

Office of State Fire Marshal extends self-serve gas rules change to May 23

News release from Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is extending its temporary rules change allowing Oregon gas retailers to provide self-service on a voluntary basis, in order to address worker shortages at stations

statewide.

Today State Fire Marshal Jim Walker extended the deadline from May 9 to May 23.

"We want to thank Oregonians and Oregon businesses for adjusting how they fuel up their vehicles and serve customers with this extension of rules suspension, which al-

lows for self-service at Oregon gas stations," said Walker.

Station operators will continue to have flexibility to manage their operations and ensure refueling is safe for customers and service station attendants, while keeping stations open as COVID-19 impacts fueling stations' workforce.

workforce.

This extension of the self-service rules change does not impact areas of the state that are already authorized for self-service refueling under state law. Information about the extended rules change for self-service gasoline can be found on the OSFM website.

Elk hoof disease found in California for first time

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California's first cases of elk hoof disease have been discovered in two animals in a herd of Roosevelt elk that live in Del Norte County, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife said.

The painful and potentially crippling disease causes deformed and overgrown hooves that can cause elk to limp, become lame and even die, the department said Thursday. Elk with severe cases may be unable to graze, fight off other infections or escape predators.

The disease was first discovered in elk in Washing-

ton state in the 1990s and has since been documented in Oregon and Idaho.

The California cases were confirmed by scientists at Washington State University.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife said the disease is highly infectious among elk but there's no evidence it affects humans.

Hunters, however, were urged to use safe hygiene practices while processing, cooking and consuming meat from elk that have signs of deformed or damaged

hooves.

The formal name of the disease, treponeme-associated hoof disease, or TAHD, comes from an associated bacterium.

California is home to Rocky Mountain elk, Roosevelt elk and tule elk.

Hunters are urged to send hoof samples to the state, and anyone who observes an elk that is limping, lame or has abnormal hooves can report it on an agency disease and mortality website.

FIRE ...

Continued from A-1

After his verbal request was denied, he submitted a formal public records request—different from a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in that a response is not bound by law—twice and was denied both times. Price then asked other statewide district fire

officials and special district association representatives what they thought of the situation. All parties queried not only agreed that access should not be restricted but "...that it truly is a mandated obligation for board members to have such access," said Price.

"Denial of access to the bookkeeping by a board member is perplexing. This is especially true during

the present 'budget season' planning when knowing exactly how and why the district's funds are being expended is so critical to accurate and proper budgeting. Proper planning is even more critical during this COVID-19 period when obvious cuts will be necessary due to an expected tax revenue income downturn from the taxpayers. Every penny is going to count

heavily in the coming damaged fiscal climate. The district's coming budget will need to be severely restricted if prudent and cautionary fiscal planning is applied," said Price.

On May 5, current Fire Chief John J. Holmes said in a written statement, "The district follows state law and seeks legal advice when we decide whether or not to release public

documents. Since I was not the chief when the request was made, I cannot speak directly to Director Price's previous public records request. However, the district did recently offer Director Price several opportunities to review the requested records, including: an offer to review our financial records with staff present, an offer to review the paper copies of the requested financial records,

a suggestion that he make a motion at a board meeting so that the entire board may discuss and vote on releasing the records, and a suggestion that he make another public records request so we can re-address the issue. To the best of my knowledge, Director Price was not interested in any of these options."

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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The "News" reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.

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

Lions make announcements

The Illinois Valley Lions Club has a few

announcements. First, if you haven't heard, or noticed our signs in the window of the former Umpqua Bank building, we were blessed to be given the building in an extremely generous donation by Umpqua. Please note that the ATM will remain for your convenience. We are very grateful. Due to the COVID virus we need to adapt and adjust to remain viable. We

have watched the events we attend to sell motorcycle raffle tickets being canceled. This raffle generates a large part of our fundraising, and if continued would quite possibly lose money. For that reason we are suspending the raffle until next year. Any fundraising project requires money to be spent in advance for advertising, shirts, trophies and such. If

