

From the mayor’s desk: by Meadow Martell



The city of Cave Junction is still waiting on an update from the bankruptcy trustee about the sale of the golf course property. At the Aug. 10 meeting, the Council approved the site plan for a Lil’ Pantry retail commercial building that includes a convenience store, gas station, and car wash. The city is applying for a block grant to help fund the Rockydale Well project. August is back flow testing month for CJ and the Kerby Water District. The city is reenergizing the planning to implement the first two phases of the agreement with the county. These public safety improvements include outdoor lighting and installation of security cameras in the downtown business corridor and improvements to the city’s current streetlight system. Thank you for your responses to the 2020 census. It helps our rural area receive its fair share of federal resources for the next 10 years.

As the coming November elections start to heat up, I thought it might be a good time to review where city government gets its authority. The City Charter is the basic document that defines the organization, powers, and essential procedures of our city. It is comparable to the Constitution of the United States. The charter is, therefore, Cave Junction’s most important legal document.

The first Charter for the city of Cave Junction was adopted in 1946 and in 1948 the city became incorporated in the State of Oregon. The 1950 U.S. Census at that time counted 283 residents. In 2021 it will be 40 years since the charter was last amended. A lot of growth and changes have happened since then and it is probably time to start thinking doing some updating. The charter can only be amended by a vote of the citizens of the city.

It is now week 26, six months since COVID-19 drastically changed our live. As of Aug. 16, there were 23,262 confirmed and presumptive cases and 288 deaths. This also includes Josephine County’s 139 cases and two deaths.

The allowable level of positive test rates to reopen onsite learning at schools is less than 10 new cases per 100,000 people for three consecutive weeks. On Aug. 3, the number reported for Josephine County. Three Rivers Schools will begin the school year online for grades 4-12 and onsite for grades K-3. This is not the time for us to slack off. Please, wear your mask, respect physical distancing and wash your hands. We want our kids safely in school.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” ~ Helen Keller.

The Dirt Road Economist: by Oregon State Senator Dennis Linthicum

Governor Kate Brown has successfully strangled Oregon’s health and vitality through unprecedented overreach regarding SARS-CoV-2. Her actions might have been “well-intentioned” but, regardless, they are fatal.

This year’s number of tragic deaths from suicide is outpacing prior year trend-lines. Additionally, suicide deaths currently exceed deaths caused by SARS-CoV-2. Pneumonia and influenza deaths also exceed SARS-CoV-2 deaths. Hospital utilization rates are being maintained at stable levels which are far below the numbers that would overwhelm our healthcare system. In other words, the SARS-CoV-2 “curve has been flattened.”

But the Governor is not one to be stopped by success. The latest gimmick is a proposed travel ban.

Yet there is no data suggesting Oregonians have been subjected

to SARS-CoV-2 coming inbound from out-of-state sources. Air travel through Portland’s International Airport is nearly non-existent. Counties along Oregon’s borders with other states have suffered far fewer cases and deaths than the metro areas. There is no documented case-count spike due to wagonloads of settlers seeking a new life in our beautiful state.

Instead, U-Haul caravans are headed out-bound looking for freedom in other parts of our great nation.

The Infringements committed by the Governor, with the Democrat super-majority’s blessings, are too egregious to ignore. The executive branch’s preposterous parade of medical elites, bureaucrats and their media cohorts have needlessly frightened the people of Oregon.

In the same manner that an unbalanced vessel is capable of

listing abeam toward the port or starboard sides, unbalanced governments can also tip in either direction. Without balance asymmetrical forces can cause both ships and governments to capsize needlessly.

Together we must stand against these unconstitutional, unwarranted and harmful actions. We must take a courageous stand for our sacred, God-given and Constitutionally guaranteed rights. The People of Oregon have already suffered too many indignities at the hand of the an out-of-balance legislative body, the Governor and the Democrat super-majority.

Now is the time for change because we must bring balance back to oregon.

