

Opinion

Agenda order is a suggestion

Late last year, when it seemed all of Oregon was waiting with bated breath to find out when a certain burger chain would open in Keizer, the city council did an unusual thing - it moved a minor signage approval item for the restaurant to the top of the agenda.

The reason? Two television stations were in town to record the proceedings and they wanted to make the late evening deadlines.

No one at the paper considers our city councilors to be particularly vain individuals, and the television cameras are a rare presence at council meetings. However, consider the same meeting room three weeks ago.

About two dozen residents turned out to hear and participate in the council debate regarding the future of Keizer Little League Park. Those residents had to sit through: a discussion of closed captioning on Keizer's public access television channel, a presentation by Marion County Public Health representatives, a committee report, approval of a bidding exemption; a waiver of fees for use of the Keizer Community Center; and approval of additional dates for the Keizer Rotary Amphitheatre performance season.

An hour and 10 minutes later, discussion of the park matters finally commenced. By then, the crowd hoping to hear the council debate the proposals had thinned to about a dozen dedicated souls. At least one person who had signed up to talk on the matter had already given up and left.

The scene that played out during discussions of the park, in which Keizer residents turn out hoping to take part in city conversations and bail when the council retains a rigid adherence to numerical order on the agenda, occurs much more frequently than Portland TV crews deigning to grace us with their presence. It needs to stop.

The same city councilors who made the crowd wait for the biggest item of the night are the same ones who decry a lack of involvement in city issues. They ask all the time what might be done to better capture the pulse of the city. Then, when residents are there to participate, they are subjected to a seemingly endless wait.

Regular attendance at city council meetings is meager at best, but councilors typically know well ahead of time which topics might attract a crowd. There is no reason they can't re-arrange the schedule. All it takes is agreement of the sitting councilors to do so.

There is likely not any ill will at play, but the continual sidelining of the resident participation is not a good look. It's the kind of thing that feeds into stereotypical views of government and causes people to throw up their hands in frustration.

Councilors are willing to rearrange the agenda when TV time is at stake, the people who actually live in the city deserve no less when they want to be heard.

-KT

our opinion

Public health officials can beat COVID-19 - if the WH lets them

By MICHAEL GERSON

WASHINGTON -- America is entering a disturbing new stage in the coronavirus outbreak. There has been community-spread in at least one and likely two locations in Washington state. And it appears the virus was being transmitted for several weeks before current cases were recognized. So we can expect dozens or hundreds of cases in those locations, unless contact tracing is especially efficient.

The disease is loose and easily transmitted.

The crucial issue now is the real mortality rate, which remains uncertain. The stated mortality is 2%. U.S. experts are hoping the rate turns out to be considerably lower. But the math remains troubling in any case. If only 5% of the U.S. population is eventually infected (which is on the low side of some estimates) and the mortality rate is 1%, there still would be more than 100,000 deaths.

At this stage, the main tool that public health experts have is social distancing -- the attempt to keep as many people as possible in affected areas out of sneezing distance from one another. This means measures such as closing schools, canceling events in theaters and stadiums, and encouraging employees to telework. States and localities ultimately make these decisions rather than the federal government. But according to some health experts I consulted, Washington state should be taking such measures right now.

The goal of these policies is to keep the reproductive ratio as low as possible. When people are in proximity, a single infected person can spread the disease to several others, boosting

the R0 of the disease to as high as 2 or 3 and causing an exponential increase in cases. If the R0 is less than one, the epidemic will gradually decline and stop on its own, with or without a vaccine.

A vaccine, however, would be tremendously helpful. At least 10 coronavirus vaccine development projects are underway, according to American health officials. But the one furthest along at the National Institutes of Health is still about six weeks away from starting the process of a phase 1 trial in human volunteers that will take three to four months to complete and to show (hopefully) that the vaccine is safe and produces specific antibodies. A phase 2 trial will follow and take at least six to eight months to determine if the vaccine is efficacious in people at risk for infection. Then production would need to be scaled up by a willing pharmaceutical company to deal with a global crisis. All this in total will take at least a year -- assuming there are no unpredicted scientific obstacles in the way.

