

City Clubs Needed More Today Than Ever

With the recent election cycle still in the minds and memories of all Americans, the issue of how we obtain what we know (where we get our news in today's parlance) is a front burner topic. And so it should be.

It is an issue that cuts along generational and regional lines. It defines the on-line and off-line communities; the savvy from the naïve. There may be those of us who can recognize "fake" news; who subscribe to a daily newspaper; who watches more than one news channel. And, there are those who do not.

There are those whose news is a send-up show (the Daily Show and others) whose continued life depends more on entertaining than informing. And, there is a reason why The Enquirer, The World and other very questionable, often-sued publications are snapped up every day at the check-out counters of America.

The bottom line is that there is a great disparity between the quality and quantity of information we take in, digest, and use to make decisions – decisions like who shall be president of the United States. And, no matter how or what we access for information, we all have the right to vote. We are not asked if we well-informed to make such decisions.

Therefore, it would seem, it is vitally important to make sure the most accurate and complete reporting and information-sharing outlets are available to all of us. That there are forums that explore to some depth complicated issues and competing candidates. That there is a venue in which one participates, not in a vacuum, but in a senate of ones own peers – a senate of fellow seekers of the truth and good questions.

That venue in Springfield is the Springfield City Club. Month in and month out the Club brings people and policies before its members for more complete understanding and for insightful questioning. Where else does that happen? Springfield City Club is a place for any point of view and for anyone who is respectful and wishes to hear the other side of any issue or stance of a candidate.

For those and many other reasons, today it is more important than ever to support and belong to the Springfield City Club.

MEETING CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1 – THE ELECTION AND THE UPCOMING LEGISLATURE

The November election has brought additional challenges to Oregon that will be major issues in the upcoming legislative session. Measure 97, which would have provided revenue, was soundly defeated, while Measures 98 and 99, which mandate certain spending but provided no additional revenue, were passed. Recent revenue projections suggest a growing gap for the 2017-2019 biennium at the State level, and the failure of the Springfield fuel tax increase may exacerbate revenue needs at the local level.

In addition, the national results, which went contrary to the votes of a majority of Oregonians, pose probably both risks and opportunities. Timber industry advocates seem pleased, while the environmental community seems concerned, and many Oregonians have trouble making sense of the results.

State Senator Lee Beyer and Representative John Lively, who both represent Springfield constituents, will talk to City Club about what the election results portend for Oregon's future.

PUBLIC CALENDAR

All items are tentative and subject to change

Springfield City Council

December 5

Work Session – 6:00 p.m.

Regular Session – 7:00 p.m.

PH Recreational Marijuana Local Tax
2030 Comp. Plan/UGB Expansion

January 3

Work Session 6:00 p.m.

CBDG Allocation Process

Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Second Reading Marijuana Local Tax

January 9 – 5:30 p.m. Work Session

January 12 – State of the City (Wildish Theater)

Lane County Commissioners

Not yet available

Lane Transit District

December 21 – 5:30 p.m.

Willamalane Park and Recreation District

December 14 – 6:30 p.m.

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School District 19

December 12 – 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 15 – THE MALHEUR OCCUPATION: TRIAL AND VERDICT

The recent federal trial of those accusing of interfering with federal officials as a result of the Malheur occupation resulted in not guilty verdicts for all defendants. Was it really a failure of proof, or could it have been “jury nullification?”

UO Criminal Law professor Margie Paris followed the trial. Before joining the University of Oregon law school faculty in 1992, Margaret L. "Margie" Paris practiced criminal law for six years in Chicago. She specialized in the defense of white-collar prosecutions with the law firm of Cotsirilos, Tighe & Streicker Ltd.

She teaches advanced appellate advocacy, criminal law, criminal investigation, and criminal adjudication. She received the Orlando John Hollis Faculty Teaching Award, the law school's highest teaching honor.

