

Community News

Historical Society asks Oregonians to share their personal reflections during pandemic

PORTLAND—How do we stay connected and rooted in community while practicing social distancing? What is the role of cultural institutions during this unprecedented time?

Like many museums and attractions that have closed in response to the COVID-19 virus, the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) will be largely

moving online, sharing Oregon history virtually through social media, blogging, and our digital platforms like the Oregon Encyclopedia, OHS Digital Collections, and online curriculum. At the same time, as the repository of Oregon's history, OHS has a responsibility to record this moment for future generations — a moment that practically

no one on earth has experienced in their lifetime.

That is why the OHS is asking Oregonians to share their stories: personal reflections on living through this pandemic. In this period of isolation from friends and family, what stories of Oregonians from the past or present are giving you courage? How are you spending your days in this

strange new “normal?” What have you learned about yourself, your friends, or your family, that is giving you strength amidst chaos?

The OHS invites community members to share their personal reflections by submitting a letter through an online form or by mailing a handwritten note to the OHS Research Library (1200 SW Park Ave., Portland, OR 97205). All written and electronic submissions must include the author's full name, location (city, town or reservation) and the date.

“Some of the most priceless treasures in the Oregon Historical Society collections are the handwritten diaries and journals of individuals who made their way across the Oregon Trail. As we persevere through this new uncharted trail, we invite Oregonians to

document their thoughts and experiences and to share them with OHS, so we, in turn, can share them with future generations,” said OHS Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk.

While we are lucky to have technology to stay connected during this time of social isolation, sometimes, pen and paper is best — it is of course the letters, journals, scrapbooks, and photographs that the OHS Research Library has collected for decades that students, educators, researchers, authors, filmmakers, and many more use each day as they discover stories from our past.

In the coming weeks, staff will send letters to OHS members for whom there is no email address on file, asking them to mail back their stories. Those staff whose regular job duties have been disrupted

ed by the public closure will support this outreach, ready to mail letters from home.

“We all recognize the need to check in on our family, friends, and neighbors,” says Tymchuk, “and our staff asked how they could reach out to our members and others who might be feeling isolated. We hope this is a project that will bring a bit of connection, reflection and hope.”

OHS encourages families to participate in this project as well, as a way to add to the historical record during this time of school interruptions. In the coming days, we will be reaching out with more resources for learning at home, including inviting students grades 6-12 to participate in a virtual Oregon History Day contest later this spring.

For more information or resources, visit ohs.org.

the spotlight

A weekly roundup of shopping, savings and doings around town.

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Focus on child safety, well-being paramount now

During this time of social distancing, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) encourages Oregonians to check in with families and continue to engage with child welfare when appropriate.

“Our child welfare agency is a small part of a much larger system that focuses on child safety,” said Rebecca Jones Gaston, DHS Child Welfare Director “During this very fluid situation, where there are more questions than answers, we are keeping child safety paramount in our work and want to reiterate our dedication to children and families.”

During this time, the DHS Child Welfare Program will continue to operate the 24/7 statewide Child Abuse hotline, respond to reports of abuse and neglect, and work with community partners to maintain support to families.

The COVID-19 pandemic creates many challenges for

families, which could impact child safety, including:

- Lack of access to medical care
- Lack of face time with mandated reporters
- Limited access to regular meals due to school closures
- Known exposure to COVID-19 or symptomatic people
- In close contact with someone who is considered high risk if infected with COVID-19

DHS encourages community members to check in with at-risk families — including young children, children and adults with developmental delays or other medical vulnerabilities, isolated children and families, and youth and families with severe emotional/mental health needs — through phone, email, or by safe distance.

“As we grapple with isolation and uncertainty, let’s

connect with one other in safe ways to continue to build the connected, generous communities we all need,” said Becky Jones, Executive Director of Oregon Child Abuse Intervention Centers.

Sharing resource information for food banks, unemployment benefits, SNAP availability, and educational resources can be extremely helpful. If you suspect a child is being abused, please contact the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-855-503-(SAFE)7233.

More information for resources and support:

- 211info.org (also by dialing 211) offers connection to local and regional resources for food banks, housing assistance, and mental health services
- Lines for Life, a nonprofit dedicated to substance abuse and suicide prevention: 1-800-273-8255 or text '273Talk' to 839863.

RAIN offers virtual support to entrepreneurs, businesses

Oregon RAIN (Regional Accelerator and Innovation Network) is now offering virtual mentoring, workshops and support groups.

Over the last several weeks, RAIN has been hearing from entrepreneurs and business owners asking for help. People are relaying fears about being able to weather this storm, pay staff, pay rent or mortgages, manufacture products, secure supply chains and customers, and much more.

Some are worried about the heartache of having to lay-off their staff. Others are trying to navigate the stress of working from home while taking care of their businesses and families.

“You’re not alone!” said RAIN Executive Director Caroline Cummings. “As a team of entrepreneurs ourselves, we know the difficul-

ties of contemplating these issues and facing the ever-changing challenges this crisis has presented. We’ve already been engaging with many of you online and over the phone — and are excited that a few of you have already secured capital from emergency loan funds.”

RAIN is working to help entrepreneurs and business owners stay connected, informed and motivated by launching a series of virtual programs. These include free RAIN Virtual Workshops on Mondays from 3 to 4 p.m. and a free Entrepreneur Support Group on Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m.

The Monday workshops will include:

- March 30: Knowing Your Customer is More Important Than Ever
- April 6: Social Media 101:

Maintaining Customer Engagement

- April 13: Going Online: Digital Sales in the Era of COVID-19
- April 20: Startup Sales & Marketing Tips
- April 27: Getting Kids Excited About Entrepreneurship

For the Friday Entrepreneur Support Group, Oregon RAIN will host Zoom meetings for any entrepreneur, innovator or business owner who wants to talk through challenges they are facing, learn from each other and support each other through this difficult time. The hosts will propose different topics during each meeting, but there will be flexibility based on needs that day.

“We are here to support you,” Cummings said.

For more info or to sign up, visit oregonrain.org.

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MARCH 28	MARCH 29	MARCH 30	MARCH 31	APRIL 1	APRIL 2	APRIL 3
Showers	Showers	Rain	Showers	Partly Cloudy	AM Showers	Partly Cloudy
52°F 45°F	51°F 44°F	50°F 44°F	51°F 39°F	53°F 38°F	52°F 39°F	53°F 39°F

Health is our #1 Priority!

At Shervin's we are taking extra precaution in order to ensure that our customers and staff are kept safe and healthy during this quickly changing situation.

1 Car Sanitation – All cars are wiped down with a sanitizer before and after the service. We wipe down any areas in the interior where employees have touched, such as door handles, the steering wheel, keys, shifters and power window panels.

2 Hand Sanitation – Our staff will continue to wash their hands throughout the day and change gloves after each car they service.

3 Give Customers Options – We will pick up and deliver your vehicle to your home. You may also drop your key in our secure mailbox for drop-offs to avoid or minimize contact.

4 Employee Illness is Serious – We are encouraging employees not to shake hands. We are practicing “personal distancing” and encouraging employees to stay home if they feel under the weather.

5 Wipe Down High Touch Points – We wipe/spray counters, credit card machines, door handles, phone handles, kitchen areas, and chair arms and tables in waiting area multiple times a day. We continue to be focused and committed to working with each of you to ensure we continue to meet and exceed your expectations. We are here for you.

We thank you for your business and more importantly, your friendship. Please be safe and exercise extra precaution during this challenging time.



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