

Public Square

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Closing schools hurts kids

By **DEBRA J. SAUNDERS**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had not recommended the general closure of public schools in the spring when panicked governors and local officials shuttered schools across the land.

These high-minded officials—read Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak—weren't listening to "the science," as they claimed. At the time, CDC guidelines recommended closing schools only after an infected person had exposed a campus or in areas of high infection rates—and then only for two to five days to clean and disinfect buildings.

But once the school closures began, they became the default response. American children were deprived of months of critical classroom time to teach them to read, to steep them in their history and help them navigate the physical world—with little pushback.

At long last week President Donald Trump and the American Academy of Pediatrics joined together to snap institutional America out of the stupor.

The academy advocated that educators start the fall semester "with a goal of having students physically present in school"—a gesture meant to throw cold water on school officials considering distance education only in the fall.

As task force member Deborah Birx said, the mortality rate for people younger than 25 is less than 0.1 percent. These rare, sad cases overwhelmingly involve children with other health issues, which means parents would know to keep their children at home.

While the National Education Association and Democratic National Committee have panned opening public schools, ostensibly because they are not safe, remote learning simply hasn't worked.

A recent Clark County (Nev.) School District survey showed that parents, students, school staff and stakeholders overwhelmingly prefer a "full-time return to the regular school day and schedule." All groups

rejected distance education, as well as "blended" schedules of both classroom and remote learning.

This puts the district in a quandary. Administrators want to social distance responsibly -- which means smaller class sizes, and calls for two days of class time and three days of remote education for students.

Will that work? I asked Jonathan Butcher, a senior policy analyst with the conservative Heritage Foundation. "It depends on what they do on the other three days," he replied.

Those most likely to be hurt by closed and half-open schools are poor kids, children in single-parent homes, children with parents working overtime and special-needs students.

Too many so-called leaders have been waving the white flag when they should be ready to accept some risk of student exposure to COVID-19 against the certainty that shuttered schools and half-baked education plans will doom countless children to failure as adults.

The American Academy of Pediatrics warned that keeping kids home and away from school increases the risk of suicide—the second-highest cause of death for Americans age 10 to 24—and depression. That is, the cure could lead to more deaths than the disease.

During a task force press briefing Wednesday, CDC Director Robert Redfield cautioned, "I think it's important that we don't react emotionally, but we act based on data."

Redfield nailed the issue. The slammers of schoolhouse doors prided themselves as adherents to what medical experts were telling them, but they only looked at one set of statistics—the coronavirus numbers. And then they ignored all the ugly, messy fallout. They said it was their duty to keep people safe, and they let all the things that Americans hold dear disintegrate.

The result: Americans aren't safer and their children are being left behind.

(Creators Syndicate)

other voices

Too much at stake

To the Editor:

Do you know who's voting by mail this election? Donald Trump. And do you know who's making it harder for everyone else in the country to vote by mail in the middle of a global pandemic? That's right -- Donald Trump.

He and other White House officials have gone on record with false claims against mail-in voting, even though it's one of the safest options for us to cast our ballots as the country recovers from this pandemic.

In the face of Trump's hypocrisy, I expect Congress to do the right thing and provide both economic relief and expanded funding for no-excuse absentee voting, early voting, and other options to make voting safer this November. These are all common-sense reforms that a

letters

vast majority of Americans support and changes that would help increase voter participation during and after this crisis.

Even though Congress allocated some funds to help states implement these voting reforms, without an additional \$3.6 billion in election assistance funding, some voters may not be able to make their voices heard during one of the most important elections of our lifetime.

We must prevent a situation where voters are forced to choose between protecting their health and casting a ballot—no matter what Trump says.

Congress has the ability to act right now and we need to make sure our representatives know that anything less than immediate action is unacceptable.

Darlene White Keizer

police scanner

THURSDAY, JULY 2

12:31 a.m. - Arrested for driving while suspended in the 5000 block of River Road N.

1:05 a.m. - Restraining order violation in the 3000 block of River Road N.

5:53 p.m. - Burglary in the 4000 block of Crater Avenue N.

11:30 p.m. - Unlawful entry to vehicle in the 6000 block of Birchwood Court N.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

12:06 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 200 block of Russett Drive N.

3:35 p.m. - Sudden death in the 5000 block of River Road N.

