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but there hasn't been enough donations to keep our blood supply levels where they should. That's where we're trying to help out as much as we can."

House stated that SVFR will be taking extra precautions to ensure the safety of donors in the process.

"We'll be checking temperatures of staff and donors before

entering the drive to make sure that they're all healthy," he said. "We'll provide sanitizing equipment before and after the drive as well throughout the donation process. We will also be routinely disinfecting all the equipment and surfaces in between the blood transfusions. We'll be wearing gloves and changing gloves often, using sterile collection sets and antiseptic scrubs in between each donation and staff will be wearing

face masks as well."

Under normal circumstances, the Red Cross would bring its bloodmobile out for donations, but because of social distancing measures put in place by the state, the cramped quarters of the vehicle became untenable. To ensure donor safety, the Red Cross now needs a minimum of 800 square feet. The training room at SVFR's main center provided the space.

"The fact that we're using the

upstairs will clear it up and they'll bring up their beds and chairs and make sure that there is six feet, if not more, of separation between each donor," House said. "We're also looking at one point of entry in and out so we can lessen exposure to the fire station."

As for what donors should do to prepare, House said they should make sure they are in good physical health.

"If they don't, of course, like ev-

erything else, we're asking them to stay away and isolate themselves as it is. We all need to try and limit the exposure of Covid-19 as much as we can," he said.

Gov. Kate Brown encouraged all Oregonians to give.

"It's still safe, and allowed, under my 'Stay Home, Save Lives' executive order to donate blood — in fact, I encourage it," she wrote in a statement. "Sign up to donate with the Red Cross today."

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Florence Food Share provides food to those who are hungry in our community. If you have four hours a week available, we are in need of volunteers to staff our Front Desk and also act as Guides as clients walk through the pantry. Please call our volunteer coordinator, Sarah Lovejoy, @ 541-997-9110 (Monday – Friday, before noon) to learn more about volunteering. info@florencefoodshare.org 2190 Spruce Street.



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SCHOOLS from page 1A

"This is not how anyone imagined that this senior year might have gone when the year began back in September," Grzeskowiak said. "Major social and developmental milestones have been lost."

However, graduation will not be one of those losses.

"There will be a commencement ceremony," Grzeskowiak said. "Right now, schools can't say when or how it will play out, but rest assured there will be an acknowledgement of the Class of 2020."

Graduation is also on the mind of Mapleton School District.

"While we don't know what the status of the 'Stay Home, Save Lives' expectation will be on June 6, Graduation Day for Mapleton Seniors, we will find a way to honor the 13 years our Senior Mapleton Sailors worked so hard at to get to their graduation day," Mapleton Superintendent Jodi O'Mara said. "We will be reaching out to all seniors by Wednesday, April 15, to notify them of their status."

As for whether or not a student is eligible for graduation, Mapleton is currently reviewing records.

"If a senior was on track on March 13, we will be notifying them next week that they have completed their Senior year and we will continue to support them with scholarship applications, resumé development, job applications and admission applications to any colleges of their choice," O'Mara said.

For those not on track to graduate, the district will create a plan to support those students to complete the requirements for graduation.

O'Mara stated that while campuses are closed, education continues through distance learning for all.

"During these unprecedented times, I want to say thank you for the kindness and patience you show to one another," she said. "We will need continued patience, resilience, kindness and strength as we move through these next few months."

O'Mara also expressed optimism that the district and those in the upriver communities of the Siuslaw region will find a way through the pandemic.

"We are so proud of our Mapleton students, parents and community as they continue to support the school and our staff as we navigate these uncharted waters together," O'Mara said. "We

appreciate their grace and patience as we implement the Distance Learning for All Guidance starting next week. ... There is no roadmap for the trip we are taking, but we will take this ride together."

The move to distance-only education has been expected after Oregon Department of Education released instructions for schools to begin shifting from supplemental education to distance learning beginning this week.

For the governor, closing the schools for the rest of the year came down to safety.

"It is first and foremost to protect our kids and our teachers. It is impossible to adhere to social distancing measures in our classrooms and our schools," Brown said. "Oregon's education workforce is typically older and potentially more vulnerable to COVID-19. We need to make sure we're keeping our students, teachers, principals and school staff safe as well."

She repeatedly mentioned the sacrifices that both parents and students have made during the pandemic.

"To all the moms and dads, I can't imagine what you're up against," Brown said. "Balancing parenting during this very scary crisis. I know that many of you have lost a

job, or are a first responder, or are trying to work from home with your kids there, all the time worrying about education and figuring out homeschooling. This is really hard on parents, too."

She thanked every Oregonian for their sacrifice, adding, "I also know that the measures we put into place are necessary actions right now to save lives."

In conclusion, Brown said, "I know that schools closing for the remainder of the year is not the news you hoped to hear. However, I hope the plan to graduate our seniors and our commitment to continuing learning relieves some of the stress of uncertainty for our students and parents across the state."

She also thanked the staff of districts for their work in unprecedented times.

"Our teachers, our principals, our superintendents, our councilors, bus drivers and food service staff: I know how much you love your students, and how much you love teaching. This is a really difficult time to be a teacher and try and reach all of your students, assist them, and help them grow. I honor your creativity and public service during this historic time," Brown said. "Thank you for everything that you do."

Small Business Resource Navigator connects businesses with resources

Governor Kate Brown has announced the launch of the Coronavirus Small Business Resource Navigator, which will help

connect small businesses to financial support and information they need to stay in business through the COVID-19 crisis.

"My goal is to connect thousands of Oregon's small businesses with the federal, state, and local financial support available to small

businesses dealing with the impacts of COVID-19," said Governor Brown. "There are potentially billions of dollars available from the CARES Act, and I want Oregon businesses to get their fair share."

Business Oregon will lead the new Small Business Resource Navigator, with support from several state agencies including the Oregon Employment Department, the Oregon Secretary of State, and the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services. The Governor's Jobs and Economy Policy Advisor, Leah Horner, is spearheading the initiative along with the Resource Navigator's lead manager from Business Oregon, Melisa Drugge.

The Resource Navigator will include a hotline and a website containing comprehensive information on key programs for small businesses, available at oregon4biz.com, with access to:

- Small Business Association programs established by the recently passed federal CARES Act, including: the Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loans, and Debt Relief programs
- State of Oregon programs, including the Entrepreneurial Development Loan Fund
- Local government programs, such as the South Central Oregon Economic Development Development District Economic Relief Loan Fund for Small Businesses
- More resources will be rapidly added to the Resource Navigator website on an ongoing basis
- A hotline and email will be available for small business owners to get more information on accessing financial support at the local, state, and federal levels.

For info, visit www.oregon4biz.com/Coronavirus-Information/.



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