



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Waiting for sun and extra hour

Since this is the last issue of the Columbia Press for February, spring is before us and many will begin to count the days before we get back the hour we had to give up in November.

And many of us Oregonians assumed we were going to get to keep daylight saving time forever and ever, but not so.

In the fall, Oregonian reporter Lizzy Acker cautioned us “not yet” about daylight saving time. “There is one caveat to this time change cessation legally and that is -- Congress has to approve the change,” she wrote.

Acker points out that the 2019 Sunshine Protection Act, which would make daylight saving time the new permanent standard time, did not go anywhere in 2020. It has not gone anywhere in 2021 either.

She also shares an encouraging thought, “Oregonians needn’t lose hope of having one time that lasts all year. Oregon Senate Bill 320 gives until Dec. 1, 2029, for the changes in time standards to become operational.”

Therefore, disambiguation of the term may be a way off.

I am sure we have learned, if nothing else, that Congress does not move quickly.

Incidentally, this year we spring forward on Sunday, March 14.

Another study on the subject of instant time change (going from the end of daylight saving time to standard time) points out that there is an increase in car accidents, heart attacks and even sui-

cides in the days after the change occurs with the dark of the winter months following.

People have noted that they feel kind of “out of sync” and stress responses occur, such as the toll it takes on the heart and the brain.

I like the Maxine cartoon where, in response to time change, she says, “*We gain an hour today; at my age you appreciate any extra time on the clock.*”

I don’t know about you, but I waste perhaps an hour a day in the week after changing my clocks. And, I will say something like “but it is *really* an hour earlier or *really* an hour later.”

Maybe I will make up a sign encouraging the passing of the Sunshine Protection Act.

We all need a mission in life, right?

Maybe we need to adapt to the theory toted by Hans Christian Andersen, “*Enjoy life. There’s plenty of time to be dead!*”

Andersen was born in 1805 and died in 1875. He was best known for his amazing children’s fairy tales.

Some I remember are “The Princess and the Pea,” “Thumbelina,” and “Tom Thumb.” Oh, yes, the favorite worldwide, most likely, was “The Little Mermaid.”

I suspect we can all identify with the famous saying attributed to Benjamin Franklin, which defines his amazingly productive life: “*Do you love life? Then do not squander time, for that’s the stuff life is made of.*”

Mayor’s Message

by Henry Balensifer III



Goals include finishing what was started

The City Commission has chosen four goals this year to guide budgeting and staff priorities.

They are: Goal No. 1, Aggressively Pursue Revenue Opportunities; Goal No. 2, Improve Internal and External Communications; Goal No. 3, Address Critical Staffing Needs; and Goal No. 4, Finish the Unfinished Projects.

All of these goals are interconnected in that they need each other to be successful. What does this all mean?

Aggressively pursuing revenue opportunities is primarily aimed at the efforts kicked off last year by the Parks Advisory Board.

We will be improving the parking lot near City Hall to ensure we can put in food carts, of which great interest has been developed in the past few months. The city can potentially make more money on food carts in that small lot than it gets each year from property taxes paid by all the commercial properties in the downtown core.

The kayak dock is a carry-over from ideas the community pushed in 2001 during the Visioning Process. It will add value to trail users and

actually push for the utilization of the kayak dock while generating income to pay for park maintenance and improvements.

There are other ideas in the works, but I think those two things drive the point home. The second goal is about improving staff efficiency and, therefore, the provision of services in general to you, the resident/customer.

However, the second goal can only improve things in small increments without the third goal, which is to get more staff.

It’s no secret Warrenton is among the fastest growing cities on the coast since 1996 and running, but our staff has not appreciably grown to meet the doubled demand for services. In fact, some departments have shrunk.

Master Gardeners offers scholarship

Clatsop County Master Gardener Association seeks applicants for its annual scholarship program.

Awards of up to \$1,000 will be given to one or more high school seniors who live in Clatsop County and who plan to attend college, vocational school or a training program

As a result, it is my hope we can move to create a second sergeant position in police, a fire marshal position in the fire department, and a planner or some sort of technician for the planning department.

How do we pay for those? Well, it’s going to take a lot of creative work to make it happen. But I’m confident that we can make good headway on this in 2021. The final goal will be addressed in “clearing the plate,” so to speak. This is a no-brainer, but it is important that, with shifting priorities, we follow through on our commitments.

Despite the proverbial tunnel having caved in, we can see the light and city leadership looks forward to clearing the rubble and tackling the challenges ahead.

that helps them develop skills that contribute to the advancement of sound gardening practices.

Awards are made based on a student’s academic standing and interest in horticulture or a related field.

Applicants must submit a completed application and essay, along with high school transcripts and two letters of recommendation.

Applications must be post-marked by April 23.

Applications and more information are available in high school counselors’ offices and can be found online at clatsopmastergardeners.org/CCMGA-Scholarship.

For more information, call 503-325-8573.

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

Final week: Mayor’s Message by Henry Balensifer