

THE  
CHRONICLE

## Owner / Publisher

Noel Nash  
noel@chronicle1909.com

## Co-Owner

Denise Nash  
denise@chronicle1909.com

## Executive Editor

Erin Tierney  
erin@chronicle1909.com

## Sales &amp; Marketing Director

Cheryl Richard  
cheryl@chronicle1909.com

## Creative Director

Andrew von Engel  
andrew@chronicle1909.com

## Editor, Graphic Designer

Jen Blue  
jen@chronicle1909.com

## Community Editor

Gini Davis  
gini@chronicle1909.com

## Entertainment Editor

Ron Hartman  
ron@chronicle1909.com

## Contributors

Aliya Hall  
Victoria Stephens  
Dana Merryday  
Yaakov Levine  
Pat Edwards

Phone: 541-895-2197

Fax: 541-895-2361

Online: Chronicle1909.com

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# Our 'connected' world is wire-thin

We are living in a world that gets smaller every day, thanks to technology. And, at an exponentially faster pace.

It was 1995 when I first received a mobile flip phone from my newspaper. As sports editor, I was deemed important enough to be one of the few to have



NOEL NASH

one. I moved through many models during the years, from Blackberries to iPhones to Androids and back to an iPhone now.

In 2011, I was at an in-house company conference where our technology and product teams were rolling out new, "elegant" apps for Apple phones and tablets. It was revealed so breathlessly, I'm sure a few people probably had goosebumps in the room.

Then the company's international VP stood up during a Q&A session, held his Android-based Samsung smartphone over his head, and matter-of-factly declared that 80% of the world uses Android devices.

While some of the goosebumps in the room might have disappeared with the challenge to innovate products for people other than wealthy consumers, I decided at that moment I would change to an Android device the next time I was eligible to upgrade my phone. After all, the department I oversaw also involved international clients and vendors, and it would be good for me to see what the Android phones were like.

Biggest. Mistake. Ever.

It really is an entirely different user-experience over there in Android Land. It was good to peek over the fence, I guess, but I switched back to an iPhone as soon as I could. I had used iPhones for so long it was almost impossible to get past the muscle memory of pushing buttons a certain way.

Now, as a small business owner, I still value technology. So do all of the tenants and business owners in the building we share. And whether it's a multi-platform media busi-

ness, a food and beverage establishment with video gaming machines, or a wellness store depending upon clients calling in to schedule appointments, we're all completely reliant on technology.

We talk about "technology" like it's a large mystical thing, tough to wrap your head around sometimes. Well, at one point, "technology" was a couple of mules who would hee-and-haw across the field, and later "technology" was a phone tethered to the wall with a knotted-up cord.

Today, still, technology is represented by rudimentary things such as wires. Telephone wires draped across the outside of a building. Satellite TV cables, with exposed connections to dishes. And an assortment of wires for online financial needs, or operating Oregon Lottery machines.

While you don't need an "official" wirecutter, they are less than \$10, and you probably don't need to watch YouTube videos showing how easy it is to cut wires and cables; you can disrupt an entire building's business in a matter of minutes. Hundreds of people's lives.

That's what happened to those of us at the corner of North Front Street and Oregon Avenue last week. Randomly, someone cut the wires behind and on top of our building overnight, disabling small business owners — community residents — from doing our job serving the local public.

In this great, big, sophisticated, technologically-connected global world, we remain so vulnerable. All it takes is a couple of snips in the night.

Our many thanks to Al Bennett, our landlord who responded immediately, and to Fred, a humble supervisor with Spectrum, who couldn't have worked with more urgency to resolve the issues in a friendly, professional manner.

Noel Nash is publisher of *The Chronicle*.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Timeline 1909-1935

1909 — The Chronicle published its first newspaper.

1909 — A concrete building went up this year on the northeast corner of Oregon Avenue and First Street and housed Creswell Fruit Growers Bank and Depository.

The Chronicle published a four-part series in September recognizing the paper's 110th birthday.

## Incorrect use of words perverts history

Dear Editor,

Last week driving into Milton Freewater I noticed the city water tower with the message "Settled 1868." The message should be changed to "Colonized 1868."

When I read the Sept. 26 Chronicle, the first article stated "Creswell area began to be settled in 1845," which is an affront to Native Americans who have been settled here for over 10,000 years.

The arrival of white occupiers should be stated as occupation or colonization. Incorrect use of words perverts history.

Ed Gunderson  
Creswell

## 'You're not from around here'

Dear Editor,

"You're not from around here."

It's something we often hear and say when someone new shows up. Funny, most of those who actually say it aren't from around here themselves.