Paris served as associate dean for academic affairs for four years before being named dean in 2006. Her scholarly work focuses on criminal law and procedure issues. She is the coauthor of Constitutional Criminal Procedure, 2nd edition (Foundation Press 2003).

Paris is a native of Chicago who earned a B.A., with distinction, and a J.D. (Coif) from Northwestern University. She was editor-in-chief of Northwestern University Law Review. After graduation from law school, she clerked for Judge Joel Flaum of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She served as the editorial board vice-chair of Criminal Justice, the ABA's Criminal Justice Section magazine, and as co-reporter for the Constitution Project's Death Penalty Initiative.

Maxine (“Max”) Bernstein is the Oregonian reporter who attended every day of the trial. Maxine Bernstein, a Cornell University graduate, has been a reporter since 1989. She spent a year working for an English-language newspaper in Jerusalem, then returned to the states, where she helped cover the Connecticut congressional delegation for the Hartford Courant in its Washington, DC Bureau. She covered Hartford police for The Hartford Courant for about seven years before starting at The Oregonian in 1998. She covered the Thurston High School shooting and wrote a profile of shooter Kip Kinkel during her first year at The Oregonian. She's covered Portland police and

MEETINGS

November 3 – Steve Candee

“You think this election campaign is viscous? Look back to 1800, the first election after Washington!” Steve Candee told the Springfield City Club on November 3. There were charges that one candidate had a slave mistress and children by her (it was Jefferson, and the claim was true!). Each of the candidates was accused of being a traitor; some to Britain, some to other foreign powers. Though the words were “more elevated,” perhaps, to our ears, they were as insulting as anything heard today.



Our history is replete, he said, with harsh campaigns, he said. “We have, and will survive.”

Candee chose to avoid predictions on what was then the upcoming election. Rather he discussed, generally, the election process, and how perceptions of the general public had changed radically. “There is a general lack of trust in both government and leaders,” he said.

He pointed to the growing tendency to have difficult policy issues decided by the initiative process, Where an issue group formulates a proposal in a philosophical vacuum and puts it before the voters. “Unlike the legislative process,” according to Candee, “ the initiative process affords no opportunity for deliberation, no chance for the compromising of conflicting ideas.”

He did not offer any quick solution for the challenges, but urged continued understanding of how a government works, and for support of leaders who can gain the people’s trust.

November 17 – Dr. Mary Spilde



Dr. Mary Spilde, who is retiring in June as President of Lane community College, discussed the role of the community college in higher education at the Springfield City club meeting of November 17.

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(Continued from page 2) Dr. Spilde pointed out that 36% of undergraduates in the U.S. are enrolled in community college. By most standards predicting academic success, community colleges enroll students who are much less likely to be academically successful. At Lane, this translates into 74% of the student body being Spell eligible and 66% receiving student loans. 66% of LCC students enroll at Lane before they are adequately prepared to enter college. Even with these odds, LCC graduates 60% of its students within 6 years. Dr. Spilde also pointed out that there are many students who are academically successful in community colleges and go on to graduate from a 4 year institution. However, these students are not considered community college graduates if they transfer to a 4 year university before obtaining a degree from the community college.

Dr. Spilde pointed out that LCC has a national reputation and is ranked among the top 20 community colleges in the country for innovation.

Dr. Spilde reported the following challenges for community colleges:

Funding – This is particularly frustrating because the value for the money spent on community colleges is quite high. Dr. Spilde pointed out that LCC has been particularly effective stewards of public funds. However, she also pointed out that all of the easy things to save money and operate more efficiently have been done.

Guided pathways – While community colleges encourage students to explore, they also are trying to help students graduate as quickly as reasonably possible.



LCC is proud of its collaboration with local high schools, but enhancing these collaborations will benefit students.

LCC is increasing its international enrollment. This broadens the experience for all LCC students and helps the finances of the college as well.

LCC has a relatively new Foundation that is doing well, but needs to do more.

Although LCC has improved its facilities over the years, there is more work to be done.