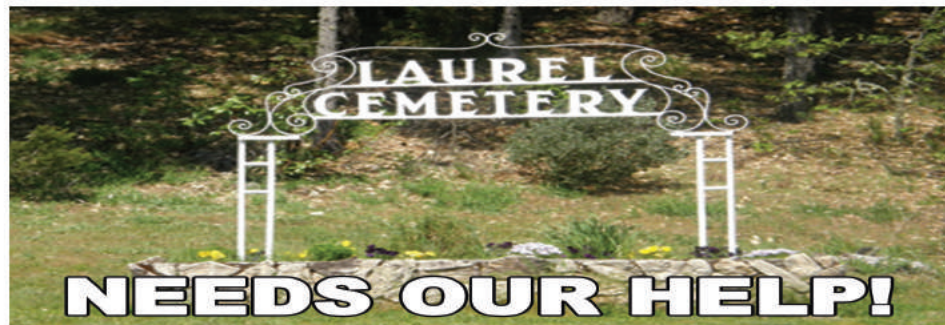
the event is canceled, that money is lost. For these reasons, and not knowing how the epidemic will progress, we have decided to cancel the cars show scheduled for the last Saturday in June. We look forward with hope to the return to some kind of normalcy. We love this community and encourage everyone to stay safe, heartfelt thanks to our first responders,

healthcare workers, pharmacy and grocery employees, truckers and all still working to keep America going. Last but not least, our friends and supporters! We will closely follow conditions and keep you informed going forward toward Labor Day.

I.V. Lions Club

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NEEDS OUR HELP!

Like us and follow us on Facebook **Laurel Cemetery Association-LCA @justlaurelcemetery**

Let's pitch in and help preserve and maintain the historical integrity and beauty of the Laurel Cemetery.

Donations can be made outright, a bequest, or in the honor or memory of a friend or family members.

Call 541-415-5294 or email just.laurel.cemetery@gmail.com

Save the date

Local forums via phone conferencing are taking place Sundays and Thursdays from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.. Dial in number is: 712-775-7035, Access Code: 932589# follow prompts. Purpose: review current COVID and Fire Season information, relate local experience, and share support. Governor's plan for Phase one, relaxing of restrictions, is scheduled for May 15. Our local governments request input from businesses to assist in organizing protocols sensibly to work for them. What is your plan? How's it working? We'll end sessions covering Fire Season, which started May 1. Guenter Ambron @ 541-415-1929 or ivwatch541@gmail.com

May 21 - 24

Boatnik CANCELED due to COVID-19

June 17

CEEN has scheduled the Helicopter Survey for Alyssum for June 17. We will be searching in areas where Alyssum has been found or suspected, and following Rough & Ready Creek and the Illinois River. The survey is scheduled when Alyssum will be in peak bloom so it can be seen from the air. Alyssum murale and Alyssum corsicum were planted in the Illinois Valley by Viridian, a company from Texas, in a failed experiment to pull nickle out of the soil. Plants escaped the fields and is now listed as a A rated weed in Oregon. Alyssum is toxic to wildlife and livestock due to the accumulation of heavy metals. The survey is funded by a grant from the Oregon State Weed Board.

Through May 31

Cobra Lily: a review of southwest Oregon literature and art is a print journal celebrating our region. Consider sending your fiction, poetry, memoir, essays, history, interviews with interesting locals, photography, paintings, and more (i.e. don't feel limited to these genre suggestions). Work should focus on the nature and culture of Southwest Oregon, or at least be the work of people who live in and love our region. The submission deadline for Volume 6 is May 31, with publication planned for late summer 2020. Work can be emailed to cobralilyreview@gmail.com. Contributors receive 1 free copy and a discount on additional copies. More information at CobraLily.org.

Ongoing

***The Food Bank at Doug Hoskins' Re-**

source Center/ Assembly of God Church is still open at 481 S. Junction Ave. in Cave Junction Mondays from 2-4 p.m. The new procedure is to line up in your car and a box will be brought out to you. (Directions are available on site.) If you are vegetarian or other special needs a specific box will be brought out to you in your car.

***The Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance** is excited to announce the launch of our after-hours Crisis Line which can be reached at 541-415-9367. The new local crisis line will be answered any hours the Safe House is closed. The line will be answered by an advocate who will be able to respond locally, also recognizing the barriers that may come up due to our rural location. For more information contact the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance 541-592-2515.

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