The following is my press release against the governor’s proposed travel ban:

Governor Brown floats proposed Travel Ban

Linthicum claims the Governor has lost her constitutional footing and is now overboard.

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – Senator Dennis Linthicum (R-Klamath Falls) points to the unconstitutionality of potential travel bans during the COVID-19 event. Governor Kate Brown has threatened to institute travel bans across state lines to further perpetuate fear of the virus.

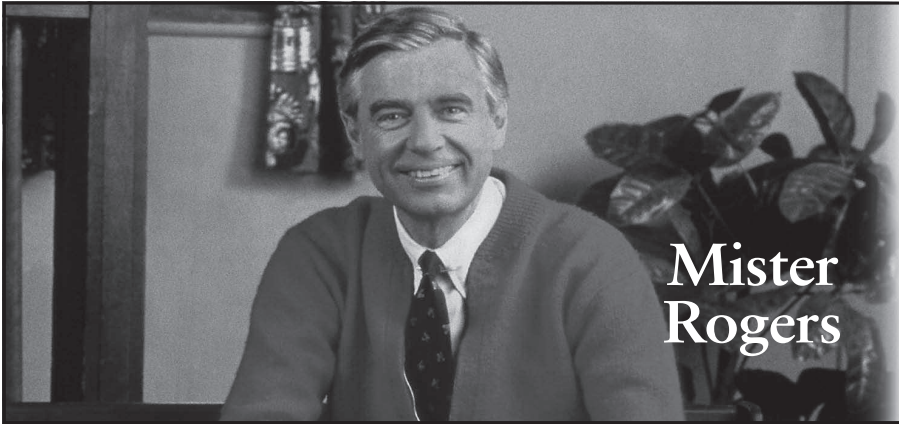
“A travel ban would crush any bit of remaining life out of rural Oregon,” said Senator Linthicum. “If travel has been such a danger to the lives of Oregonians, why did Governor Brown wait until now? Her actions to date are unjustified and completely blind to the social and economic engines of American enterprise.

“Additionally, freedom of

movement is guaranteed by the Privileges and Immunities Clause in the United States Constitution (U.S. Constitution, Article IV, Section 2). Freedom of movement has long been cemented as a fundamental Constitutional right.”

Senator Linthicum continued, “On top of the COVID-19 fear mongering, the governor demeans Oregonians for going to church or hosting a birthday party, while she fails to denounce the violence and callous rage occurring nightly in Portland. Since she condones leftist politics, the violent riots are apparently frivolous get-togethers and not a threat to public health, but somehow, weddings are.

“Governor Brown should be protecting our civil rights, not throwing them away. I refuse to step aside and let the governor continue to take away our civil liberties; our American rights.”



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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/spiralcenter) 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 anyone 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.

Sept. 30
**** 2020 U.S. Census** is due by Sept. 30. Please call 844-330-2020 for English, 844-468-2020 for Spanish or visit 2020census.gov.

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.

I.V. Family Coalition COVID-19 pandemic closure updates:
• **The I.V. Family Coalition** (IVFC) Resource Center at 535 E. River St. is close to public traffic. You can receive assistance from the IVFC by calling 541-592-6139 or email ivfc@frontiernet.net. Department of Human Services (DHS) has a service window you can walk up to.

• **UCAN** (United Community Action Network) services are available by phone at 541-956-4050 or visit their website at www.ucancap.org.

• **WIC** services are not open to public walk-ins. Services are offered over the phone. New clients are being accep4ed. Call 541-474-5333; WIC text is joewic to 85511; or WIC email at wic@josephinecountygov.gov. Check out their facebook page at facebook.com/joesephinecountypublichealth.

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.

**** HIV Alliance** offers services in Cave Junction every Monday from noon – 3 p.m. at Immanuel United Methodist Church (across from ShopSmart). Services include: Free and confidential HIV and Hep C testing. Needle Exchange and drop box (all syringes welcome), and overdose response and Naloxone training.

**** The Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance** after-hours Crisis Line 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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