



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Never, never, never give in

I've been accused of being a positive person as well as an encourager.

I'm a firm believer in the Biblical truth that God gives each of us a gift or gifts that we are responsible to use during our time on earth. I like to think God has gifted me, as well as many others, in this manner.

However, we need to choose our words carefully, certainly not like the man who, when his wife asked for encouragement in her weight-loss attempt, answered "Don't worry honey; it will be a piece of cake."

I'm sure you can identify with this Mark Twain quote from the mid-1800s: "There are basically two types of people: People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded."

Many times, I've heard the expression, "When life knocks you down, get back up." But the last three words of that expression frequently are left out: "and fight harder."

When we are tempted to simply give up, it not only hurts us, but affects those who need our encouragement.

If ever there was a time to be there for our family and friends, it's now as we are in the midst of so many crises in our lives and our country.

And I daresay that if we are tempted to become negative, then shame on us!

As seniors, we've lived through many decades of life, along with many a crisis.

We have choices and, among them, is to either shrivel and give up or come out fighting.

As a news addict, I have to fight every day to stay on the positive side of whatever is going on, as I am sure many of you do, too.

Not to say some of us don't have "why bother" days when we feel like giving up.

Often, we never learn the why of situations, but we do learn lessons that will stay with us all the days of our lives.

I think of a speech once given by Winston Churchill in 1941, when he admonished his listeners to "never give in. Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never, never -- in nothing, great or small, large or petty -- never give in, except to convictions ..."

The other day, I read a children's book titled "That's Life" by Ame Dyckman, in which I was reminded that life can be crazy, even weird, but beautiful. Toward the end, she reminds us to love life because when we do, life will love us back.

Mark Twain gives us another important admonition: "Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint."

One last note of encouragement: "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you," James 4:8.

Coronavirus cases up again in past week

The past week continued to see Oregon cases of COVID-19 rise.

During the week that ended Aug. 2, there were 2,278 new statewide cases of the virus, up slightly from the previous week's total of 2,241. And there were 39 Oregon deaths, up from 27 the previous week.

As of Wednesday, Oregon has had 19,979 cases with 338 deaths.

An outbreak of 27 cases was reported at the Walmart Distribution Center in Hermiston. The case count includes all people linked to the outbreak, including household members. Initial reports of the virus among workers there started July 9.

An outbreak of 20 cases was reported at the OR1 data cen-

ter construction site in Hillsboro. The first case there was reported July 8.

A third outbreak, at the Lamb Weston potato processing plant in Boardman, involves 74 people. The first case among the three facilities there was reported July 1.

CLATSOP COUNTY

In Clatsop County, there were nine new cases during the past week, for a total of 82. Sixty-five of them have recovered. None are hospitalized.

The new cases included two women and one man in their 20s, two women in their 40s, one woman and one man in their 50s, a woman in her 60s and a woman in her 80s. Three of the cases were in south county.

SNAP BENEFITS

While extra unemployment benefits have gone away, those receiving food help will see it continue in August.

The Oregon Department of Human Services will continue to waive the interview requirement for new applicants -- making it faster and easier to access benefits.

It means an additional \$30 million going to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients.

"As the pandemic continues, access to food has worsened greatly," said Claire Seguin, a DHS director. "Providing another month of emergency assistance will help ease the threat of chronic hunger in Oregon."

History in the Making

A look at Warrenton's top stories from The Columbia Press annals



Clatsop College wants to move downtown

AUGUST 2010 10 YEARS AGO

- Michael's Ars & Crafts announces plans to open in a new shopping center planned at Ensign Lane and Highway 101, adjacent to Staples and The Dollar Tree.

- Students in the Warrenton-Hammond School District performed well in Average Yearly Progress testing. Middle school students showed a 65 percent growth rate in mathematics and high schoolers had a 22 percent growth rate in reading.

- Clatsop County Hearings Officer Peter Livingston grants conditional approval to Oregon LNG for a 36-inch pipeline across the county to serve its proposed liquified natural gas terminal in Warrenton.

AUGUST 2000 20 YEARS AGO

- Clatsop Community College holds a town hall meeting to discuss a proposal to move the college, which has aging buildings and sits on an unstable slope, from Jerome Street to downtown Astoria.

AUGUST 1995 25 YEARS AGO

- Students in the Warrenton-Hammond School District scored a little behind the

state average, particularly in math among third and fifth graders, in the statewide testing program administered by the Oregon Department of Education.

- County Commissioner Tom Carmichael proposes hiring private contractors to pave county roads. Public Works Director Randy Trevillian calls Carmichael a "hired gun for the Associated General Contractors."

Special columns in The Columbia Press

Every week: Senior Moments with Emma Edwards

Week 1: History in the Making

Week 2: Financial Focus with Adam Miller

Week 3: Off the Shelf by Kelly Knudsen

Final week: Mayor's Message by Henry Balensifer