

MASK ...

Continued from A-1

The Oregon Health Authority is expanding the requirement to now include all private and public workplaces, including classrooms, offices, meeting rooms, work spaces, outdoor markets, street fairs, private career schools and public and private colleges and universities.

In addition, state health officials also said they recommend that people wear masks rather than face shields.

The expansion of mask requirements emerge as the COVID-19 rate of transmission in Oregon has increased.

For six weeks, Oregon's COVID-19 cases were in a downward trend. However, since mid-September, officials warned that numbers were again increasing at an alarming rate.

At the current rate of transmission, Oregon Health Authority officials project that new infections will increase substantially to 570 new reported cases a day and 40 hospitalizations.

On Friday the health authority also submitted a draft plan to the federal government for allocating and distributing a COVID-19 vaccine in Oregon, "once a safe and effective vaccine becomes available."

The health authority's plan follows federal guidance of a phased approach that "assumes a COVID-19 vaccine will be, at the outset, in limited supply and should be focused on individuals critical to the pandemic response, provide direct care and maintain societal function, as well as those at highest risk for developing severe illness."

The plan will allow for broadening of the vaccine's distribution to other high-risk groups and the general population as more doses become available.

RCC ... Continued from A-1

The Kerby Belt Building was donated to RCC by the Masonic Lodge in 1990, which stipulated that the building remain, in perpetuity, both the home base for the lodge and dedicated to educational activities.

The Belt Building currently houses the Illinois Valley Business Entrepreneurial Center, the Masonic Lodge, the Illinois Valley Learning Center, and the Southern Oregon Guild office and gallery.

Steve Lyons of the Masons said of the impending sale, "If you don't have enough students to teach, lay off teachers, don't sell your assets." The college is hoping to sell the buildings and then lease them back, shifting the costs of ownership to someone else while keeping current RCC functions in place.

RCC launched an Illinois Valley Advisory Team to discuss the future of RCC's role in the Valley. According to the RCC statement:

"The purpose of this group is to help us understand the current and future needs of Illinois Valley, changes in need due to COVID-19, and additional locations where we can best serve the entire Illinois Valley community. Membership of the team includes people from RCC, the RCC Board of Education and from the Illinois Valley community which includes: Cameron Camp, Cheryl Johnson, Deelia Warner, Kate Dwyer, Julie Rossi, Sean Taggart, Tanner Smith, Kenny Houck, Jean Ann Miles, Pat Fahey, and Roberta Lee.

"RCC will continue to serve the Illinois Valley. Our intention

is to identify ways to partner with other organizations in the area to bring our services closer to the Illinois Valley population. That is why we formed the Illinois Valley Advisory Team. It will meet Oct. 22, 2020 to discuss additional ways RCC can serve the Illinois Valley, including more locations for our services. We look forward to the advisory team's recommendations."

Current tenants of the Belt Building are less than enthusiastic about RCC's plans. Kenny Houck, business development coordinator of the Illinois Valley Business Entrepreneurial Center (IVBEC), who is on the advisory team, said, "Given the lack of communication and community engagement at this point, it's very difficult to understand the college administration's thinking, especially given the encumbrances in play here. It seems to be very short-term

thinking on the part of the college but I'm still hoping we can arrive at a solution that benefits the Illinois Valley."

Additionally, Houck indicated that the IVBEC receives constant requests to access the commercial kitchen in the Belt Building from as far away as Medford.

That sentiment was echoed by Joyce Abrams, president of the Southern Oregon Guild. "The Guild helped to secure the redirected USDA rural development grant that provided funds to remodel the Belt Building. Right now there is no other appropriate space for an art gallery in the I.V. that includes having a place for people to learn about, create and display art."

The proposed sale follows on the heels of the loss of the I.V.'s community center which was sold into private use by the county in 2017.

Elect Ron Smith

"THE PEOPLES COMMISSIONER"

To Protect & Serve

A man with integrity, who will honestly listen to your concerns.
Someone you can trust to be open and transparent.

He will focus on:

- * Seeking long term funding for law enforcement.
- * Economic growth, assisting & promoting local business.
- * Alleviating the housing shortage, high cost & high rents.
- * Budget and spend the peoples money wisely.

Unlike my opponent, I will not propose new higher taxes & fees.

To Protect & Serve
VoteRonSmith.com



FIRE FIGHTING

Ron's long term plan & use of resources for fire fighting throughout Josephine County.

- * Assistance for victims impacted by fires.
- * Emergency evacuation routes county-wide.
- * Reliable, updated information that's easily accessible.
- * Pre-planned emergency supplies & facilities.
- * Harsher penalties for those responsible for wildfires.

RESPECT
OUR
NATURAL RESOURCES

BY THE YARD:

- DG & Sand
- Granite, River & Shale
- Bark-O-Mulch
- Pumice (2 sizes)
- Washed Steer Manure
- OMRI Compost
- Compost'N Pumice
- Compost Chicken & Pumice
- 50/50 Mix (Chicken & Steer)
- Oregon Mix
- Coco Peat (fluffed)
- WSDA Composted Chicken Manure
- OMRI ROCK'N SOIL POTTING SOIL
- OMRI 1 LOVE POTTING SOIL

BY THE BAG/TOTE:

- 1 Yard Tote
- Perlite (4CF)
- Perlite (60CF)
- Peat Moss (3.8 CF)
- Peat Moss (55 CF)
- Premium Worm Castings

BY THE BLOCK:

- Coco Peat Blocks

BY THE PALLET:

- Peat Moss
- Coco Peat Blocks

DOWN TO EARTH AMENDMENTS

CULVERTS - GARDEN, GREENHOUSE, HARVEST, IRRIGATION & LANDSCAPE SUPPLY - ROAD FABRIC

3/4 MINUS, DRAIN, DRIVEWAY & GRAVEL ROCK

ROCK'N SOIL

541 592 5395

272 N. Old Stage Road

Cave Junction, OR 97523

rocknsoil-oregon.com

@ROCKNSOILOREGON

rocknsoil@frontier.com

Locally Made and Family Owned - Be Green One Tote or Truck at a Time

