only should Russia be kicked off the Security Council, its seat should be given to Ukraine. Indeed, there is precedent for doing just that.

It is not written into the U.N. Charter that the "Russian Federation" is entitled to a permanent seat on the Security Council. The U.N. Charter states that "The Republic of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America shall be permanent members of the Security Council." Two of those named countries no longer occupy seats on the Security Council.

On Oct. 25, 1971, the U.N. expelled the "Republic of China" (Taiwan) and admitted the "People's Republic of China" (mainland China), which then became one of the five permanent members of the Security Council (or the P5). Despite its Security Council veto, Taiwan was powerless to stop its own expulsion by a vote of the U.N. General Assembly. A U.S.-led proposal to make China's representation an "important question" requiring a two-thirds supermajority vote, failed by a vote of 59 to 55 (with 15 abstentions). The General Assembly then passed Resolution 2758 removing Taiwan by a simple majority vote of 76 to 35 (with 17 abstentions). In so doing, it set the precedent that a sitting member of the P5 could be removed and replaced by another entity with a plausible claim to the seat.

Just as Communist China now occupies the seat designated for the "Republic of China," Russia now occupies the seat designated for the "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics." But the "Russian Federation" and the "U.S.S.R." are not the same country. Indeed, Putin's justification for his invasion of Ukraine is to reclaim territory lost during the Soviet Union's dissolution.

Just as the UNGA voted to expel Taiwan and declare that henceforth the People's Republic of China would be deemed the legitimate occupant of the "Republic of China's" seat, it could vote to expel Russia and declare that henceforth Ukraine will be deemed the legitimate successor state to the "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics"

other VOICES

—giving it the old Soviet seat. One need look no further than Putin's own 6,885-word manifesto for war—laying out a case stretching back more than 1,000 years that Ukrainians and Russians are one people descended from "Ancient Rus"—to justify declaring Ukraine to be the legitimate successor of the U.S.S.R.

The China precedent from 1971 establishes that Russia and China would be powerless to veto such a move in the Security Council. And unlike Taiwan, which did nothing to merit its U.N. ejection, Russia has earned its removal in spades.

The U.N. Charter explicitly states that a member state can be expelled if it "has persistently violated the Principles contained in the present Charter." This past month, the General Assembly twice voted to overwhelmingly declare that Moscow is doing just that in Ukraine. On March 2, the General Assembly voted 141 to 5 (with 35 abstentions) to condemn the "aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter." And on March 24, it again condemned Russia for violating the Charter and creating a humanitarian crisis by a vote of 140 to 5 (with 35 abstentions).

In both cases, almost three-quarters of member states voted to condemn Russia. That is more than enough votes to replace Russia on the Security Council. Indeed, it would exceed the two-thirds supermajority required if the question of Russia's replacement were deemed an "important matter." On Thursday, the General Assembly voted to suspend Russia from the U.N. Human Rights Council. It can use the exact same procedure to replace Russia on the Security Council.

So, it *can* be done. Whether it *will* be done is a different matter—a question not of procedure, but of political will. It's one thing to vote for a strongly-worded statement; quite another to impose actual consequences.

But the United States should force a vote and make every nation go on record—because Russia's presence on the Security Council is a disgrace. The Putin regime is raping, murdering and massacring innocent men, women and children in Ukraine. If the United Nations can't impose consequences on Putin and his henchmen for those crimes, then Zelensky is right—"the U.N. can simply be dissolved."

(Washington Post)