

THE CHRONICLE

SPRINGFIELD • CRESWELL • COTTAGE GROVE

OUR Stories

People from all walks of life share their stories of hope, struggle and triumph in the age of the COVID-19 pandemic



Lori Leavitt, right, with daughter Jenessa Mallory at their Creswell home. Both are dealing with the loss of school activities during the pandemic. DAVID LEAVITT/PHOTO

LORI LEAVITT, MOM

I should be watching my daughter play her last year of softball. We should be shopping for a prom dress and getting our nails done. We should be sending out invitations for graduation, and planning a party.

Instead we are home, looking at an uncertain future, trying to stay upbeat when we don't know when, or if, life will ever be normal again. I keep thinking of last year's snowstorm. We went without power for several days and we couldn't even leave our property due to trees that had fallen across our driveway. It was an intensely challenging time. It lasted only days, but it is a strangely familiar feeling now.

We are not leaving home, we are not going to school, or work, or hanging with friends. We are cooking and baking new things together. We are playing games. We are having dinner together each night and talking about new things each day. I know we will look back and marvel at the things we did together, and how it shaped our lives in new ways, but I am extremely sad for all our seniors and the many milestones they are missing.

JENESSA MALLORY, STUDENT

Words can't express how hard this has been for me and the senior class. Personally, I am extremely sad and angry about the whole situation.

I feel like no body really understands because they all got their graduations, their proms, their yearbooks, and were able to say goodbye to this chapter of their life and I don't get that. It's like I've been robbed of everything that's supposed to make high school worth it and now I'm so upset that I'm not sure if I want to go back or continue school online. I'm just so confused and there's so many questions that are not being answered.

Jenessa Mallory is the student body president; her mom, Lori, is president of the Creswell boosters club.

READ MORE OF "OUR STORIES" INSIDE

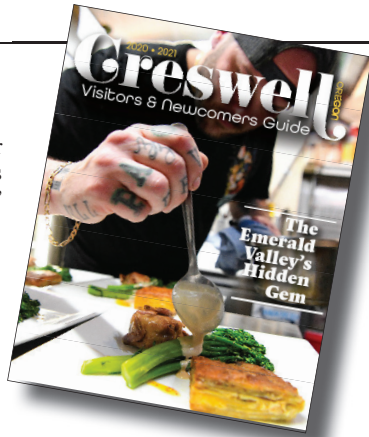
MAILING LABEL BELOW

INSIDE TODAY!

Check out the 2020-21 Creswell Chamber of Commerce's Newcomers and Visitors Guide, which features all of the "gems" in our town.

Also:

- * Chamber Member Directory
- * Message from Mayor Zettervall
- * Service Directory
- * Message from Chief Wooten



PREPARING FOR THE PEAK

Cottage Grove PeaceHealth seeing 'calm before the storm'

BY ERIN TIERNEY
THE CHRONICLE

Like a calm before the storm, the emergency room has been a little quieter lately for nurse manager Heather Lyda.

Projections this week indicate that — assuming full social distancing through May 2020 — COVID-19 hospital resource needs will peak on April 21 at five deaths a day in Oregon, according to data from The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), an independent population health research center at the University of Washington Medicine.

With social restrictions in place and people hesitant to go out, Lyda said that The PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center's emergency department is seeing "a dramatic decrease in volume" of patients. She said is a national trend hospitals see before the virus peaks.

Decreasing medical visits are being felt throughout the southern Willamette Valley. Due to low



Lyda

patient volumes, on Monday, April 13, PeaceHealth's Dexter Clinic will offer routine in-person office visits on Mondays only, in addition to telephone visits Mondays

through Thursdays until further notice.

At the COVID-19 peak in Oregon, IHME indicates that 227 of the 2,657 beds and 47 of the 210 ICU beds would be needed, along with 40 ventilators. The study indicates that there will be 171 COVID-19 deaths projected by Aug. 4 in Oregon.

Still weeks away from the projected peak in the state, the hospital is in full-force preparation for what it might experience.

"We are learning more and more every day from other places that are being overwhelmed by the

See **VIRUS – 9**

Schools reopen – with virtual classrooms

BY ALIYA HALL
THE CHRONICLE

As schools continue to follow the measures of the "Stay Home, Save Lives" order, the Oregon Department of Education foresees a strong possibility that students may not come back to schools before the academic year ends. To continue education, schools are shifting from offering supplementary education to providing "Distance Learning for All."

Each district needs to have their plan in place by April 13, and schools in the Southern Willamette Valley are already getting tools in place to make that transition as seamless as possible.

"This may appear at first glance to be a nuance, but it is a significant assignment. We at Springfield School District embrace this challenge, because it will be best for our students," Springfield Superintendent Todd Hamilton said in a press release. "This request will be a big lift for us as a community. Our teachers are quickly learning the ropes of distance learning and will be ready to help."

In Creswell, Superintendent Mike Johnson said that staff is eager to make distance learning happening and are "working hard at it."

"They're motivated to connect with kids and miss them," he said.

See **SCHOOLS – 9**



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