

# Opinion

## Keep up the good work

Keep it up, Oregon. Our social distancing, mask wearing and hand washing is working.

It is good to see people distancing themselves from others when they have to go out to the store or the pharmacy.

As of early this week the state had a total of 690 novel coronavirus cases and 18 deaths. One death from COVID-19 is too many, but so far Oregon has been spared the devastating number of cases and deaths experienced in other parts of the country such as New York.

We are all facing hardships. Schools are closed, probably until fall. The Oregon Department of Education is instructing school districts to implement distant learning for all students. This week Salem-Keizer Public Schools was passing out Chromebooks for all students to connect to online classes. Students of any age can borrow a Chromebook for free.

It remains to be seen how schools will address college-bound seniors, especially those who may still need credits.

Every school of higher learning across the country must work in partnership with school districts to formulate plans for high school seniors to stay on course for receiving diplomas.

Every household with younger children is challenged to find ways to keep their kids occupied during the shelter-in-place, stay home orders. Parents, many who are also staying home, are becoming activity directors, home schoolers and keepers of the calm.

This week, President Trump said the United States might see as many as 240,000 COVID-19-related deaths. Medical experts are reporting that practicing social distancing seems to be having a positive effect.

Until we start hearing reports of decreased coronavirus cases, we all need to keep adhering to the rules living in a time of this pandemic. We may get bored staying home but boredom is a much better result than exposing ourselves

to the virus. When we go out we can protect ourselves by assuming everyone else is infected and every surface we touch has coronavirus.

Though ordered to stay home, we should not forget our neighbors, especially those who are older and those who are shut-ins. A telephone call or email to check on family and friends is important. Uncertain times result in frightened people.

We don't know when this pandemic will run its course. No one has the answer. We could be hunked down for months to come. Life as we know it has already changed and it will undoubtedly change more as we move forward.

What we could end up with is a society that is more diligent about personal hygiene (washing hands more often), a society that demands its governments be better prepared for disasters, both natural and medical and a society that becomes more connected and much less partisan.

Lives depend on it now and in the future. As for Oregon, keep up the good work of following the protocols during this difficult time. — LAZ

### editorial

## Worst-case scenarios aren't the only ones

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

In February, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention held a conference call on COVID-19 and warned, as *The New York Times* reported, that 160 million to 214 million Americans could become infected and 200,000 to 1.7 million might die.

On March 3, the World Health Organization noted that globally 3.4 percent of those infected with the virus died.

These numbers have become frequent talking points—even though they presented an inflated picture based on cases confirmed because patients had symptoms in countries with dubious health care systems. We are living in a news climate where the scarier the factoid, the more credibility it can claim.

"The problem is the experts don't know this number either," Stanford University Medical Professor Jayanta Bhattacharya told me after he became alarmed at some of the high estimates floating around—including numbers that, for example, didn't factor in the effects of social distancing.

And it bothers Bhattacharya that risk assessments see risk only in not following guidelines when there can be risk in following them. "There's mortality on both sides of this," he explained.

I am not an expert—so I'll go along with what doctors recommend. But I can still voice skepticism about dire predictions that the nation has to hunker down for many months, and I can wonder if a multimonth shutdown, which some officials are sug-

gesting, will produce economic outcomes that are bad for human health and longevity.

And I'm open to news that doesn't offer the worst possible information.

As of last week, the mortality rate in the United States was about 1.5 percent—with a patient pool that largely was symptomatic. Dr. Anthony Fauci told Congress he believes the coronavirus mortality rate is 1 percent—10 times larger than the 0.1 percent rate for the common flu.

Bhattacharya sifted through studies, corrected for certain factors and came up with mortality rate closer to one-half of 1 percent—but he won't trust that estimate until there is a study to back it up.

That's not great news, as it portends once-healthy adults hooked up to ventilators and vulnerable people in caskets. We'd all like the magic number to be zero.

The death rate stays on the low side only if health care workers have protective gear and hospitals have beds and ventilators—and that is not a universal situation.

I am struck at one area of agreement between Trump and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Trump told *Fox News* that his goal was "to ease the guidelines and open things up to very large sections of our country as we near the end of our historic battle with the invisible enemy." Trump threw out Easter, April 12, which he later called a "beautiful timeline." Figure, it's a goal.

