

From the desk of the mayor: Mayor Meadow Martell

Can you believe this weather! I really hope you are able to take advantage of the sunshine. Sunday, I took a walk at Rough & Ready Wayside. This is an incredibly special place where you can see an amazing variety of colorful wildflowers in bloom now. Even though there were several cars in the parking lot, I hardly saw anyone. The walk is easy. My neighbor has done it with his walker. The fresh air, sunshine, and beautiful flowers really helped to lift my spirits.

This is Week 6 since Governor Kate Brown issued Executive Order 20-12 March 23. All the measures that have been put in place and the sacrifices that Oregonians have made

to follow the COVID-19 guidelines has made a real and significant difference. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) website, <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>, has very reliable information. There you can locate the Data Dashboard where you'll find information on what it means to "flatten the curve", and find daily updates, weekly reports, and community resources on a number of topics. A new campaign, called "Safe + Strong", was launched April 23rd. Safe + Strong is a statewide effort to reach communities most impacted by health disparities with cultural relevance, and linguistically responsive resources. You can get more information at <https://www.safestrongoregon.org>.

Big news last - Governor Brown introduced a draft reopening Oregon: A Public Health Framework for Restarting Public Life and Business. Based on President Trump's Opening Up America Again Guidelines, the draft has some Oregon "twists" but still needs to be thoroughly reviewed and modified to better meet the needs in Oregon. Basic parts to the plan are:

- **Three components to open the gate:**
 - o Symptoms-declining numbers
 - o Cases- declining numbers
 - o Hospital capacity- regular procedures and adequate testing
- **Three core components that**

need to be in place:

- o Robust testing and contact tracing
- o Health care system capacity, including PPE and surge capacity
- o Plans for health and safety
- **Three Phased lifting of restrictions: Phase 1; Phase 2; Phase 3**

No dates have been proposed and implementation will be slow and methodical, not a quick return to business as usual. This will probably be phased in on a county by county or regional basis as the gating criteria are met. There will be a lot more information coming out over the next few weeks. Oregon is setting politics

aside and in Governor Brown's words "developing a path that relies on science and facts to determine each step forward." There is a faint light at the end of this long tunnel, folks, and we all need to be patient and continue practicing safe COVID-19 guidelines.

Here on the home front it has been pretty quiet. The city is working with the CJ Homeless Alliance to identify good temporary locations for Porta Potties and hand washing stations. As of Saturday, April 25 there have been 20 total positive COVID-19 cases and 1,053 negative tests. The good news is that our curve is looking flat. Let's keep up the good work!

County outlines comments from citizens process

On Friday, April 24, Josephine County submitted a press release with information about how citizens can stay engaged with the Josephine County Board of Commissioners (BCC) during these difficult times. Those wishing to call in to a weekly business session (WBS) during the public comment portion are asked to give notice by emailing bcc@josephinecounty.gov by 4 p.m. the day before the meeting. Write "Zoom Public Comment" in the subject line and provide your name, general area of residence (e.g. Josephine County, Grants Pass, Cave Junction, etc.) and phone number if you are interested. A staff

member will then contact you for confirmation and provide you with a phone number to call in to the meeting. On the meeting date, those giving public comment will need to call in no later than 15 minutes prior to the meeting, at which point they will be put on hold until the portion of the meeting designated to requests and comments from citizens. Those waiting can watch the meeting separately on the county's YouTube channel. All standard meeting rules apply.

If you'd rather not speak you can email the address above a message not exceeding 400 words in length, and

one of the commissioners will read it into the record at the designated time. Rather than "Zoom Public Comment", write "Public Comment" in the subject line of your email if this is your preferred method. Remember to provide your name and residency and submit your comments by 4 p.m. the day before the WBS. If you miss this deadline your comment will be read at the next session.

The press release concluded by stating, "The BCC thanks the citizens of Josephine County for their patience and understanding during these unusual times."

Obituaries Eating Crow: Corrections

Harley L. Stow, 88, of Grants Pass, died April 20, 2020 at his home.

Harley was born October 18, 1931 in Springfield, Colo. to Theodore and Grace Stow. He moved with his family to Oregon and attended school in O'Brien and Kerby. In November 1950 he joined the United States Navy serving honorably during the Korean War until his discharge in August 1954. He then had a small logging company along with this dad and brother. In November 1955 he met his future wife Stella Freel and they were married January 1956 in Reno, Nevada. In 1958 he moved to Crescent City, Calif. and worked in Debold's Redwood Sawmill

in Smith River. After getting Redwood poisoning in his lungs, he moved to the Sacramento area where Harley worked in construction until his retirement in 1988. In July 1988 he moved first to White City, Oregon to be near his daughter, then to Grants Pass July 1998.

Harley was a member of the Grants Pass Elks Lodge. His hobbies included reading, woodworking, hunting, and crossword puzzles.

Harley is survived by his daughter Susan L. Fullerton of Medford, Oregon; sister Ida Mae Osburne of Crescent City, Calif.; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; sister Mabel V. Stow; and brother Joe L. Stow.

Private interment will be at Eagle Point National Cemetery.

Please visit the obituary and sign the family guest book at www.since1928hull.com.

David Soukikian, 68, of Cave Junction, died April 19, 2020 at Asante Three Rivers Medical Center. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

In the article entitled "It's springtime at the Rough and Ready Botanical Wayside" by Iris Chinook in last week's edition, we said that the trail was rocky. We should have said the trail is "crushed granite" and that it is wheelchair accessible.. We regret the error. Thank you for picking up this week's paper.

