

On The Record

Douglas County Commissioners release statement regarding 'dismay' over new Extreme Risk designation

In a press release issued Tuesday, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners expressed concern over the county's recent surge in COVID cases, and was "dismayed to learn that our case counts in the last two weeks have prompted the State of Oregon to move Douglas County from the State's Mandated High COVID Risk Level to the State's Mandated Extreme COVID Risk Level, thus imposing stricter guidelines on our residents and businesses."

The board said it "painfully recognize[s] that the impact of the State moving us to the Mandated Extreme COVID Risk Level will be felt the most by Douglas County's small local businesses, especially our restaurants, bars and gyms, rather than by where the most recent rash of cases have been reported (i.e. our long-term care facilities, churches, schools and by residents who have chosen to host large events)."

The board added that the scenario "continues to illustrate the issue we have with the State's 'one-size-fits-all' approach to their COVID restriction metrics and programs."

Douglas County will officially enter the "Extreme Risk" designation beginning tomorrow (Feb. 26).

In their statement, Commissioners said they "realize that many local businesses are likely to stay open and challenge the state's guidelines for this new risk level."

The board stated it will continue to "stand with, represent and support the citizens and businesses operating in Douglas County."

Commissioners explained that while Douglas County currently has no ability to shield or protect businesses from state sanctions, penalties and fines, "We are here to help in any way we can. We do want to encourage our local businesses to follow the appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of the virus, as well as, protect their businesses, their patrons and their ability to continue to keep their doors open."

Commissioners expressed being "incredibly frustrated" with what they feel has been a lack of local input at the state level, especially when determining the state's current COVID Risk Level Program, instituted in December 2020.

"The state's new mandated program undeservedly punishes and brutally affects our local businesses ability to operate and stay financially stable during this pandemic," the statement read. "Especially,

"As we have asserted before, your Douglas County Commissioners do not support county 'enforcement' of State-issued COVID guidelines."

— Douglas County Board of Commissioners

when the businesses that have suffered the most during the state's mandated Risk Level restriction periods — our restaurants, coffee houses, dance studios, senior centers, small retail stores, bars and gyms are among some of the safest places to go during the pandemic."

The board explained that those businesses are "required to follow some of the most stringent COVID safety and health guidelines."

The board also suggested that public health officials, coupled with local outbreak data and statistics, have made it clear that COVID-19 is spreading in Oregon and in Douglas County for reasons unrelated to businesses being open.

"In fact, cases at restaurants, bars and gyms accounted for only 1 percent of our total positive cases in the last two weeks," commissioners stated. "Our local data for COVID cases showed that of the current

280 active COVID cases that DPHN is supporting in isolation:

- There are no COVID outbreaks created or active at any gyms, restaurants or bars in Douglas County.

- Of those 280 active cases, only 4 have positive cases associated with any gyms, restaurants or bars in Douglas County.

- Currently, there are no other employees at any other gyms, restaurants or bars that have active or positive cases at this time.

"As we have asserted before, your Douglas County

Commissioners do not support county 'enforcement' of State-issued COVID guidelines. Instead, as the local public health authority, we feel it is paramount for State of Oregon Officials to provide easy-to-understand, timely access to the latest information, resources and medical guidance in order to educate residents about COVID-19 that allows them to make informed, responsible decisions," commissioners stated. "We feel that most people will do the right thing, if given the opportunity and knowledge to do so."

Commissioners added that Douglas County Government will not enforce the mandates for these "somewhat draconian rules against our citizens mandated without local consultation."

Rebecca Lynn Peters 1968-2021

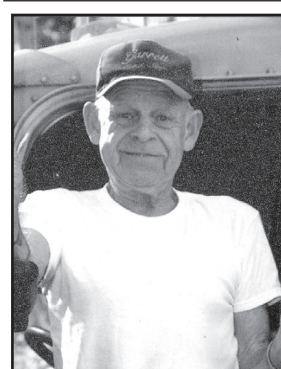
Rebecca was born in Red Bluff, California. She went home with God on Wednesday February 17th, 2021. Rebecca was preceded in passing by her father Don Grow. She is survived by her husband Kenneth Peters; mother Kathy Grow & brother Brad Grow of Grants Pass. Along with sons Joseph Peters, Kiefer Peters & Gabriel Peters; daughters; April Stuner

and McKenzie Peters, friend, and companion Kelly Whitlock.

