

What do you want?

What do you need help with
or want to see in the world?

See below

White Supremacists now in Salem...

Is **mutual understanding** possible?
See *News of the Real* (page 6)

Find something important?

Something we need to understand?

ADD YOUR OWN NEWS!



Salem Visionary News

Summer 2019

Read Not The Times, Read The Eternities

FREE

The beautiful city of Salem has fallen into a trance
Recent statistics on crime, suicide and true friendship show alarming trend



By Tim King

From the outside, Salem seems like Shangri-La. Our wide, safe streets, lovely suburbs, and generally civil and friendly behavior make Salem a popular destination. But this pleasant exterior is taking place at the expense of freedom, understanding and relationship.

Recent statistics show that Salem has a property crime rate almost three times the national average, or 7,195 incidents per hundred thousand people each year.

Oregon is ranked as the worst in the nation for mental health related suicide.

What can explain the discrepancy between the outer and inner state? Nearly all of downtown is devoted to money-making. Almost all city and civil functions are devoted to business and security. Every other basic human need – companionship, adventure, diversity, creativity, spirituality, and helping others – is neglected.

Salem is a fast-growing city. Oregon's intense natural beauty, the considerably lower cost of living than California, and the state's recreational marijuana law, is

drawing large numbers of people from states where marijuana remains criminalized. Portland residents, overpriced and tired of an overcrowded metropolis, are also relocating to Salem in large numbers, further driving the cost and gentrification of Oregon's Capital City.

Salem has nearly twice the national average number of veterans, and continues to grow in this area. With military combat veterans in the mix, teen depression, a lack of homeless facilities for women, and hundreds and hundreds of unsheltered people living outdoors, perhaps it isn't surprising that Oregon's suicide rate has been increasing since 2000.

Many of the same problems exist nationally. The National Institute of Mental Health found that 46% of American adults meet the criteria for being mentally ill.

Ten percent of Americans over the age of four now take anti-depressants. Consumption of anti-depressants is 2/3 of the entire world's consumption.

How can we respond? See more at visionarynews.org.

Salem - City of Peace

By Tim King

Many Salem residents don't know that the name "Salem" means peace, or that Salem had sister-city relationships in India and Russia. When I conduct haunted history tours of Salem, I always ask people if they know what Salem means.

About half the time, one person out of 10 or 20 will know, and that's sad, considering the value of peace in this world.

Simferopol, Ukraine was a Salem sister city. In the 1990s a group of fighters came to be known as "The Salem's." Their hangout was Salem Café, located at the center of town. At the height of the conflict, the Salem's had 1200 fighters doing their bidding. Violent clashes led to 30 people being killed during one month of 1991.

More at Visionarynews.org

Selco Credit Union refuses to make change for \$10

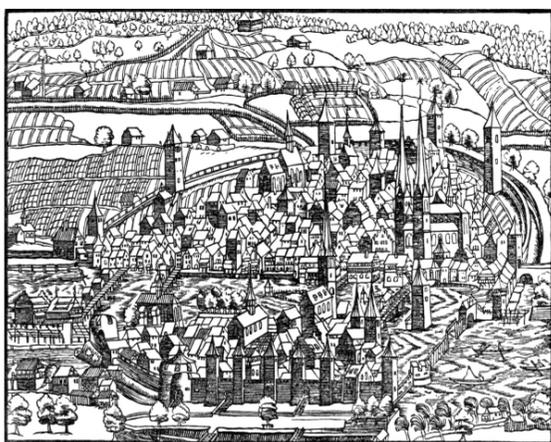
On February 6 2019 Visionary News founder Geoff Bederson entered the Selco Community Credit Union on Thurman Street in Portland, asking for change for the \$10 he received from the ATM at the front of the building. Mr. Bederson is a participant in the Selco's "Shared Branching" cooperative. The teller, front desk supervisor and general manager all refused to do make change, citing company policy.

