



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Lessons from Miss Holly

Doesn't little Miss Holly look innocent? I thought so, too, when I found her under my Christmas tree a month ago, all 1 1/2 pounds of her.

Let me tell you, she is not innocent.

One redeeming feature she has is that she sleeps a lot. She's quite smart, too. She knows the word "eat" and runs to her bowl in expectation that her kitten food will be there soon.

She's good for my cognitive abilities, something us seniors sometimes need help with. I try to stay a step and a thought ahead of her. Having a cat, especially a kitten, is good physical exercise, too.

Oh, and it surely has taken the doldrums out of self-quarantining during the past year. She loves her toys and expects me to play with her often. However, if a toy is presented to her with a fancy bow on it, she seems more interested in the bow and wrapping paper or even the bag or box in which it came.

I have thought of giving her away more than a few times. Then she gives me that look and cuddles up in my arms or on my lap. We talk with each other a lot, too, and it's a good thing we're of the same political affiliation.

She loves her little bed, but she prefers to fall asleep on her "blankie" at the end of my bed. I carry her to her own bed once she's sound asleep. We both fall asleep then, but somehow, when I wake up, there is Miss Holly in my arms. Is she always going to be smarter than me?

I have to be careful around



her. My kids think she's good for me. If I'm not careful, I could step on her or even leave her in the refrigerator. I kid you not!

The other day, I was making myself a sandwich. Unknown to me, as I went from the refrigerator to the kitchen counter, she snuck into the refrigerator. Fortunately, for her and me, I'd forgotten to put the mayo back in the refrigerator. When I opened the door, she about scared me to death as she popped out. It taught me a big lesson that I'm passing on because it could have been so sad.

She will be a much better-behaved kitten when she grows into a cat and learns to socialize with people and other cats, experts say. I will keep you posted.

She is teaching me a lot about unconditional love and life. Our latest laugh promoter is a little laser light.

By the end of the day, I don't know which of us is more worn out. Yet I am blessed at the same time.

I am glad that long, long ago, Noah brought two cats into the ark with all the rest of the animals.

Mayor's Message

by Henry Balensifer III



Hard choices ahead as city works toward goals

Wow. 2020 is a year I'd like to forget, but never will.

While I am optimistic for better times in 2021, I'm also not holding my breath.

I'm not going to rehash the events of 2020. You all know them just as well as I do. However, I want to express that, while we have our work cut out ahead of us, the city remains as committed as ever to meeting our goals.

Hard choices remain ahead as we climb out of this economic and emotional hole we're in. We are already working on -- and will increase our efforts in -- finding ways to bring revenue to the city, add opportunities for businesses, and value to the residents. We cannot see ourselves (public and private industry) in two different boats; we're in this together.

We need to re-evaluate how we approach new development. At this time, the city has greatly improved on its goal of requiring growth to pay for growth.

But the last audit shows how much more we have to go to ensure we balance economic growth opportunities with the need to maintain and support the infrastructure in which existing residents have

already invested and paid for.

Our last audit report showed that the city's total increase in funds from permanent rate taxes was \$49,362. (This doesn't include the school and jail bonds, because those are not city taxes and are temporary.)

We also need to expand utilization of our assets to provide private business opportunities.

Food carts are a great example of this. The city collects revenue from rent, a private business has a place to start, and the residents get another choice for food.

The parks committee recommended, among other

things, providing a space for a vendor to do kayak/canoe rentals at Skipanon Park on Second Street, which has a kayak dock. This would provide an added value to our trails system and provide additional revenue to maintain them.

In short, new growth needs to be more closely evaluated in its impact to existing residents and taxpayers at large, and government needs to look outside the age-old taxes and fees playbook on revenue opportunities.

We've already implemented some of these ideas, but there is so much more we can and will do.

E-permits: City eases process

Continued from Page 1

said. "If he liked you, you got one set of (rules). If he didn't like you, you got another. Whether it was true or not, it was alleged often. Anything we can do to help standardize things, I'm all for it."

In addition to obtaining building permits, inspections can be scheduled also through the system.

There is no cost to the city for joining as the state's surcharge on building permits

already pays for the program, which is run through the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services.

E-permits will be available after the city's building department completes training on the new system.



**Warrenton
Community Library**

160 S. Main Ave.

Open 10-6 MWF
10-2 Tues & Thurs

Drive-through only

Special columns in The Columbia Press

Every week: Senior Moments with Emma Edwards

Week 1: Financial Focus with Adam Miller

Week 2: Here's to Your Health from CMH

Week 3: Off the Shelf by Kelly Knudsen

This week: Mayor's Message by Henry Balensifer