

The Marietta Times

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OUR OPINION

OCEC grant
a promising
sign for MOV

As our region's relationship with SALTECH continues to grow, it is encouraging to see plans for a grant received by the Organization of Clean Energy and Climate. The money from the Marietta Community Foundation will be used to help develop curricular materials to create hands on, on site learning on the topic of an advanced computing center ecosystem.

SALTECH's greenhouse on Gravel Bank Road in Marietta will allow high school students to learn about computing data center systems, why they generate so much heat and how this recycled heat can be used for a variety of applications.

"OCEC is excited to bring this new heat-exchange technology to the Washington County area," Dr. Tao Wu, executive director of the Organization of Clean Energy and Climate, said. "We hope that it will serve as a model of the productive and environmentally supportive approach to capturing heat from the rapidly growing number of data centers throughout the country."

No, data centers are not going away any time soon. For this boom, the Mid-Ohio Valley is positioned to get on top of what that might mean.

"With the help of this grant from the (community foundation), we hope to expand the educational impact of the project throughout the Mid-Ohio Valley and create new applications for recycled heat," said George Baaziger, a member of the project's advisory group.

What a fascinating and important lesson for our young people — and for all of us.

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Trump's pitch to the Libertarian Party

WASHINGTON — Former President Donald Trump had a message for the Libertarian National Convention on May 23: Vote for me or lose again.

The confab appeared split between die hard MAGA fans, who cheered on the former president, and hardcore Libertarians, who booed when Trump took the stage. The mix was perfect for a convention with the theme, "Become ungovernable."

While supporters and opponents shouted at each other, Trump himself appeared relaxed and game for the boisterous evening ahead. He began by noting it was a great honor to be the first president in U.S. history to address a Libertarian National Convention. Cheers and boos.



Viewpoint
Debra Saunders

(Did I mention there were a number of bars in the lobby and full plastic cups in the convention hall?)

Trump started with the admission that some wondered why he came to speak at the convention for a rival third party.

The answer: With 91 felony charges aimed at him, he offered, "If I wasn't a Libertarian before I sure as hell am a Libertarian now."

More cheers and boos. When anti-Trumpers heckled him, Trump coolly responded that Libertarians now had a choice: vote for

him, or get used to "getting your 3% every four years."

And really, Trump's math was generous. In 2016, the Libertarian ticket, headed by former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, attracted 3.3% of the popular vote. Most years from 1972 on, Libertarians claimed less than 1% of ballots.

Be it noted, 1% to 3% in a swing state could be a game changer when the Electoral College vote is counted. Hence the anger that the left has directed at independent candidate for president Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Kennedy spoke to the Libertarian convention at the Washington Hilton on Friday. So the Libertarian Party's big-name speakers this year were the presump-

tive Republican nominee and a candidate who until recently was a Democrat.

By showing up at the Libertarian confab, Trump showed a willingness to fight for the support of voters whom the political class often ignores. He calls them "the forgotten man." With that, Trump's top billing might hurt the Libertarian Party among members, but the move certainly didn't hurt the Trump campaign.

My guess is Trump left the event with more votes than he had before he began his 35-minute remarks. And President Joe Biden seemed to be the last thing on the minds of those in the room.

Since 2013, Trump has been offering Republicans a choice: relevancy over purity. In speaking to Libertarians, Trump has expanded

this choice to the country's third largest political party.

Trump wasn't coy about what he was willing to do to woo the room. The 45th president baldly pledged to place a Libertarian in his Cabinet, as well as to other big shot positions.

"We'll be watching and waiting to see if he follows through on his promises to put a Libertarian in his Cabinet," Libertarian National Committee Chair Angela McArdle said of Trump in a statement.

Do I think Trump will put a Libertarian in his Cabinet if he wins a second term? Yes, I do.

Contact Review Journal Washington columnist Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@reviewjournal.com. Follow @debrajsaunders on X.

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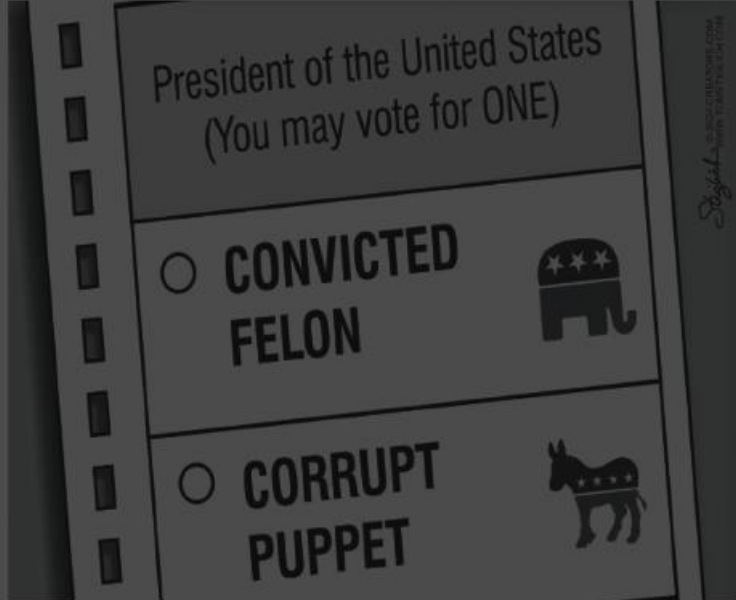
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Hours of operation: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

For after-hour traffic emergencies that require immediate attention (such as signs or road hazard), call 740-373-4141.

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