Credit Unions claim to be good community members. On its website Selco says, "We're local. We continue to reinvest in our shared community." But when we went to large Salem banks such as Wells Fargo and Chase Bank, they all gladly provided change for a ten dollar bill. Even the Salem Selco branch on Commercial Street made change for us. Can we ask for the slightest bit of simple kindness in a business that obviously has plenty of change of available – two five dollar bills in exchange for a ten?

See online for the responses and updates. To add your own Reviews, Requests or Information go to visionarysociety.org and search for your bank.



UPDATE: In response to Visionary News Selco has agreed to give change to their ATM customers only.



What is Visionary News?

News of the real, Created by ourselves

Visionary News is a community created and supported publication meant to find news of the real: whatever is deepest and truest in ourselves and in society. The goal of Visionary News is to identify misunderstood issues, to find the reason for current events, and to explore potential resolutions. It is also a way to publicize the actions we take in building Visionary Society.

Visionary News strives to overcome political and institutional biases through sustained exploration these issues in Visionary Topics.

Be Visionary News

Do you see something that is misunderstood? Do you know something that needs to be done?

Help us break through the trance of the static world, the fabricated world in which we are placed. Learn to see within, find the genuine news. Add your own article to Salem Visionary News. Traveling? Start a new Visionary News edition in your own community. Get started at visionarynews.org.

Salem Visionary News

Publisher: Visionary Society
Founder: Geoff Bederson
Editor: Timothy King
Distribution:

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Membership:

Tier 1: Free. Use all standard Visionary Society website functions.

Tier 2: \$20 per year. Support Visionary Society principles and help build Visionary Society in your community. **INCLUDES CERTIFICATE. NAME in the businesses**

Tier 3: \$30 per year. One business card size item in printed edition, including advertising or personal statement.

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EDITORIAL

News of the real, Created by ourselves

Is a meaningful life possible? Can we make use of our intelligence and creativity, our passion and compassion? Can we shake off the trance that makes us sleepwalk through our lives? Can we have real understanding or true friendship?

Most of us feel powerless. That is because we are powerless. Vast forces such as government, corporations, and technology dominate our lives. Within this system we might be able to carve out personal happiness if we are lucky. But this changes

little.

The whole way society is organized suppresses our minds. But blaming society – government and corporations – is not helpful and is actually part of the problem. We have to find a way that takes advantage of our tremendous but underutilized abilities.

After our last print experiment more than ten years ago, Alaska Humanity News, we promised ourselves that we wouldn't print again until we were able to actually DO something about the news. Is it possible to actually change something at the root level? That is what we have been wrestling with the last few years.

Visionary Society is the idea that we can actually see – that we can see beyond the hypnotic, conventional,

ideological, political dogma that we have been raised in. That we can step aside from the rush of history. And that we can form our own lives and society through nothing other than insight and courage. Visionary News is not what you ordinarily see in the media, which is news of current events, usually from a political perspective. News of the real is what lies under the surface, what produces current events by our fears and instincts, our hopes and dreams. It is the very root of our life. It is at the center of our heart. Can we find it? Maybe not, but at least we can set forth to make the attempt, in every case and in every way.

The things that really matter – the subtle and the sublime – produce the nitty gritty of society, the hot dog stands, the popular movies, the failing health care system, the mighty military machine, the mass incarceration system, and the dysfunctional lives that most of us live. Our lives are too comfortable. We don't even know who we are. You can't know if you're not tested.

Welcome to the first edition of Visionary News. This is not a static, one-way production. Every article culminates in a series of steps that you can take (available in the online edition). Visionary News is dependent on your participation. Let's make Salem more thoughtful, more meaningful, and – dare we envision it – more sublime.

PROGRESS REPORT

More than a newspaper

by Tim King

After a lifetime in media-related jobs, I'm fortunate and excited to be working with Salem Visionary News, and its founder and creator, Geoff Bederson. We want to accomplish many things with this newspaper. Without question, Salem Visionary News will be a new experience for our readers. The number one goal is to help improve our community. One question for local businesses in Salem, Oregon is, "What does your business do to make Salem more livable?" We aren't into bragging rights when it comes to your profits, but if your business is doing something different to improve life in this city, then we want to know all about it.

