



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Blair Sneddon received dozens of well wishes during a special drive-by birthday parade Saturday.

SNEDDON *from page 1A*

Sneddon first joined the Florence Fire Department in 1957, rising among the ranks of the volunteer organization and being promoted to captain by the mid '70s before eventually retiring from his volunteer position in 1984.

Sneddon was born April

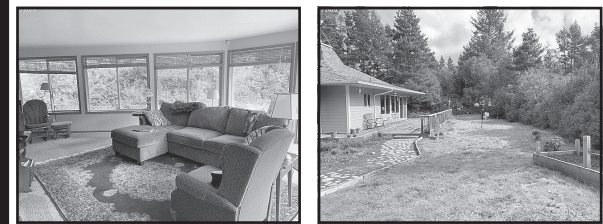
11, 1935, in Mt. Pleasant, Utah, but moved with his family to Florence in 1955.

In 1969, he established his own appliance repair business before eventually going to work for Central Lincoln PUD in the early '80s and retiring from the utility company in 2000.

Over the years, Sneddon was actively involved in many local causes and community activities in Florence and Reedsport.

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How to keep kids busy, connected while at home

Here are a few suggestions from nationwidechildrens.org that might help keep children busy and connected with friends, family and learning:

- Make a painter's tape maze on the carpet, for use with toy cars and trucks.
- Fill plastic bins with seasonal sensory items to explore.
- Make a nature scavenger hunt and get outside.
- Make homemade crafting dough or slime.
- "Draw" pictures on the

walls with flashlights and see if others can guess what they are.

- Plant seeds in cups to get an early start on the summer vegetable garden.
- Practice writing skills by becoming pen pals with friends.
- Check out Storyline On-line's YouTube channel, which features celebrities reading books.
- Bake cookies and treats.
- Assign older kids the task of cooking dinner one night

each week.

- Create a journal for a keepsake that will prove to be very special later.
- Use YouTube to learn skills: origami, music lessons, dance tutorials and much more.
- Build puzzles or play games.
- Color in coloring books or on downloaded coloring sheets.
- Use FaceTime and other apps to virtually connect with friends for socializing or studying.

- Build a fort and use it for play or as a reading nook.
- Mail hand-drawn pictures and letters to residents of local nursing homes.
- Watch the Lunch Doodles video series every weekday at 10 a.m., where author and illustrator Mo Willems gives quick drawing lessons.

There are lots of virtual experiences that families can enjoy from home: zoo and aquarium web cams, museum tours, concerts and much more.

STREAMING *from page 5A*

a lack of want to see films on the big screen, but fear of COVID-19.

"We know based on some studies that have already been done that movie theaters are probably way down the list on things that people want to get out and do right now," Falter said.

As reported last week in Variety, a study conducted in late March of 1,000 U.S. consumers found that 44 percent said they would attend fewer public events even after public health officials deemed them safe. In total, 47 percent said the notion of going to a major public event "will scare me for a long time."

As to how long it would take them to change their

views, the study found 49 to 56 percent of respondents saying it would take "a few months" to "possibly never" for them to return to those sectors post crisis.

"I think everybody right now is sort of in an anxiety ridden, fearful place, and I don't blame people," Falter said. "But I think if there are effective treatments, either it runs its course or we get a vaccine, and once people's fears are allayed, I think the desire will be to actually be together again, to have social interaction and actually get out of the house. It's probably going to take a fairly significant amount of time, which we're planning for. But we're really committed to Florence and coming back stronger than ever, and I think people

are going to be thrilled to be in a theater again. That's what I'm sticking with."

Even amidst reports in major theater chains like AMC filing for bankruptcy at the moment, there is an online swell of supporters for the theatergoing experience.

On April 6, a Twitter user named Scott Gustin posted a small clip of "Avengers: Endgame," a scene of Captain America battling the film's antagonist, Thanos. What was unique about the clip was that the audio was taken during the movie's opening night, in a packed movie theater.

When Captain America picks up a weapon, the crowd erupts in cheers and chants. "Whoo hoo hoo!" the person making the recording yelled over-and-over again as the

audience clapped, cried and cheered through the 48-second fight scene

"My eyes were filled with so much water that I couldn't see what was happening," a commenter wrote about the clip, while another simply said, "This is why we need theaters back when this is all over."

"Community watching films is such a different experience," Falter said. "I think this is going to show just how important that is. I think the final analysis for City Lights, and movie theaters across the country, is we're all struggling, along with everybody else. But we're all going to get through this. I think at the end of the day, movie theaters are going to be around for a long time to come."

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