

## City's community development director accepts Mt. Angel post

Kevin Cronin, who served as Warrenton's community development director, has accepted a job as city manager of Mount Angel in Marion County. His last day was Thursday, June 25.

Cronin was hired in June 2018 to replace City Planner Skip Urling, who retired. Previously, Cronin spent two years as Astoria's community development director.

During his two years with Warrenton, Cronin was best known for cracking down on blighted properties and cleaning up the city's building code – including adding categories for cottage homes, tiny homes and accessory dwelling units.

He organized a charrette – a community think-tank session – for a proposed new development initially called Spur 104 and later called Chelsea Gardens.

He also developed stan-



Cronin

dards for fast-food restaurants to ensure new businesses don't cause traffic problems.

"Mount Angel offers the best opportunity to advance my career in empowering small towns to do great things," Cronin said. "I will have fond memories of my experience in Warrenton, but I'm happy to move on with my life to the next chapter."

His goal for Warrenton was to help the city move beyond its past and to think strategically about the future, he said.

The city has hired Mark Barnes, former city planner for Cannon Beach, to fill in until a replacement is found.

Also, city Building Official Bob Johnston has announced his retirement and the city has begun the recruitment process for his replacement.

## County makes planning appointments

Planning commissioners Robert Stricklin in District 2 and Christopher Farrar in District 3, were reappointed Wednesday evening to four-year terms.

Both positions were to expire on June 30.

In addition, Commissioner Michael Magyar, whose term expires in June 2022, submitted his resignation.

Lam Quang, a self-employed artist living in the Lewis & Clark/Olney/Wall-ooskee unincorporated area, was appointed to fill Magyar's post.

Two county commissioners, Mark Kujala and Lianne Thompson, had recommend-

ed postponing the appointments until after the newly elected county commissioners take office in January.

"I am deeply, deeply disturbed by this little trick you're trying to pull here," Commissioner Pamela Wev said to Kujala and Thompson.

Thompson said she was trying to find a moderate middle place. "I'm trying to make peace, not war here."

"I think we have a good board right now and I think we can make a decision on this," Chair Kathleen Sullivan said. "I understand things are going to change in January, but the board will have new

## State's cultural organizations suffering

Many of Oregon's cultural organizations face suspension of operations or permanent closure due to the COVID-19 impact, reveals an Oregon Cultural Trust survey released this month.

The survey, the most comprehensive look at Oregon's cultural community since the crisis began, includes data and comments from 330 cultural nonprofit groups.

Participants project a collective loss of \$40 million and average losses of \$121,281 through June 30.

Just over half the respondents have annual revenues less than \$250,000 and operate outside the Portland Metro area.

Half of the agencies had not applied for the federal Payroll Protection Program, likely because 44 percent employ less than one full-time staff member – relying mostly on a volunteer workforce. Of the 49 percent that did apply for PPP, only 73 percent received funds.

"The PPP loan is a financial band-aid for the short term, but for us to continue to provide our essential service ... there will be a need for continued relief funding well into the next fiscal year and possibly beyond," reports the Tillicum Foundation, which operates nonprofit radio stations in Warrenton, Astoria, and Tillamook.

"Quite frankly right now it looks grim," reports the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts, "when the PPP monies are gone, we may be looking at a staff-less OCCA for a while."

Because most cultural organizations rely on large gatherings for ticket and rental revenue, they rank at the top of Oregon business sectors most



A volunteer helps a young reader in a Portland-based shadow project.

severely affected by the crisis. They also will be the slowest to reopen.

The survey revealed particular hardship for cultural organizations in rural areas.

Bend's High Desert Museum reports that museums like itself "will be hit hardest immediately and will have a

much longer recovery period - we saw this during the recession and the indicators point to a similar pattern now ... funding to help organizations like the High Desert Museum be resilient for the next 12 to 24 months is critical."

Survey comments also reflect the concern cultural organizations have for the vulnerable populations they serve.

The Shadow Project, which provides learning support for children with disabilities, reports that "during COVID-19 these children are even more vulnerable, at highest risk of falling further behind and exacerbated mental health disorders."

The Cultural Trust awaits Legislative consideration of its Emergency Cultural Relief Fund proposal, which would deploy up to \$10 million of its \$29 million permanent fund to create an emergency relief funding program for Oregon's cultural organizations.

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