While technology soars all around us, publishing a print newspaper in 2019 just makes sense to me. While it is good to be innovative and creative with technology, there is also something very positive about re-embracing our original print news format. Salem Visionary News is part of the Visionary Network. We want to eventually see similar operations across the country and around the world. This platform allows community members to create their own local newspaper – both print and online – which carries meaningful information about any local business.

Salem Visionary News is much more than a newspaper. Our online presence is designed to

inspire ethical, moral and community-oriented standards. We want businesses to be accountable, and we will be call out businesses working outside of the scope of acceptability. Working together for the positive good, Salem Visionary News will be a catalyst that leads to real success for businesses in Oregon's capital city.

God Help the Homeless of Salem, Oregon: Where is Salem's Heart?

Salem is embarrassing ill-equipped to handle the city's fast-growing homeless problem. Salem has a huge, massive elephant in its front room and it's called homelessness. You really would have to be legally blind to not see it. None of the city leaders seem to really understand the complexity, the hazards, and the unrecoverable aspect of homelessness which is exceeding epic proportions. Heck, Salem city leaders didn't even support a community-generated project that placed art-decorated porta-potties throughout Salem's downtown. They didn't value or appreciate how much of a difference it made, now the city's downtown alleys smell like shit again and you have to be careful not to step in it, God help people who wear sandals....

See more online

Live outside of Salem?

Help start Visionary News in your community

Learn how at visionarynews.org

What do you know?

Enter a mystery
Find the good
Change assumptions
Reach the heart

See below for more on Topics

Visionary Society is a way to turn your ideas about how to make the world better into action.

All Salem supermarkets sell meat from factory farms



Almost all of the meat, milk and eggs consumed in the United States come from factory farms, which raise billions of chickens, pigs and cows every year in abusive conditions.

By Tim King

All of the Salem supermarkets we visited sold meat from farms that raise meat under abusive conditions.

Roth's IGA, while carrying plenty of factory farm beef, maintains a selection of packaged beef that is not factory farmed – grass-fed, and by all accounts, a cut above the standard meats. Winco, an employee-owned store, is similar to IGA in that it carries an assortment of both factory farm meat, and healthier, kinder meat products.

You definitely pay more for products that do not originate from a factory farm. Stores that are more specialized, like Trader Joe's, are quite similar in practice to the two aforementioned stores. While an effort is clearly made to offer healthier foods, most of the beef at Trader Joe's is actually factory farm meat. The store offers a variety of other more moral meats, but even the beef sold under the store's name originates from factory farms.

The one store we visited in Salem that makes an active effort to source meat from farms where animals were treated humanely is Natural Foods. This store's employees are well-versed when discussing the merits of their store. One employee explained that the store has extremely strict guidelines and does not sell any factory farm food. We did find a single item that may actually be produced in a factory farm: Mulay's Breakfast Sausage. While the packaging does say that there are no antibiotics, no MSG, and fed a vegetarian diet, it says little about the way the animals were treated.

Go to visionarysociety.org to learn about the Supermarkets you use. Check for details about the businesses we visited.

Request: There is never an excuse for abusing or torturing animals. Sell meat from animals that were raised under just conditions (See below)

Salem convenience stores do not carry local products



The only convenience store we found with a number of local products is Mustafa AM/PM

By Tim King

A review of a number of local store shelves show that most stores carry very little – if anything – in the way of local products. One Shell convenience store and gas station owned by the SanJay company offers no local products of any kind. Another Shell station owned by the Jackson's chain, located on South Commercial, was also void of local products.

Many Salem convenience stores sell processed food laden with preservatives. They sell cigarettes, gasoline, alcohol and pre-packaged food. Many are run by national corporations based hundreds of miles away, and so have little knowledge of or interest in improving the local economy and the health of the people.

Salem, Oregon businesses produce a wide range of products that would fit well in a convenience store. Even popular Kettle Chips, manufactured in Salem, Oregon, are not present on the shelves of most of our convenience stores

Can stores sell packaged food that benefits the community and the individual?