University of Ottawa professor of Law and Medicine Amir Attaran told *The Times*, "Nobody voted in

## Mankind is up to task to defeat COVID-19

We humans have been roaming the Earth for about 200,000 years. Some ancient civilizations, such as the Incas, the Egyptians, the Mesopotamians and the empires of China, made great strides in a multitude of human endeavors, even having performed brain surgery. It is not known whether any of them knew about the existence of microscopic life or the germs that surround and inhabit our bodies, are found everywhere, in all things, and throughout our planet.

Though great human settlements were established as far back as 10,000 years ago, our ancient forebearers were far from successful at sanitary, healthful living environments. With their lack of sanitation came infections, those infections inevitably leading to diseases. Thus began the long, shared history between human civilizations and illnesses. Our ancestors were exposed to fewer infections and diseases than we are; yet, over centuries, they were eventually plagued by influenza, ty-

phoid, malaria, measles, tuberculosis, yellow fever, small pox, chicken pox and a whole host of others.

Help was hundreds, even thousands of years, in coming. Immunizations, inoculations and vaccinations arrived on the human scene to deal with these and other disease-ravaging illnesses barely 200 years ago.

One such breakthrough for human health in the United Kingdom took place by one keen-eyed British fellow, Edward Jenner. In 1796, Jenner observed that some dairymaids seemed protected from smallpox if they had already been infected by a much less-dangerous virus related to small pox. Jenner thereafter conducted an experiment: scratching the arm of an 8-year-old boy from a cowpox sore on one of the dairymaids, he succeeded when the boy was immunized against the deadly smallpox while Jenner's experiment began the immunization age. Another breakthrough about

100 years later, Dr. Louis Pasteur demonstrated that disease could be prevented by infecting humans with weakened germs. In 1885 he began preventing rabies.

During the last century great advances were made in immunizations. Instances include those of the 1950s when medical doctors Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin made what are possibly the best known of advances in medical science through prevention of polio: up to 20,000 cases of polio were reported every year in the U.S. before the Salk vaccine was available. By 2000 not one case was reported. There were countless others developed during the 1900s, one of which has allowed millions of Americans to avoid influenza by the annual injection of the latest vaccine adaptation every year. Measles formerly killed a half million children every year along while huge numbers of children stricken by other diseases now virtually eliminated by inoculations.

History provides justifiable confidence in the development of a vaccine for the Coronavirus or COVID-19. It will require some time to develop a safe and effective immunization against it, forthcoming as soon as it can be made and tested to determine its safety and effectiveness. Based on what science already knows about COVID-19, it is likely to mutate. Speculation now is that a refresher shot, much like the annual renewal to lessen or avoid influenza, will be an annual event for most everyone who values his health and life.

(Gene H. McIntyre lives in Keizer. He shares his opinion frequently in the *Keizertimes*.)

### gene h. mcintyre

## Monetary support needed at food share

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the *Keizertimes*

At any other time, the Marion Polk Food Share (MPFS) could use any one of three things: financial donations, volunteers or food.

In the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization is narrowing its focus to financial donations.

"Normally, we would love to have people organizing food drives or bringing us barrels from their business, because of contamination concerns and social distancing measures we just can't encourage it," said Rick Gaupo, executive director of MPFS.

MPFS has suspended volunteer activity since the start of the crisis and is waiting for further direction from state officials before bringing the helping hands back. Even em-

ployees are working on skeleton crews to handle donations coming in and food going out to community food banks.

If someone has a semi-load of food looking for a home (See related story *Keizer church* on Page A1), Gaupo is more than willing to find a way to add it to the food share's reserves, but financial donations will go further for the moment and no one has to worry about COVID-19 over the wires.

"If people have food they can hold onto and donate it later, we will be happy to take it, but the logistics right now make it difficult," Gaupo said.

To contribute to the Marion Polk Food Share, visit [tinyurl.com/mpfs-giving](http://tinyurl.com/mpfs-giving), or call 503-581-3855.

## Cherriots suspends service

The Salem Area Mass Transit District is suspending its local and regional service until further notice.

The paratransit service, Cherriots LIFT, will provide life-sustaining trips only, including appointments for medical care and dialysis treatment.

"In the interest of public health and safety, we are temporarily suspending service," said General Manager Allan Pollock. "We are committed to serving our Mid-Willamette Valley customers, but only if we can assure the well-being of both our riders and our operators."

To date, the District has been experiencing significant staffing shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, seven staff have self-reported

confirmation of coronavirus.

During the suspension, the District's buses and buildings will be deep cleaned; operations staff will be placed on temporary leave; administrative staff will work remotely, if appropriate; and other employees will work onsite observing social distancing guidelines. Executive leadership will continue to meet daily to develop a plan that will safely restore public transportation service to Marion and Polk counties.

