

THE CHRONICLE

CRESWELL ♦ COTTAGE GROVE ♦ SPRINGFIELD

SAFE AT HOME

Area leaders, health officials stress residents should 'self-isolate'

A MESSAGE FROM
THE PUBLISHER



NOEL NASH

We will survive, thrive together

It can be comforting in Times Like These to look at history, and consider how previous generations of humans handled turmoil and tumult in their lives. Perhaps there is a nugget or pearl of wisdom to help us cope.

You don't have to spend much time online to see all of the shared quotes, sayings and axioms – prescient, calming, worldly and other-worldly. CS Lewis, putting the atomic age in context for the ages in 1947. Smart then, smart today.

John Wooden's "Be quick, but don't hurry" seems especially appropriate in the midst of a pandemic. We have to move with decisiveness and urgency. We don't have to make foolish



An unusual scene in Creswell on Tuesday afternoon as the iconic Creswell Bakery stands on a bare street corner. The staff is taking time to strategize on how best to serve customers.

JORDAN CORA LAMPE/THE CHRONICLE

BY ERIN TIERNEY
THE CHRONICLE

Vacant parking lots, "closed until further notice" signs, schools on hiatus and a calendar without events; the entire Willamette Valley is closed for business as the Coronavirus creeps into Lane County.

By presstime Tuesday, the State reported 65 cases and Lane County had reported its first. With limited testing available, State officials say many people are already infected and that number will only continue to grow.

As a measure to lessen the spread of the virus, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown Monday afternoon banned gatherings of more than 25 people for at least four weeks, and restricted restaurants and other establishments to serving takeout and delivery food only.

Creswell Mayor Richard Zettervall said that in a conversation with Gov. Brown and other Oregon mayors on Sunday, he told Brown that he "understood the importance of social distancing and is helping to curb the spread of the virus, but that it would come with a big cost," noting the economic impact of closed restaurants and bars for four weeks.

"It makes you nervous because we're always on a tight margin," said Blue Valley Bistro owner Seth Clark, who said that his restaurants in Creswell, Pleasant Hill and Coburg probably couldn't survive an extended closure. "Our business, like many other small businesses, runs on small margins, and cash is air to us. If it goes away, we slowly suffocate."

Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg said she "understands the philosophy" of social distancing

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MAILING LABEL BELOW

COVID-19 COVERAGE INSIDE

JUST THE FAQs

■ We do our best to answer the most pressing questions we're hearing from readers in the community.

TRUSTED RESOURCES

■ Check out our list of credible, expert websites that provide real-time updates on the facts.

OUR TOWN

■ Area business owners and other residents weigh in with their concerns and insights.

SCHOOLS ADJUST

■ Creswell, Cottage Grove and Springfield school districts are taking aggressive action to try and control the spread. Find out how administrators are dealing with the challenges.

BUSINESSES BRACING

■ Small business owners and government agencies react. Local governments are offering online options to apply for assistance.

LIBRARY PROACTIVE

■ The Creswell Library is closed, and still serving the community with online services, audio books and more.

NONPROFITS NEED HELP

■ Area nonprofits and charity organizations already are helping residents in need of food, shelter and clothing.

MERRDAY FROM THE GROVE

■ A veteran Biology teacher, Dana explains how viruses work, and how we can help "flatten the curve."



Shawn Hamilton plays Malifoux, a complex role-playing board game, at Castle of Games in Springfield on Sunday.

AARON O'GARA/THE CHRONICLE

WHAT WE'RE DOING

■ We closed our physical office to the general public. We announced this on our website and on our Facebook page.

■ Our staff is working remotely whenever possible.

■ There is a new, free section on chronicle1909.com. It has links to credible medical sources.

■ All of our online Coronavirus coverage free.

■ We are maintaining a list of "closures" with real-time updates.

■ We've coordinated with our printers, Oregon Web Press, and USPS to ensure delivery.

ASK US!

We're here to help make sure you get the expert information you need to stay safe.

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