More at visionarynews.org

Request: "Sell snacks and sandwiches made locally and fresh" *Buy locally whenever possible, purchasing from rural, inner-city, and other locally owned companies and producers, protecting local natural resources.*

Local cafes serve up standardized, corporate music

All cafes we spoke with agree to play local music.
In a city packed with local music talent a revolution in café culture is possible



The great majority of music in both large and small retail businesses throughout Salem is created by national artists and distributed by corporations. Most themes involve romantic or sexual relationships.

Request: *Limit the use of music that is commercialized, mass produced, or desensitizing, that is meant to manipulate the listener or viewer, or is distributed by national organizations. Play music by local musicians, and display art by local artists.*

The great majority of music played in both large and small retail businesses throughout Salem is created by national artists and distributed by corporations. You might expect something different in our popular, hip cafes, which are some of our only remaining quasi-public spaces. But all of the cafes we visited play music that is produced, paid for and distributed by multinational corporations.

It's the contemporary music that people all know, and it contributes to a culture of uniformity and apathy. It is desensitizing. Commercial music is typically used to manipulate the feelings and thoughts of customers. It stops conversation and makes it hard to reflect. We talked to managers and baristas at many Salem coffee houses about where their music comes from, and if they would consider using local music instead. All gave an enthusiastic, favorable response. It makes a lot of sense. Salem musicians would be promoted and become more well-known, their music would reach out and entertain people. And it would be far more interesting for café patrons.

One barista at the Break Point Cafe says it would "be awesome to have local music playing all the time." A manager from Venti's Cafe says the idea is interesting but replied, "We use Spotify for music and it is working out really well for us." Salem is full of local music talent. Generations of music have been produced in Salem, Oregon and the surrounding areas. Some bands perform professionally. Others play music simply because they enjoy writing and performing. But local bands have been neglected and have been ripped off.

APPEAL: *Help create a playlist of local artists. We will present this to local café managers.*

To see the results of our research on all businesses we approached go to visionarysociety.org and search for the business name.

Wal-Mart, Other Big Box Stores Refuse to Allow Overnight Parking

New ruling from the 9th Circuit Court allows travelers and homeless people to camp outside or sleep in their cars.



By Tim King

Big box stores are a testament to the wealth of America, where you can seemingly get anything you want. Not quite. If you simply need a place to park at night when the vast parking lots are entirely empty, you will find that there is a dark side to all this prosperity.

Every night, growing numbers of homeless people in Salem search for safe places to stay overnight. For many years Wal-Mart allowed motor homes to park overnight in the store's parking lots. Those rules have changed, and now it is completely illegal to remain in any Wal-Mart parking lot. Other big box stores, including Salem's Home Depot, also have rules against overnight parking. However, a representative of that store told us about a loophole. They don't enforce the rule in the evening, and in the early morning they ask people to leave, rather than calling the police, saying, "If you don't leave, then we eventually will call the police, but we try to avoid it."

Because of gentrification, many are priced out of their homes, but they may still want to remain in the city they are from. This problem is much worse than it was 30 or 40 years ago.

A series of rulings passed September 4th, 2018 in the 9th Circuit Court have legalized camping outdoors, and that includes sleeping in cars. The story began in Venice, Ca. A 2006 ruling determined that the individuals had a legal right to sleep in their cars on a public street. The matter was revisited in 2018 and the judges affirmed a homeless person's right to sleep outdoors. "The panel held that the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause of the Eighth Amendment precluded the enforcement of a statute prohibiting sleeping outside against homeless individuals with no access to alternative shelter. The panel held that, as long as there is no option of sleeping indoors, the government cannot criminalize indigent, homeless people for sleeping outdoors, on public property, on the false premise they had a choice in the matter."

We are not mere consumers in the miles of aisles. Visit visionarysociety.org to explore and improve the practices of the vast big box stores you prosper from. Search for any store to begin.

Local banks take advantage of those in trouble

We contact numerous banks throughout Salem. Not one responded.