Customer service will be available to answer questions and provide information by telephone, 503-588-2877, by email [info@cherriots.org](mailto:info@cherriots.org), and social media. Customer service hours are Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### police scanner

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 22

- 3 a.m. - Theft in the 4000 block of Brooks Avenue North.
- 9:29 a.m. - Arrest for violation of release agreement in the 1200 block of Clearview Avenue NE.
- 11:59 a.m. - Shoplifting in the 3800 block of River Road N.
- 5:56 p.m. Motor vehicle theft in the 200 block of Heather Stone Court NE.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 23

- 3:15 a.m. - Unlawful entry into motor vehicle in the 1500 block of Alder Drive NE.
- 8:54 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 6500 block of Wheatland Road N.
- 1:46 p.m. - Identity theft in the 5100 block of Hasbrook Avenue NE.
- 3:08 p.m. - Assault in the 900 block of Dearborn Avenue NE.
- 9 p.m. - Unlawful entry into motor vehicle in the 500 block of Chehalis Drive NE.
- 11:17 p.m. - Arrest for theft from motor vehicle in the 600 block of Chemawa Road N.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

- 8:23 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 500 block of Sunset Avenue N.
- 9:03 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 500 block of Chehalis Drive NE.
- 12:52 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 700 block of Dearborn Avenue NE.
- 1 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 5000 block of 7th Avenue NE.
- 2:47 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 700 block of Dearborn Avenue NE.
- 6:27 p.m. - Computer crime and theft by deception in the 6400 block of Crampton Drive.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

- 3:13 a.m. - Harrassment and menacing in the 800 block of Manbrin Drive NE.
- 8:45 a.m. - Attempt to elude and reckless endangering at the intersection of River Road N and Plymouth

- 9:40 a.m. - Restraining order violation in the 1100 block of Clearview Avenue NE.
- 12 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 3800 block of River Road N.
- 3:25 p.m. - Identity theft in the 4300 block of Adam Court NE.
- 4:11 p.m. - Shoplifting in the 3800 block of River Road N.
- 6 p.m. - Theft in the 3800 block of River Road N.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

- 10:53 a.m. - Assault at the intersection of Arcade Avenue NE and Chemawa Road NE.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 27

- 12:51 a.m. - Assault in the 500 block of Greenwood Drive NE.
- 2:44 p.m. - Methamphetamine possession in the 3800 block of River Road N.
- 2:47 p.m. - Vandalism in the 5100 block of River Road N.
- 6:47 p.m. - Physical harassment in the 1000 block of Cynthia Street NE.
- 7:59 p.m. Criminal trespass in the 5000 block of River Road N.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- 12:43 a.m. - Criminal trespass in the 4300 block of River Road N.
- 1:35 a.m. - Unlawful entry into motor vehicle in the 900 block of Plymouth Drive NE.
- 7:16 a.m. - Vandalism in the 5100 block of Wittenberg Lane NE.
- 6:42 p.m. - DUII in the 5100 block of Courtlyn Avenue NE.
- 9:26 p.m. - Theft and menacing in the 3800 block of River Road N.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- 12 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 7400 block of Sagebrush Street NE.
- 4 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 4100 block of River Road N.
- 4:32 p.m. - Theft in the 4900 block of Bailey Road NE.
- 6:25 p.m. - Restraining order violation in the 4200 block of Meadowbrook Court NE.

### sudoku

Enter digits from 1-9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

9		8	2		6	3	5	
	2							
1			9	5			4	7
		3			2		1	
6			4	8	7			9
	5		1			4		
2	6			3	5			4
							9	
	7	1	6		9	8		3

## Keizertimes

Wheatland Publishing Corp. • 142 Chemawa Road N. • Keizer, Oregon 97303  
phone: 503.390.1051 • web: [www.keizertimes.com](http://www.keizertimes.com) • email: [kt@keizertimes.com](mailto:kt@keizertimes.com)

**EDITOR & PUBLISHER**  
Lyndon Zaitz  
[publisher@keizertimes.com](mailto:publisher@keizertimes.com)  
2019-2020 President  
Oregon Newspaper Publishers  
Association

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**  
One year:  
\$35 in Marion County,  
\$43 outside Marion County,  
\$55 outside Oregon

**POSTMASTER**  
Send address changes to:  
Keizertimes Circulation  
142 Chemawa Road N.  
Keizer, OR 97303

Periodical postage paid at Salem, Oregon

**PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY**  
Publication No: USPS 679-430