

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

June 24, 2021

Pancake Breakfast: We're back in business this year, but only for Saturday, July 24. There will be setup and take-down needs in addition to the obvious prep, cooking and serving.

[Pancake Breakfast Sign-up Link](#)

Remember, proceeds from tickets that we pre-sell ourselves return 100% to our club's Foundation. Same goes for Noon Club members. Tickets sold at the gate are 50/50.

Contact Rachel Powell if you have questions about serving. Contact Carrie Palmore if you need information about sponsorships.

Pavilion: \$500, Beverage: \$500, Griddle \$250 (8 available), Table Sponsors are unlimited at \$50/each.

Summerfest is coming August 27 & 28. Contact Bob Travers with questions.

July 1 will be a NO MORNING MEETING. This will be our annual Officer Induction which is being held with our first ever celebration of a fellow Early Bird, Tina Enomoto, who is embracing the end of her life by surrounding herself with the laughter and positivity of people she loves and that she knows love her.

Dr. Ryan Scholz was last week's speaker. His mom, one of Newberg's elementary teachers, served her last day last Thursday at retirement.

In school Ryan was heavily involved in FFA and 4H setting up his own future for this position with FFA emphasizing the business and science side of farming.

He had turned his mom's garden into a trout raceway with a population of 600 trout.

Ryan quips that he considers himself an academic inbred with all four degrees coming from the same school.

He's been with Oregon's Department of Agriculture for nine years and was just last [November named ODA State Veterinarian](#).

So, what does the State Vet's office do? "We do for animals what the health department did with COVID." Meaning, when there's an outbreak of some disease that could affect large populations of livestock, or even pets, that the state takes action for quarantine, treatment and prevention of spread.

The term domestic animals is broadly considered livestock and covers anything that doesn't swim.

"If we do our prevention job well enough we wouldn't have a job."



Q: What about transmission of animals to humans?

A: COVID is uniquely human but its lineage is from bats. Coronavirus, scary as the recent pandemic has branded it, is actually one of the most common infectious viruses. The common cold is actually a coronavirus.

Q: How would you know your pet has COVID?

A: It usually presents in pets as general lethargy. While most animals can be affected by the coronavirus, they cannot spread it. Mink, however, are the exception and can spread it to humans. One of Oregon's mink farms was the 13th to be hit but didn't suffer as bad a loss as others around the country because of early involvement by the State's Vet office.

It could be said that Ryan has "been exposed to more COVID positive patients than anyone else in the state."

Q: What about bird flu?

A: The first documented case in the U.S was in Winston, OR in 2014 but originated in Alaska.

The influenza virus can be carried on the air and on surfaces.

All animals get the flu. Certain types of viruses replicate but don't copy themselves correctly and cause these strains.

Q: Who started Mad Cow Disease? The Americans or Canadians? (this was a tongue in cheek question from an American married to a Canadian).

A: Transmissible encephalopathy is actually just a mis-folded protein, not a virus. "It's the cow's fault," not the fault of either country.

Q: When Travers moved to Newberg in '94 they were warned about the our scary river.

A: The Newberg Pool is a convergence of many superfund cleanup sites. One of which was the landfill built below the 100 year flood plane. So, every century or so, we'd get a clean start ... so to speak.

This stretch of the Willamette condensed the runoff toxins from agriculture and industry. The result was frequently very interesting creatures. Frogs and fish eggs are fully exposed to the water environment (not protected as embryos), so are more likely to have extra parts.

Q: Describe your typical week.

A: Ryan doesn't really know typical yet because he started mid-pandemic.

Until this job, however, he would be on the road from Cascades to coast most days. But still home at night.

My job is never the same two days in a row. He teases, "Every time I put my job on paper my boss takes it as a challenge."

Q: How close is reality to reality TV, like National Geographic's Dr. Pol.

A: TV situations are carefully curated for drama. If a vet made those kind of practices a standard of care they would lose their license.

Q: You mentioned being in a position to better affect change. How?

A: We have recently changed two laws with new reporting and licensing of animal rescues (some are in it more for the money than for the animals).

Q: How often do you think scary diseases are intentionally unreported?

A: Actually, very few.

But mostly because the State Vet only deals with licensed vets.

Obviously these licensed vets have everything to lose by misreporting / underreporting.

More importantly, people come to a vet with a sick animal with an actual desire to make the animal (or large volume of animals) better.