By Tim King

In addition to poverty, those with little money suffer from the banking system itself. Banks restrict access to bank accounts, making it difficult for those with poor credit or who have no home to engage in the basic economic services needed to lead a decent life.

All banks charge hefty overdraft fees, ranging from \$25 to \$35 for a single item, taking advantage of the middle class. The challenges are even greater for people living unsheltered, or homeless. Banks accumulate tens of thousands or millions of dollars a year from these fees, a significant part of their profit model.

We visited Salem area financial institutions to learn more about the obstacles financially challenged people face. Selco Bank confirmed that in order for a person to have an account, they have to have a physical address. Although a credit record is not required by some banks, and even poor credit is not disqualifying, all banks use ChexSystems to track fraudulent activity. No one listed as having committed financial fraud is approved for any kind of bank account.

A representative at Union Bank said that they do not run background checks or credit reports on prospective clients, and that customers who have had banking issues can apply for "access accounts" that allow them to have a bank account with limited services.

In our initial outreach we called numerous banks throughout Salem, asking to schedule interviews to discuss how the bank functions in the community. We contacted local branches of multinational corporations such as Bank of America and Chase Bank, as well as credit unions such as Umpqua and Pioneer Trust Bank. Some said that they would get back with us; others said that they would have to contact their main office; and yet more simply said that they would think about it. No banks responded. It was very disappointing: if we – journalists – can't easily glean information about banking practices, how can the poor people get a response? So we continued our research by approaching the banks directly.

Continue at visionarysociety.org for details about the banks we visited, and to add information about your own bank.

REQUESTS FOR BANKS

- Fair treatment of poor people or those in trouble.
- Stop predatory practices such as excessive overdraft fees.
- Take into account where money is invested, social justice, and environmental effects.

Hospitals now required to list prices But information is difficult to find and difficult to understand



All hospitals in the U.S. are now required to post the cost of medical procedures, but the list of prices is nowhere to be seen when entering the lobby of Salem Health Hospital (formerly Salem Hospital). When we inquired, employees in the hospital's emergency room were totally unaware of the new policy. We were asked

to take a seat, and eventually an employee brought us a phone number, explaining that we could call that number to get the scoop.

A hospital employee explained over the phone how patients can visit their website and glean the different costs associated with treatment. After a brief search, it was determined that the hospital does post its various patient costs at on the page: web.salemhealth.org/Pricing/Pricing/DisplayPrices.

So how is the new openness working out locally? Not very well, according to an Actually Health article, "Hospital Charges Expensive, Confusing, & Inconsistent." Prices are misleading, inconsistent, and provide little useful information. "The average charge at the most expensive hospital was two to three times higher than the charge for the same diagnosis at the least expensive. The article also stresses that "higher prices don't necessarily mean a higher quality hospital." acthealthoregon.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Hospital-Pricing.pdf

REQUESTS

- Address the health of the whole human being
- Treat the patient as a human being entrusted to your care
- Prices should be affordable and based on actual costs
- Reduce the use of drugs and invasive methods
- The profit method should never be primary

Splendid (and not so Splendid) Places

Visionary Society Places is a new way to participate in the businesses and organizations you use. We are not just consumers and we are not powerless. Join your places and start tracking their progress in making a more beautiful Salem.

What is a splendid place?

It's purpose is more than making money and also beyond providing a satisfying product or service. It serves the true well-being of customers and the community.

What is a not-so-splendid place?

It is excessively or aggressively commercial. It harms its customers. It preys on envy, lust or greed. It mistreats workers, and abuses the environment.



The Ike Box: More than a cafe

By Tim King

The Ike Box is a wonderful café in a historic building, with comfortable seating, good drinks – and a mission way beyond coffee.

It is a mission that helps people who are falling through the cracks. Behind the counter you will find young people engaged in the Ike Quest to live with “intentionality, intelligence, and spirit.”

In the words of the founders, Mark and Tiffany Bulgin, “We believe that there are ways to inspire the under-inspired young person, and that this is the way to break the cycle of faltering families resulting in faltering youth, and then producing more faltering families...So rather than write off these apparently shiftless youth as lost causes, we choose to invest.”