The United States is now faced with two related but distinct problems: dealing with the virus and dealing with the public panic the virus may spark. The current administration is well prepared to handle the virus, and spectacularly ill-prepared to handle the panic.

Upper-level health officials in the administration deserve our confidence. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has the world's best public health professionals. The experts and researchers at the NIH are brilliant and tireless. The Food and Drug Administration will do what is required of it without cutting corners.

And Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar is a mature adult who knows how to manage under stress. Below the level of the White House, the U.S. government is well suited to the difficult task before it.

But our country may be poorly prepared for the panic that is coming. "We are living at a nadir of trust in experts and public authorities," Yuval Levin of the American Enterprise Institute told me, "and we are awash in channels for conspiracy and misinformation." President Trump -- given his own conspiratorial approach to facts -- is perfectly unsuited to lead in a moment such as this. He has shown a strong tendency to trust outside information over inside information, and to interpret any difference between the two as evidence the insiders are lying to him. He might believe whatever he hears on Fox News and deny what he hears from public health professionals. And all this would happen in public view, creating dangerous confusion.

There is every reason to be concerned about how Trump will behave if and when the schools start closing, travel is restricted, big events such as the Olympics have to be canceled and the economy falls into recession. It is a test he is uniquely prepared to fail. His immediate tendency in such a crisis is to assume there is a plot against him and to search for scapegoats. And his flailing failure would only worsen the country's general distrust of authority.

America is better prepared for the virus than for the panic, and the biggest obstacle to containing any panic may prove to be the president himself.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

The lost art of thankfulness

letters

To the editor:

I call thankfulness an art because it certainly is not a natural characteristic of a human being. No one is born into this world thankful - no one, not even that precious little bundle of joy you carry home from the hospital. As a matter of fact, the opposite is true. From the moment he/

she enters into this world, their most notable natural characteristic is to be totally self-centered, absorbed in themselves and demanding to be served. In fact, within those first few moments of life, they have the uncanny ability to teach you how to become their 24/7 servant, because nothing and no one is more important than they are and their needs are many times more important than anyone else's, and if you don't respond immediately to them, you will

hear about it loud and clear!

This goes on for quite some time. The sad fact is that some people never grow out of it and will always be demanding their own way, some even becoming an abusive parent or spouse years later because of this natural inclination toward selfishness.

Each child has to be taught to say "please" and "thank you" over and over again until they remember and hopefully learn as a matter of good manners. At a young age, of course, this is not a heart issue, but simply a necessary obedient act to receive praise and acceptance from others and hopefully develop the characteristic of politeness.

However, as we mature, hopefully we begin to see more and more that we have so much to be thankful for. Life and breath for a start, families, friends, creation itself. The list goes on and on if you just take a moment to think about it. If you just open your mind, heart and eyes and begin to give thanks for it all, an amazing thing happens. The more you practice thankfulness, the more you become aware of all we have to become thankful for.

The other option is to continue in ungratefulness and be a miserable, self-absorbed person. Just look around and see the hateful, resentful, divisive, unhappy people walking around. You can see it on their faces and they can see it on yours.

Why don't you give thankfulness a try? What do you have to lose?

Judy Chappell
Libertytown, Md.



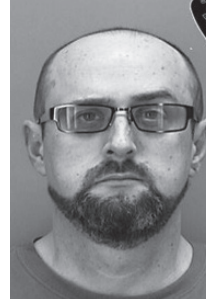
Derek Allen Wells
Arrested Feb. 27 for: Assault, strangulation, menacing
Previous convictions: DUII



David Paul Box
Arrested Feb. 24 for: Hit-and-run
Previous convictions: More than a decade old



Bradley John Mack
Arrested Feb. 24 for: Coercion
Pending charges: Criminal mischief, DUII (twice)



James Anthony Spier
Arrested Feb. 24 for: Assault
Pending charges: More than a decade old



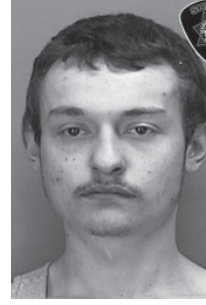
Angela Marie Gwyn
Arrested Feb. 25 for: Theft
Previous convictions: Failure to report as a sex offender