The world has lost one of the most beautiful souls. Rebecca's legacy will live on through her family for which she unselfishly sacrificed everything.

Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel & Cemetery.

Michael G. Bivans 1943-2021



Michael G. Bivans, 77, of Drain, OR passed away on February 5, 2021. Michael was born on September 21, 1943 in San Pedro, CA to parents Francis and Lois (Pahl) Bivans. He was very talented with a natural ability that was self-

taught in woodworking, painting, drawing and many more homemade projects. Michael was a devoted husband to his loving wife Teresa who preceded him in death and a loving father of 5 girls. Michael is survived by his daughters, Wendy DeLong, Eugene, OR; Kelly Black and Tracy Jonk, Curtin, OR; Jamielee French, Yoncalla, OR; and Trina Nash, Drain, OR; 16 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. A private family service was held at Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel on Friday, February 19, 2021 in Cottage Grove, OR. Michael will be laid to rest at home next to his wife Teresa in their private plot.

William "Bill" Robert Good 1957-2021



William "Bill" Robert Good, 64, of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away on February 15, 2021. Bill was born to John Good and Lorraine MacDonald on January 11, 1957 in Hicksville, New York. He worked as a chef in New

York and California as well as a laborer in Oregon for Starfire Lumber Company and at a local nursery growing plants. He loved to birdwatch and could name all wild birds. He enjoyed gardening, working in the yard and loved his nieces and nephews.

Bill is survived by his mother, Lorraine MacDonald, his brothers Gary Good and wife Joy of Washington, James Good and Daniel Good of Oregon and his sister Pamela Knight and husband Scott of Montana as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills-Funeral Chapel of Cottage Grove, Oregon.

DEATH NOTICES

ROSE—Helen Violet Rose, 88, of Cottage Grove, Ore., died Feb. 19, 2021. Arrangements by Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove.

Jeffrey Dale Mailer 5/4/47 - 2/19/21



Jeffrey Dale Mailer, 73, passed away Friday, February 19 in Cottage Grove, OR. Jeff was born May 4, 1947 to Sally Toner Mailer and James Mailer of Everett, WA.

Jeffrey (Jeff) graduated from Kalani High School in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he majored in Surfing. At 14 years old, he was hired by the newly built Colony Surf Hotel to paddle out every evening at dusk to light the torches on the reef. After high school, Jeff was drafted into the Army, where he was trained in the US Army Aviation School and served as a helicopter crewman in the Vietnam War, flying on recovery missions.

Following his discharge in 1969, Jeff settled in Cottage Grove, where his gentle soul chose an individualistic path. He was drawn to the Native American ways, resonating with their life close to nature. Multi-talented, Jeff excelled at everything he did — a master mechanic, a meticulous craftsman, an attentive gardener, a spotter for the forest service during

summer fire seasons, taking calls to pick up wounded animals during the local veterinarian's off-duty hours, a working cowboy and ranch hand, a reviewer of books, the provider of end-of-life care for his mother ... the list goes on.

Jeff loved working in his woodshop, fishing, and being on horseback — trekking into the mountains or participating in the Southern Oregon Headwaters 25 cross-country race, in which he finished in the Top 10 in 1993. Thoughtful and generous, Jeff was always available to help when needed; he took care of people, touching them deeply and making lasting friendships. His twinkly warmth and humor permeated every conversation.

Jeff is survived by his loving partner, Stevie Convey of Cottage Grove; his twin sister Jo Habib of Kihei, HI and her sons Sky Olson (Faye), Joshua Olson, and Aziz Habib and daughter Leslie Johnson (Andy); his sister Cheryl Mailer of Seattle, WA; his brother Don and his wife DeeJay of Boise, ID and their two daughters Renee DeHaas and Brandy Ragain (Casey); several great-nieces and nephews who will grow up hearing loving stories about their unique uncle Jeff; and innumerable dear friends. He will be greatly missed. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel & Cemetery.

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Published weekly in the Cottage Grove Sentinel and online at cgsentinel.com

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