The Ike Quest includes programs for shelter and transition housing, viable education alternatives, and training and experience in vital life skills. Their mission is to, “help divested young people build capacity to rise to the challenges of life.”

More at visionarynews.org.

City Council Monopolizes Trash

By Tim King

This edition's Not so Splendid Award goes to a Salem company that operates with impunity from competition, thanks to city leadership.

The only game in town when it comes to trash removal is Republic Services. This results in [less quality and] high prices.

But things weren't always this way. Republic has both very good and very poor reviews, but the biggest criticism is that the business has a monopoly on Salem. This is because the Salem city council drove its competition out of town. Back in 2008, Ken Gotlib, who operated 1-800 Got Junk? in Salem, developed cancer. At that point the city of Salem decided to run his business out of town on a rail.

On August 25th, 2008, the Salem City Council voted to close this highly-regarded business, effectively ensuring that all garbage-related business would be the business of a single company that will never be threatened with competition. Gotlib was quoted by Salem-News.com saying, “We've closed down. We're not taking any more jobs. We're referring calls to the city manager, or the local hauler.”

See salem-news.com for details

Is there a Salem business you love or which needs a little “improvement”?

A place is like a person. Each is responsible for thoughtfulness and compassion in making a better world.

Now you can do something about it!

How to add a Visionary PLACE

Visionary Society Places is an alternative to Yelp and Tripadvisor. Instead of pleasure, profit, property and power, we look at purpose, product, people, prices, and practices.

Step 1: Go to visionarysociety.org and search for any place you use.

Step 2: Click Add to My Places.

Step 3: Browse Requests and Support those you agree with.

Step 2: Add Information about what you know about the place

Step 4: When you visit the place mention the page to customers, staff or management.

Truth is everywhere
Do you have eyes to see
it?
Cure your own blindness

START YOUR OWN
VISIONARY NEWS
Learn how at visionarynews.org

Media Reports Murder by Security Guard Without Addressing Core Problem

Violent crime in Salem

Current event: A grief-stricken Salem family is suing a former security guard for the shooting death of their 25-year-old son. On July 22, 2017, Jose Francisco Moreno Jr. was shot to death by 35-year old Gregory Capwell, a security guard with a history of dangerous and aggressive behavior. Jose Moreno was with two friends heading in a Denny's restaurant when they were approached by Capwell, who told them they were trespassing. Moreno called Capwell a "rental cop." Capwell escalated the situation to the point of shooting Moreno twice in the chest, killing him. Capwell was convicted of murder. Why was this security guard permitted to be in a position of authority, when he had a history of acting aggressively? The Statesman Journal newspaper wrote that Capwell had "a decade-long history of using excessive force." How could a security guard go ten years without being reigned in?

Underlying news

But lack of proper oversight of the security guard is just another link in the chain of violent events that led to Jose Moreno's death. Why is it that Capwell had such a violent temperament to begin with? And why have security guards become so prevalent – in public libraries, government buildings and even restaurants? Whenever there is a violent crime in our community we should not be content to condemn the culprit. We should immediately engage in a process of self-reflection. How did our society and ourselves become so unaware, so miserable, and so destructive? What is it about our own lives – our work, our leisure, and our state of mind – has made this possible?

See more online

Feeding homeless under Marion Street Bridge now illegal



By Tim King

Current event: Officials with the city of Salem have stopped issuing permits that allow volunteers to feed homeless people under the Marion Street bridge in Salem. The city also banned the area as a homeless camping site, saying that the area has become dangerous and dirty and that crime and trash have plagued the area.

Political position 1

Praising the city's move, Salem's local newspaper (The Statesman Journal, WHAT DATE?) thanked city officials for taking the steps to clear out the Marion Bridge area, saying, "So we're relieved the city of Salem tried something different Tuesday when it cleared out a makeshift homeless camp of tents that had sprung up around the support beams of the Marion Street Bridge downtown."