8:48 p.m. - Physical harassment in the 600 block of Burgandy Avenue NE.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

9:08 a.m. - Criminal trespassing in the 5000 block of River Road N.

11:18 a.m. - Fraud use of credit card in the 5000 block of McLeod Lane NE.

3:08 p.m. - Theft from building in the 4000 block of River Road N.

5:30 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 6000 block of Ulali Drive

10:04 p.m. - Traffic accident in the 1000 block of Chemawa Road NE.

11:33 p.m. - Physical harassment in the 6000 block of McLeod Lane NE.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

8:12 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 4000 block of Lowell Avenue NE.

9:51 a.m. - Vandalism in the 700 block of James Street NE.

7:37 p.m. - Arrested for criminal mischief in the 100 block of Chemawa Road N.

MONDAY, JULY 6

1:20 a.m. - Criminal mischief in the 6000 block of River Road NE.

9:31 a.m. - Burglary in the 200 block of Ridgecrest Drive N.

3:35 p.m. - Aggravated assault in the 4000 block of Rowan Avenue N.

10:49 p.m. - Arrested for contempt of court in the 4000 block of Chehalis Court N.

TUESDAY, JULY 7

7:30 a.m. - Criminal mischief in the 1000 block of Russett Drive N.

9:49 a.m. - Theft in the 1000 block of Chemawa Loop NE.

9:53 a.m. - Possession of heroin in the 5000 block of Wittenberg Lane NE.

11 a.m. - Physical harassment in the 4000 block of Cedar Court N.

6:43 p.m. - Fleeing a police officer in the 4000 block of Dover Avenue NE in Salem.

7 p.m. - Fraud use of credit card in the 5000 block of River Road N.

10:08 p.m. - Driving under the influence of intoxicants in the 1000 block of Chemawa Road NE.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

4:38 a.m. - Restraining order violation in the 1000 block of River Rock Drive NE.

9:14 a.m. - Fraud use of credit card in the 1000 block of Keizer Road NE.

10:45 a.m. - Computer crime in the 4000 block of Ventura Loop N.

5 p.m. - Fraud use of credit card in the 1000 block of Chemawa Road N.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

1 a.m. - Driving under the influence of intoxicants in the 1000 block of Lucinda Avenue NE.

4:44 a.m. - Arrested for restraining order violation in the 1000 block of River Rock Drive NE.

9:06 a.m. - Stalking in the 6000 block of Rock Ledge Court NE.

9:25 a.m. - Failure to perform duties of driver when property was damaged in the 5000 block of Ulali Drive

4:42 p.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 6000 block of Koufax Lane NE.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

4 a.m. - Theft from motor vehicle in the 1000 block of Hidden Creek Drive NE.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

6:30 p.m. - Physical harassment in the 4000 block of River Road N.

SUNDAY, JULY 12

11:22 a.m. - Physical harassment in the 6000 block of McLeod Lane NE.

Paralyzed veterans hosting golf tourney Saturday

By **LAUREN MURPHY**
Of the Keizertimes

The Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA) are hosting their 11th annual Gold Cup Golf Tournament on Saturday, July 18 at the McNary Golf Club. The funds raised at the tournament go to the OPVA, but anyone is welcome to register.

The cost is \$400 for a team of four or \$125 for an individual golfer. These fees pay for green fees, golf cart and a boxed lunch. Registration is at 10 a.m. and the awards ceremony (observing social distancing) will be at 5:45 p.m.

Because of social distancing guidelines, they are capping the number of participants to 80 golfers, "We're a little over half full right now," said Tom Hurt, executive director of OPVA. In addition to golfers they are also looking for hole sponsors.

The Oregon chapter of the national PVA covers all of Oregon, all of Idaho and part of southwest Washington. OPVA is an organization dedicated to helping veterans understand and receive their full entitlements as a former service member.

"And then above and beyond [helping service members receive entitlements], the chapter has a variety of different programs that we operate on a regular basis," Hunt said. He listed the hospital liaison program (members visiting other members in the VA hospitals) and government relations program (advocating for disabled people as well as for veterans) as examples.

According to Hunt one of their biggest focuses at the moment was the Air Carriers Act, which holds companies responsible for damages done to wheelchairs when flying.

