

From the mayor’s desk: by Meadow Martell



It is easy to lose track of time when the world and our lives are out of their usual order. Jan.

30 World Health Organization declared a public emergency and Governor Brown’s First Declaration of Emergency Due to Coronavirus was signed March 8. That was 23-28 weeks ago, depending on how you count. Oregon had 14 coronavirus cases. As of Aug. 8, the state has a total of 21,010. Josephine County has 114. Our total was just 24 when the county moved into Phase 2 reopening in May. We are fortunate that Josephine County’s positive rate is still relatively low. Other counties in Oregon are not as fortunate and are dealing with a more rapid spread of the corona virus. Umatilla County has moved back to Baseline Status and Morrow County has moved back to Phase 1 status. Four other counties are still in Phase 1 status. Everyone, from the state down to businesses and individuals, is feeling the incredible financial and personal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And the end is not yet in site. Recently I participated in a neighborhood yard sale. I was pleased that it went well, and I felt safe. It was spread out over a large area and people were pleasant and respected the request that everyone wear a mask. Thank you, Illinois Valley. We are stronger than this virus if we stay diligent. The big unanswered question is school re-opening. The highest priority is the health, wellbeing and safety of our students and teachers. The options for opening continue to change as more information comes in. Stay up to date by checking the Three Rivers School District website. For more information about what is happening in our city, tune in every two weeks on Tuesday, 6 p.m. when the city of Cave Junction does a 15-minute update on our local radio station, KXCJ, 107.5 FM. Check the schedule at kxcj.org.

The 2020 Census is important for many reasons. Census data is used to make critical decisions such as where new schools, clinics and roads are needed. The State Revenue Sharing funds, that the city used to provide COVID-19 relief to 30 local businesses and non-profits, is based on population size. Federal funding is allocated based on census data and more than 100 federal programs, such as Medicaid, SNAP, Head Start, schools and school lunches, are affected. In our congressional district, nearly one-third of households have not completed the Census form. So please, fill out a census form. You can complete it over the phone with a Census Questionnaire Assistant, call 1-844-330-2020. I’ll end with this quote of hope: “Life doesn’t get easier or more forgiving, we get stronger and more resilient.” ~Steve Maraboli.

Obituaries



Albert Ollie Wyatt, 88, died July 28, 2020, in Lakeview, Ore. Born May 15, 1932, in Sentinel, Okla., to Clarence and Mary (Powers) Wyatt, Albert was the fifth of seventh children. Like so many

Oklahoma natives from this era, the Wyatts moved to California in 1938 to secure a better life. Albert grew up working with his father and brothers in the family construction business in Orangevale, Calif. He graduated from high school and married his sweetheart, Merrilee Boucher, in 1950. Two sons, Alan and Gerald, blessed this union and Albert enjoyed following his sons’ rodeo and baseball loves as they grew up. Anyone that ever met him knew that Albert was the definition of a businessman. His mind was always analyzing the risks and rewards of any business! He purchased his first successful business, Wyatt’s Market, at age 18 and spent the next 30

years owning and operating several businesses in the grocery and retail sector in Orangevale. In 1981, the Wyatts relocated to Cave Junction where the couple operated I.V. Video before finally “retiring” in 1996. Even in retirement, the wheels were always turning, and Albert found a new challenge with operating a hay brokerage business and loved the thrill of a stocker cattle deal during these years. In 2015, the Wyatts made their final move to be near family in Lakeview, OR. Albert will be remembered as a successful entrepreneur, a loving family man, a life-long San Francisco Giants fan and for embellishing the best stories ever for his grandchildren.

Albert was preceded in death by his six siblings and sons, Alan and Gerald. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Merrilee, daughters-in-law Vikki Wyatt of Lakeview and Debbie Wyatt of Templeton, Calif. Grandchildren and spouses Leigh Ann Evans of Lakeview, Wells Wyatt of Hazelton, ID, Gwinne Porter of Chappaqua, N.Y., Dan Wyatt of Johnston, R.I., James Wyatt of Berlin, Germany, Jay Wyatt of Long Beach, Calif., and eight great-grandchildren. At the family’s request, no services will be held. **Donald Brina Kelley, 88**, died quietly at home in Cave Junction Thursday, July 29, 2020.

He was born in Newhaven, Conn. where later he joined the Air Force and moved to Alaska. He married Judith G. McSparin who was the backbone of his life! Together they owned Kelmac Builders and built many custom homes, later moved to Washington and continued building and serving in the Air National Guard. Donald moved to Cave Junction and bought Country Hills Resort. Together, Don and his wife Judy ran the business together for 23 years. He loved it there. He is survived by his son, Randall Steven Kelley; daughter, Rhonda Lea Waldres; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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Letters to the editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor. Please e-mail them to laura@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.)

Face mask escapades part I
I read with great concern the July 15th letter to the editor from Steven Meyers, about masks. Could this be true?

Could face masks be depleting your oxygen levels? This deserved looking into; I got my wife’s oximeter and put it on my finger. Blood oxygen levels were 97%. On with one N-95 mask and low and behold my O-2 level changed; it went up to 98%. Maybe I needed another mask to prove the theory, so on with a second mask, no change O-2 level stayed at 98%. This wasn’t looking good for Steve’s theory; maybe a third mask would provide the elusive truth that masks are bad for your health. On with a third mask; but still that stubborn O-2 level remained at 98%. Steve, looks like you need to go back to the drawing board and try again; you see my wife has a respiratory problem, that’s why I wear a mask to protect her from geniuses like you.