Political position 2

The city has agreed to offer social service providers TIM I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS to members of the homeless camp under the bridge, but services are insufficient. For example, Salem's Union Gospel Mission currently provides help to men only. There is not a single facility in Salem that offers homeless women a safe place to spend the night. Also, the city requires temperatures to drop to dangerously low numbers before the city will allow warming shelters to open.

Underlying news

Homelessness is caused by deep structural forces – not only the system itself, which marginalizes those who are not embedded within the system, but also the general state of mind of the populace.

All people have the right and responsibility to exercise their own will, independence, courage, time and money to help others. Criminalizing this most basic human function – compassion – is a striking form of dehumanization

Find out for YOURSELF using the Homelessness Topic at visionarysociety.org/topics.

Tier 3 Personal message

"I have been a part of Visionary Society since we formed a nonprofit in Haiti over 13 years ago, working with people in extreme poverty. I look forward to friendship and partnering again with with people in need. I feel Visionary Society will help create a better humanity."

Jennifer Johnson, genisenow@hotmail.com

It's impossible to find news about Venezuela



By Tim King

They say the first casualty in war is truth. Truth never had a chance when it comes to understanding what is happening in Venezuela or the U.S. intervention there. Agenda-driven news obliterates the real facts on both sides. Venezuela's embattled President, Nicholas Maduro, has been under heavy fire for the country's slide into poverty. News outlets blast Maduro and his socialist, Bolivarian politics, casting blame for the increasing economic fragility on the president. On the other hand, a long list of US sanctions have crippled the nation.

Political position 1

Venezuelans starving due to socialism and corruption

Venezuela is in the grip of a severe economic crisis, in spite of its massive oil reserves. This has been caused by the government's socialist policies, as well as widespread corruption. Many people do not have enough food and some are starving. The average Venezuelan has lost more than 30 pounds during the last few years (?). The country has been plagued by violence, and a number of anti-government protests have turned deadly, prompting US President Donald Trump to say that Maduro is running a "devastating dictatorship".

Political position 2

Starving the Venezuelan people into rebellion. Media outlets lie to force create chaos.

President Maduro and his predecessor, Hugo Chavez, have both been truly devoted to the entire national population with their socialist system of Bolivarian politics.

Crippling U.S. sanctions have led Venezuelans to this current state. Rich people are annoyed by sanctions, the poor are devastated and even destroyed by them. Nicholas Maduro is still battling the remnants of colonialism for control of his country. U.S. politicians and media outlets act like vicious dogs ready to tear the nation to pieces. Truth never had a chance when it comes to US intervention in nations like Venezuela.

More at visionarynews.org. Find out for YOURSELF using the Venezuela Topic at visionarysociety.org/topics.

Proud Boys visit Salem Public Library



White nationalist groups assembled at the Salem Library Loucks Auditorium on Saturday, May 18. There was no shortage of animosity. Individuals from both sides nearly came to blows over and over again. Salem Police had established a strong presence and while tensions remained high, all potential fist fights were avoided.

Political position 1

By Tim King

A level of darkness descended on Salem as the groups Patriot Prayer and the Proud Boys demonstrated in Salem. Patriot Prayer is known for calling Native American people "savages". The Proud Boys are essentially a street gang anxious at all times to fight members of the anti-racist and anti-fascist group, ANTIFA.

The groups drew a large response from counter-protestors, who said that both racists and sexual predators were represented by the alt right groups. Many Salem residents I spoke with who were attempting to enter the library were taken by surprise and saddened by the presence of groups associated with hate and racism.

Political position 2 and Underlying news: *Continued online*

What is Visionary Society?

Visionary Society is a new way to look under the surface of the lives we lead, seeking the insight and courage we need to make life in community meaningful. Visionary Society includes Topics, Places, Pledges and Projects. Get started in any part of the site that interests you.

Projects

What do you want to see in the world?

Cooperative Café, Bookstore, Thrift Store – With A Cause

We can restore local control of the industrial, corporate economy. Many people are happy to give away used books and clothes for a good cause. Food is selected from local farmers, producers and artisans. Use profits and resources are used for a social purpose.