"If their wheelchair is damaged,

when they get to their destination, they're stranded ... we have legs, we can walk away, [but] their mode of transportation is now gone," Hunt said.

The golf tournament is part of their most popular program, the sports and recreation program, where every member gets a \$250 allowance to use for recreation purposes.

"If it's dinner out with family members, they can use it for that. If it's gas for their car to take a road trip they can use it for that. Our main goal is [to show] life's not over just because you're in a wheelchair," Hunt said.

The tournament is a fundraiser

for OPVA, which relies on fundraising and donations to operate. "The golf tournament has always been one of our large fundraising events every year," Hunt said, though he noted that they had to make some adjustments due to social distancing. To comply with the safety guidelines there will be more time allotted for registration to keep attendees six feet apart and the banquet at the end of the tournament will be replaced with a box lunch.

Register and pay online at oregon-pva.org/golf-tournament-registration/. The McNary Golf Club is located at 155 McNary Estates Drive N.

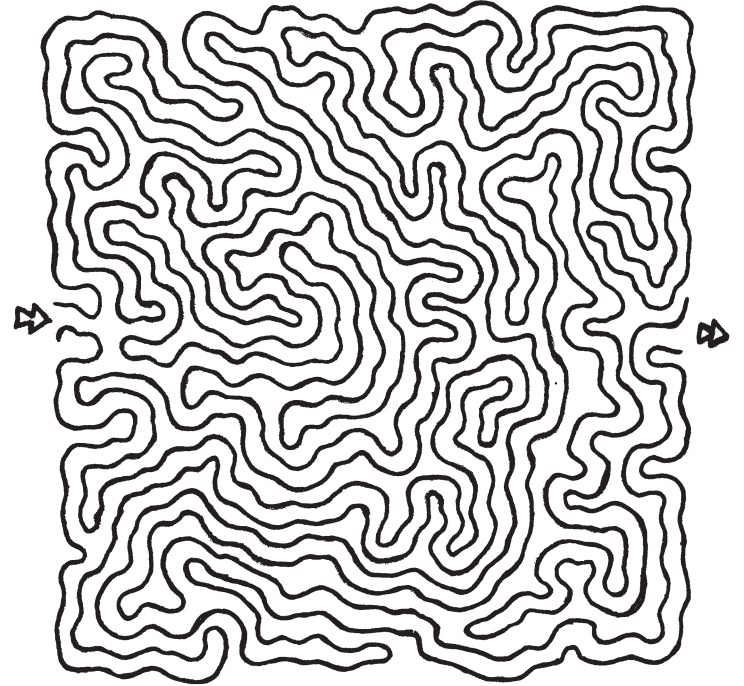
New business loans will be available soon from state

Support for businesses in Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic is available. Financial assistance is available thanks to grants from Business Oregon and the Oregon Community Foundation. Willamette Workforce Partnership will be managing the grant process.

The first round of funding will be distributed to businesses in the three county area with up to 25 employees. The amount of the grant will be dependent upon number of employees and fixed operating expenses. Grant amounts will range from \$2,500 to \$25,000. Applications will be available on the Willamette Workforce Partnership website (willwp.org) on Tuesday, July 21 at noon. Applications will close at noon on Thursday, July 23.

Eligible businesses must be headquartered in Oregon, have 25 or fewer employees, have been adversely affected by Executive Order 20-12 or have a one-month decline in sales greater than 50 percent in the month of March or April 2020. For profit and nonprofit organizations are eligible. If a business has accessed federal CARES Act funding, they are not eligible for this program.

maze



Maze by Jonathan Graf of Keizer

sudoku

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Wheatland Publishing Corp.
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Phone: 503.390.1051 • www.keizertimes.com

MANAGING EDITOR

Eric A. Howald
editor@keizertimes.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Matt Rawlings
news@keizertimes.com

COMMUNITY REPORTER

Lauren Murphy
reporter@keizertimes.com

ADVERTISING

advertising@keizertimes.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER & GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Andrew Jackson
graphics@keizertimes.com

LEGAL NOTICES

legals@keizertimes.com

BUSINESS MANAGER

Leah Stevens
billing@keizertimes.com

RECEPTION

Lori Beyeler



EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Lyndon Zaitz
publisher@keizertimes.com
2019-2020 President
Oregon Newspaper
Publishers Association



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