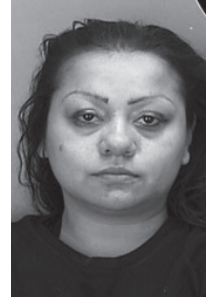
Christha Horne
Arrested Feb. 25 for: Unauthorized use of a vehicle
Previous convictions: None



Manuel Campos Jr.
Arrested Feb. 26 for: Criminal mischief
Pending charges: Assault, DUII, reckless endangering



Justin John Caughell
Arrested Feb. 26 for: Assault
Previous convictions: Theft, unauthorized use of a vehicle



Angelica Raquel Castillo-Romero
Arrested Feb. 27 for: Theft
Other pending charges: Theft (first, second and third degrees)



Rogelio Esquivel
Arrested Feb. 28 for: Assault
Previous convictions: More than a decade old



Justin Scott Kraupa
Arrested Feb. 28 for: Attempting to elude police
Pending charges: Reckless driving, burglary, drug possession



Jeanah Lin Miller
Arrested Feb. 28 for: Burglary
Pending charges: Burglary, criminal mischief



Aaron Edward Tangeman
Arrested Feb. 28 for: Identity theft
Previous convictions: Aggravated identity theft, identity theft (11 counts)



Michael Zank
Arrested March 2 for: Unlawful use of a vehicle
Previous convictions: Drug possession, fleeing police, unlawful use of a vehicle

traffic court

NO LICENSE

Jose Obregon Andres, \$642; Amber D Mayhew, \$100; Michael Benton Perry, \$265; Damien Raymond, \$317; Colten Sean Webber, \$265.

NO INSURANCE

Mary Elizabeth Hart Johnson, \$600; Jennifer Nichole Herriges, \$600; Alan Curtis Jones, \$600; Michael Benton Perry, \$265; Chris Robert Weaver, \$235.

NO PROOF OF INSURANCE

Carlos Alberto Marquez Cervantes, \$600; Colten Sean Webber, \$100; Laura Parsons, \$265.

DRIVING WHILE SUSPENDED

Ines Ambrosio Luis, \$235; Mary Elizabeth Hart Johnson, \$1,258; Jennifer Nichole Herriges, \$1,258; Alan Curtis Jones, \$1,258; Carlos Alberto Marquez Cervantes, \$1,258; Megan Rachelle Roback, \$1,258; Kristina Jean Burnett Vosgien, \$1,258; Brittany Ruth Patton, \$1,258; Candace Dawn Doner, \$235; Amber Jane Parker, \$235.

USE OF MOBILE DEVICE

Misty Sweigart, \$642; Teresa Renee Hays,

\$235; Tracy Lynn Louthan, \$235; Anita Michelle Lowe, \$235; Catherine Elizabeth Andreas, \$235; Kurtis Warren Barker, \$235; Jonathan Jossue Castro Luna, \$235; Candace Dawn Doner, \$235; Isvi Areli Fuentes Barragan, \$235; Jessica Marie Lang, \$235; Micah Ayami Wallace, \$235; Robin Denise Wilson, \$235; Melissa Gail Zager, \$235.

OTHER

Jose Obregon Andres, \$150, failure to signal; Danielle Renee Debusk, \$642, misuse of special left turn; Mary Elizabeth Hart Johnson, \$150, failure to use safety belt; Kristina Jean Burnett Vosgien, \$150, failure to use safety belt; Aaron John Lee Hull, \$642, dangerous left turn; Aaron John Lee Hull, \$600, improper left change; Loren Marcus Slama, \$192, failure to renew vehicle registration; Miguel Solorio Diaz, \$342, no fenders; Athena Marie Torres, \$192, failure to register vehicle; Steven William Barnett, \$115, failure to register vehicle; Victoria Marie Meeker, \$115, failure to use safety belts; Michael Benton Perry, \$167, failure to use safety belt; Jennifer Suzanne Anderson, \$115, failure to use safety belt; Junior W Stallings, \$115, failure to use safety belt.

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