Letters to the editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor. Please e-mail them to dan@illinois-valley-news.com

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(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers.)

Inquiring Minds Want To Know

I have noticed that over the last few months there have been a number of articles and letters to the editor in the *Illinois Valley News* that have made mention of the controversial topic of toxic herbicide spraying on public rights of way by the City of Cave Junction. The March

4th, 2020 publication had a front page article "City discusses homelessness and spraying" by Laura Mancuso which details the two major topics that were brought before the CJ City Council at a workshop held at City Hall on February 24th. On page A9 the subject of roadside spraying is discussed and it was revealed in the article that the City was hiring a certified spraying company to perform the application of chemical herbicide to the rights of way within the city limits (ditches, sidewalks, etc). It goes on to state that "...the City of Cave Junction Public Works Dept doesn't have the capability of being trained and certified for the spraying in the next 30 days."

It seems that the city has been dragging its feet for 5 months on the certification/training process. In early November of 2019, an Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) investigation found the City of Cave Junction in violation of ORS 634.372(4) and ORS 634.372(8). This can be referenced in ODA case No. 190623 through a public

records request with the ODA. Evidently the city has been spraying toxic herbicide for an undisclosed period of time "unlicensed" and "...in a faulty, careless or negligent manner.". If the City and Public Works Dept has been informed of their negligence and incompetence since November, why has the city waited so long, knowing that they would need to be prepared for the upcoming "season" for herbicide application. I guess someone at City Hall must have dropped that ball...

It seems to be quite a frivolous expenditure to hire a contractor when you already have staff available that just need to be trained and certified. Mayor Martell stated in the audio minutes of the March 9th city council meeting that "I have a responsibility to look at what the city's resources are." (37:50) Perhaps Mayor Martell could dedicate some ink in the next publication of "From the desk of the Mayor" and explain to inquiring minds how this private contractual herbicide spraying arrangement is a prudent use of her constituents tax dollars relative to the cost of a non toxic

alternative applied by city staff to these same rights of way.

During Mayor Martell's comments in the above mentioned March 9th audio minutes posted on the city website, starting at time stamp 40:40, the Mayor states that the estimated cost per household to have the option of a non toxic weed control alternative would add \$3.30 per month (11 cents/day) to each property's water bill. That adds up to \$40/year per property to pay for the option to not be poisoned (extortion at it's finest!). Mayor Martell, how can there be any question as to what course of action to take? Please take your head out of the sand and start boldly leading the city of Cave Junction. That is your job, paid or unpaid...you are not a "volunteer" but in fact are the top elected city official with the power to prevent further damage to your constituent's health and well being regardless of misinformed recommendations from city staff. You have the chance to do what is right and put Cave Junction on the map for something everyone can be proud of.

According to the Center

for Disease Control (CDC) website, from 2012-2016 there were over 3000 new cases of cancer reported in Josephine County and nearly 1400 people died of cancer during that same time period <https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/DataViz.html>. How is it that our elected officials are mandating that everyone "Stay Home, Save Lives" during a worldwide "#Plandemic" so that we can "Flatten The Curve" but don't have the bravery and integrity to choose to immediately implement changes to the current plan for Integrated Pest Management to attempt to flatten the curve on the local (and global) cancer epidemic? What if we addressed the cancer epidemic with the same level of intensity and cooperation that we see being implemented for "Covid-19"?

Of course, the reasons why this conversation is not taking place is a topic for a different day.

Sunrise Ocean Cave Junction

Attn IV citizen pet owners:

Have you had a pet or livestock die of cancer, stroke, heart attack or a strange unexplainable illness in the last 2yrs? Would you be willing to have the chart notes compiled to submit the medical evidence to Oregon Health Authority and the CDC to help prove the cancer cluster that has developed in our valley, due to the increase use of poison in our forests that is poisoning our water supply, us and our pets and livestock?

Dr Joe's pet hospital will need your permission to release the chart notes, so they can help us to put an end to this madness.

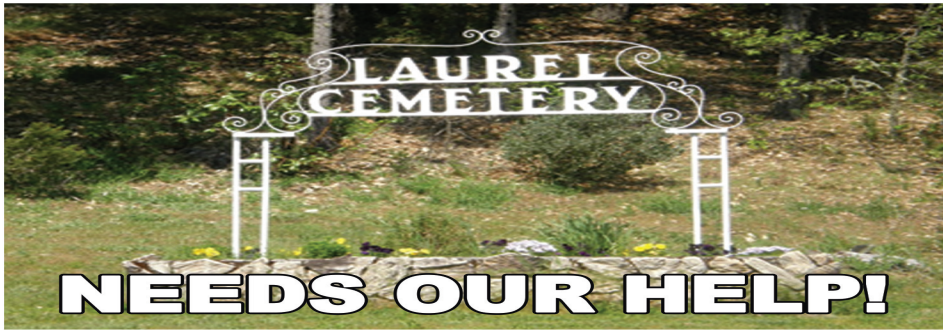
A slew of dogs have contracted the same lung cancer in the last 3 mo. It's because we all are being poisoned for someone else's profit. They are committing unlawful human experimentations. Are we willing to pull together to put an end to this?

Nina Horsley Cave Junction

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