

VIRUS continued from 1

and that, “whether business owners or employees, it’s a huge, devastating circumstance for them to be in.”

Nick Hammond, the “Trainer Dude” on Main Street in Springfield said his greatest concern is also lost income.

“There is a small cushion,”Hammond said, noting that he prepaid rent on the gym and his home, if the loss of income continues beyond two months, things would “get serious” for him.

Creswell City Manager Michelle Amberg advises that owners track the impact of the Coronavirus protocols on their business.

“We will want to have that information when the restrictions are lifted,” Manager Amberg said. “Closures will have a very big impact on the US economy. Daycare closures and workplace closures will make it very difficult for families. We want to hear about these experiences.”

Mayor Zettervall said that during the conference that “most mayors shared similar comments to mine.” While Cottage Grove Mayor Jeff Gowing agrees that the financial impact is worrisome for his community, he thinks the Coronavirus and the social distancing techniques have been blown out of proportion.

“It is one of those things that I get what they are trying to do, but are they taking it too seriously? Over the top maybe?,” Mayor Gowing said. “It is like any virus that is out there. It wasn’t nearly as much of a crisis, and then the media had blown it out to be one. Lots of people died from the H1N1 and several die from the flu every year. Now, the grocery stores have been impacted by people buying out everything. I was at WalMart last



Emerald Valley Golf Resort saw plenty of action Tuesday on its driving range and course.
JORDAN CORA LAMPE/THE CHRONICLE

week and there was no frozen food, no bread; it is just a crazy response. Y2K wasn’t this bad.”

Gowing said that “a bigger deal to me was dealing with a broken sewer line. Real life issues are happening as well, so that takes priority. I don’t see why people are freaking out so bad. I’m more in fear of the reaction of people that are going crazy and hoarding stuff, and what it is doing to the economy than how many people it will take out. This is not the Bubonic Plague that will destroy everyone, I don’t see it being our end-all disease.”

Mayor Lundberg said that she is spending a lot more time in news conferences with the county and Eugene and Springfield, the Governor’s Office, and combing through a flood of emails. “Everyone

else is in the same boat and not doing what is routine at the moment,” she said.

Mayor Zettervall suggests that now is a good time to help where you can, and to reach out to your neighbors. “We are all in this together and with the collective love of our community, we will get through this,” Zettervall said.

Mayor Lundberg is hopeful that “people are going to come up with a variety of ways to make this work,” she said. “If there’s an area where it isn’t working we’re going to have to find a way to make it better. It’s going to take all of us.”

Rohde said that the culture among staff at Wise Woman Herbals is already changing as a result. “On the whole, we are paying even more

attention to one another, understanding individual circumstances, and working better as a team to support others,” Rohde said. “In the long term, this will be an incredibly positive experience for our culture and our business.”

“Trainer Dude” Hammond and his family live up the McKenzie River and he said they have enough food to ride it out for a while.

“If we have to, we’ll take the camper up into the national forest and be fine,” Hammond said. “It’s hard to imagine that there’s a crisis when we sit on the river and see how beautiful things are.”

Chronicle reporters Aliya Hall and Joey Blum also contributed to this report.

Support systems at risk

BY GINI DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

CRESWELL — Creswell public schools and many of their supporting agencies are closed March 16-31 to protect students, staff and community members and help slow the spread of the Coronavirus.

The ripple effect on families already is being felt – something not lost on government officials or the directors of programs providing services for youngsters.

Laura Rariden, director of Creswell Clubhouse, a nonprofit program serving about 70 kids at Creslane Elementary School, has tried to be “as proactive as possible” in helping parents relying on the program from the time the school day ends until they get off work.

Rariden said she reached out to Creswell School District superintendent Mike Johnson and was told that the state-mandated school closure meant no programs could be delivered on campus.

She has also reached out to city manager Michelle Amberg to explore the possibility of opening a limited program at Creswell Community Center if closures last longer than expected.

“That is, if I can secure staff willing to work and the state doesn’t apply more mandates,” Rariden said. “It’s all totally up in the air right now.”



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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



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