People come and people go, but it seems that what we call "home" nowadays is different for many.

To me, having been born here — 12 miles away, as were my parents and half my grandparents — I think I'm from around here. But the time it takes to be "from around here" is in serious flux and can range anywhere from yesterday to forever.

However, what does seem to be the same is that someone "not from around here" may be the best champion for trying to keep things the way they were, and that someone "from around here" may also be the biggest threat.

Take some of the larger cities, for example.

Hiring a big city police chief with lots of experience seems like a great way to head off gang activity or drug trafficking. But it seems that it has brought in more of

the same issues they wished to head off.

You might even notice many local cities hire big city planners, thinking they know more and have greater experience in growth and handling the bigger issues. Then we find ourselves with public parking for subcompact cars while 30% to 40% of us that drive full-size pickups can no longer park anywhere.

I hear they call that progress.

On the flipside, say we can find ourselves with a mayor that may nearly bury the city, and it's the guy "not from around here" that saves the day.

We might even get a new local newspaper owner with a different outlook than readers are used to. Sometimes change is good, and a different perspective is what we really need. And all the while, what we're really looking for is truth and honesty. There may actually be a story there somewhere, and maybe "first names" are a great place to start.

So being "from around here" seems to be something earned not given.

Whyat S. Ocumpaugh  
Creswell

## GUEST COLUMN

## 5G will revolutionize life — and unleash potential threats

BY BABAK D. BEHESHTI

What once seemed like science fiction will soon become reality. Doctors will perform surgery from thousands of miles away using remote-controlled robots. Self-driving cars will zip through traffic.

This is the promise of fifth-generation wireless technologies, or "5G." Internet users will download up to 10 gigabytes of videos and documents per second — one hundred times faster than existing 4G networks. The ability to transmit vast quantities of data virtually instantaneously will revolutionize our lives.

But 5G will also unleash new security risks. Hyperconnectivity will give cybercriminals and hostile foreign countries more opportunities to hack our devices and networks, imperiling our wealth and our lives. It's crucial that regulators, companies and consumers start shoring up their defenses — fast.

5G smartphones are already commercially available. The big four cellular carriers — AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon — provide 5G service in select cities. Within five years, 5G will cover 40% of the global population.

The spread of 5G will accelerate the "Internet of Things" — devices such as thermostats, fitness monitors, refrigerators, alarm clocks, lightbulbs and even dog collars that connect to the Web.

This enhanced connectivity will make daily routines more efficient and convenient. But it'll also open the floodgates for cyber-criminality.

Imagine the opportunities criminals will enjoy once every electronic device is 5G-capable. Burglars could hack smart thermostats — which "learn" when families leave their homes — to discover when the house may be empty. Predators could hack 5G-connected security cameras to peek into children's rooms.

Criminals have already hijacked 4G devices.

In 2016, the infamous "Mirai" botnet took control of 300,000 internet-connected devices to launch a massive denial-of-service attack that knocked out internet connection for most of the Eastern Seaboard.

Imagine these same actors obtaining control of 5G remote-controlled surgery machines, delivery drones or automated cars. The possibilities are endless.

Sensible government regulations can prevent such

*This enhanced connectivity will make daily routines more efficient and convenient. But it'll also open the floodgates for cyber-criminality.*

abuses. Some lawmakers have introduced legislation calling on the President to develop a strategy for 5G security. But we need to do more.

For one, it's imperative that officials establish an independent regulator exclusively focused on the 5G rollout. That regulator must have the resources to develop advanced security measures and anticipate and respond to potential future threats.

The existing patchwork of outdated rules and agencies won't do.

Regulators should also mandate that all "Internet of Things" devices have built-in 5G security protections and encrypted data transmissions. Too often, private industry ignores the threat of cybercrime to cut costs.

As mobile operators rebuild their network infrastructure to accommodate 5G, they need to ensure that the entire data chain contains robust, easily updatable security features.

Consumers can strengthen their own defenses by taking a few simple precautions.

People must change default passwords of their 5G-connected devices; even amateur hackers can easily figure out the factory settings of home devices. Similarly, owners should regularly update their software — new firmware typically includes upgraded security features.

A dose of common sense also makes a difference when it comes to seemingly harmless data sharing.

A hiker who uses her 5G smartwatch to share a geolocated Instagram post of her morning trek could inadvertently allow strangers to track her movements.

5G represents a leap forward as groundbreaking as the invention of wireless itself. But we're not nearly prepared enough to deal with the security risks.

It's critical consumers, companies and governments change that.

*Babak D. Beheshti is professor and dean of the College of Engineering and Computing Sciences at New York Institute of Technology. This piece originally ran in the International Business Times.*