Projects are community based and benefit the community. Anyone can start a Project and anyone can participate.

Projects work through direct action by all who support it, using resources they already have (time, passion, skills, talent, money).

Topics

Reach the heart of any issue

What can you do to help the homeless?

Is homelessness a choice? What are the root causes of homelessness? Who chooses to be homeless? Are homeless children safer on the streets? How can we humanize the lives of homeless people?

How to respond to suffering?

"There are three ways to respond to grief. You can cry, you can be silent, or you can turn your sorrow into a song." Abraham Heschel

Enter a mystery
Find the good
Change assumptions
Reach the heart

visionarysociety.org/topics

Requests

Track the progress of businesses you care about

Sell meat from animals that were raised under just conditions

Factory farms raise animals in abusive conditions. Billions of chickens, pigs and cows are exploited in ways that we wouldn't condone if we were given a choice. We realize that these issues can't be resolved all at once. Instead, we are asking you to select one way to start selling meat from animals that were treated ethically.

Most factory-farmed animals have been genetically altered and are unable to engage in natural behaviors. They live in filthy conditions. Sick and suffering animals are neglected

Requests are a new way to interact with the businesses, asking them to be more thoughtful. Is something bothering you about a place you use? Create a Request!

Projects: How they work

1. Visit visionarysociety.org/opportunity/salem/projects
2. Browse Salem projects and "Support" those that interest you.
3. Select a Step that you'd like to help with
4. Become the Coordinator of a Project or create your own.

What is News of the Real?

"Wars in the Mideast based on a delusion!"

Mainstream news usually ignores the underlying causes of the problems it publicizes. News of the Real is a place to reconsider what news is and to present it afresh.

How to create your own News of the Real

1. Go to visionarynews.org and select Submit an Article.
2. What does the media say the news is? (Max one paragraph.)
3. What fundamental problem, question or mystery does this raise?
4. Your brief initial thoughts on a visionary response (to be continued in Topics).
5. Find the difference between the political and the profound — but keep it simple!

PLEDGE FOR SOLDIERS

A Pledge is thoughtfulness about how you lead your life. Explore the Pledge and vote on which Challenges you agree with, even if you are a civilian. We are all in this together!

visionarysociety.org/pledges

Salem soldiers asked for thoughtfulness

Our idealistic, courageous youth exist within a contradiction

There is a contradiction in most soldiers: they are willing to risk their lives for a cause; but they have also agreed to work for the war machine.

EXPLORE the pledge for Soldiers and all those who exist in a society WITH soldier. Go to visionarysociety.org and search for Fight for the Good.

NEXT EDITION: ART & CULTURE

Help prepare for the upcoming Visionary News edition. Explore the purpose of art. Create Requests, Projects and Pledges for all involved.

Go to visionarysociety.org/art to RSVP.

Art is boring!

Current situation: Art found in museums and galleries is static: Its purpose is to make conventional, life bearable. Art is used for self-satisfaction, complacency, and consumerism.

Mystery: Can we combat the collective mind and mass culture? Our culture is competitive, superficial, and violent. Can it serve a deeper purpose (not just aestheticism or politics)? Can it transform, not just satisfy?

Opportunities

What do you want to share with the community?

What's happening in Salem?

Enter any event, opinion, task, etc. that you like. Offer something or ask for help. *Opportunities is Craigslist with heart and mind.*

visionarysociety.org

Add your own news

Walking down the street, going to a store or talking to a friend, have you noticed something a little **out of step**? Something that is entirely misunderstood, something that needs **collaborative thought**? Do you have the beginnings of a **visionary** solution?

Use our simple interface to create a simple brief article. Add your own "News of the Real" at visionarysociety.org/news.

BE THE NEWS!

PUBLISH YOUR ADVERTISEMENT OR OPINION

The tier 2 membership (\$30 per year) includes one business card size item in the printed edition. Share your opinion, plans, dreams or advertisement!

Visionary News is a collaborative community effort.

Visionary News Works!

First success even before first publication. See article on Selco Credit Union on front page.



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