**John Plute
Kerby, Oregon**

Face mask escapades part II: Market rebels
I was verbally accosted in a market last week; a group of young Americans let me know in no uncertain terms that I was a “Nazi” for following government directives to wear a face mask in public. They chided me that only old people had to worry about COVID-19, totally oblivious to the fact that in JOCO of the 42 open cases 26 are between ages 20 and 29 years old, by my calculation that’s 58%. They made great fanfare of the fact that they were not beholden to big government telling them what, when and how to live their lives. I was pleasantly amused when the group of rebels paid for their chips, jerky, cookies and soda with their Oregon Trail cards. When it came time to pay for the beer and cigarettes the Jacksons came out on mass. I want to thank you “covidiot” for keeping irony alive and well in America.

If you do get the virus and are young and recover I earnestly hope you are not one of the 68% of survivors that manifest heart problems in the future.
**John Plute
Kerby, Oregon**
Response to “Real ‘Mericans for Trump” SERIOUSLY!!!
“Real ‘Mericans for Trump” reads like a very poorly written essay from a 1939 Hitler Youth Camp! I pray the author did not attend school in the valley, because this would be a real black mark against our school system. (Even worse than the “Sweet Cron” signs we drive by daily.) My 100 yr. old father fought in WWII against the Nazis and has repeatedly told me how much Trump reminds him of Hitler. It’s alarming to read the “Real ‘Mericans for Trump” article spewing out that same Nazi rhetoric here in our valley. For a couple of years

now I’ve felt that any adult would make a better president than Trump. I was mistaken. There is a reason Twitter has started to “Fact Check” Trump’s tweets. The man lies incessantly, and the public should be aware of it. Of course, anyone can check one of the many fact check sites available on the internet if they truly were interested. Trump has weakened our world-wide alliances, broken our treaties, and abandoned our allies. America’s standing in the world community has been compromised to the point that other nations no longer respect us or trust us. Trump is hated worldwide. The President’s handling of the pandemic has been despicable. His lack of leadership by not wearing a mask and his encouraging the country to re-open and restart the economy against the advice of his own medical advisors is criminal. This has assuredly

led to thousands of additional deaths from the virus. His comment last week about the death toll, “It is what it is,” certainly speaks volumes about his lack of concern for the average citizen. His main focus is the bottom line of the one percent, and he will say or do anything to stay in power. I, for one, am tired of the endless lies, racist and sexist remarks, and name calling of this self-centered little man. This behavior is more akin to a middle school bully and definitely below the office of President. It is time for a change. Please vote in the coming election, before that freedom is taken away as well. The best solution for our country today would be for Dick Cheney to invite Trump down to his ranch for a bird hunting outing.

**J. Lettis aka Grandpa Peeps
Cave Junction**

Save the date

Sundays, July 19 - Aug. 30
**** Spiral Living Center** is excited to share our latest summer offering, a Virtual Skillshare Series! Over the next 7 weeks we will be sharing short classes filmed by Spiral Living Staff and local mentors from in and around the Illinois Valley. Topics covered will be range from permaculture basics to rural living skills and crafts, as always promoting sustainability in its many forms. Tune in every Sunday at 6 p.m. PST from July 19-Aug. 30 on our public Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/spirallivingcenter) for a link to view the latest film. Classes are free and will be posted for later viewing. We encourage you to follow up with our teachers and support their work. While we miss seeing your smiling faces at our events, we hope that this series provides newfound connection &

inspiration until we can meet again! Spiral Living Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting sustainable and rural living skills in the Illinois Valley since 2006. We currently maintain a wide spectrum of community-reliance programs devoted to food security, alternative housing, energy, medicine, labor, transportation, and communication. We have insights and talents to share so please join us in celebrating our diverse, creative community! www.spiralliving.org

Aug. 22
ELOISE & POP’S Care Closet will be at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 East River St. Saturday, Aug 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will be setting up in the parking lot due to virus. They will be bringing clothing for any-

one in need of them - kids to adult size. The will also be passing out basic packs of school supplies. For any questions please feel free to contact Heather at 541-659-0579 or Dodie at 541-226-2756

Aug. 29
**** Caves of the World.** Learn about caves all over the world and some of what makes the Oregon Caves unique and special. Meeting at the Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) 1241 Illinois River Road in Selma, Oregon. Meeting time: 6:30. 1-hour.

Oct. 9
**** The 5th annual Upcycle Art & Furniture Contest:** Time to get busy. Judging for the 5th annual Upcycle Art & Furniture Con-

test is Oct. 9 at 3:30 p.m. at the Farmers’ Market. Remember – use junk – make something really cool; furniture must be sturdy. Judging and awards will be given at 5 p.m. You can sell your piece if you would like. Judging will be on creativity. You could win \$500 for 1st place, \$300 for second or \$200 for third.

Ongoing
**** The dog walking group** is open for more participants! Monday through Friday we walk our dogs either in town or at The Forks, from 9 a.m. to about 10:15 a.m. Our in-town walks feature stops at local businesses for dog treats. In the summer our Forks walks include a dog swim. Dogs must be vaccinated and masks are recommended. For more info. call or text Becky at 541-660-2032.

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