

RULES from page 6A

For cash-strapped independent retail stores, cleaning requirements can be an issue, as the extra costs for supplies could hurt an already tight

profit margin. And all businesses may have difficulties obtaining cleaning supplies, as nationwide shortages have caused delays in manufacturing and delivery.

And all local businesses will

likely see a marked decline in clients due to OHA's suggestion regarding at-risk residents.

"To avoid exposure to COVID-19, people who are at risk for severe complications (over age 60 or have underlying medical conditions) should stay home even if you feel well," the OHA wrote.

When will tourism come back?

Statewide, residents are not required to stay within their areas, but it is highly recommended.

"Stay close to home," OHA advised. "Avoid overnight trips and minimize other non-essential travel, including recreational day trips to destinations outside the community where you live. Travel the minimum distance needed to obtain essential services; in rural areas, residents may have to travel greater distances for essential services, while in urban areas, residents may only need to travel a few miles for those services."

While these suggestions are ultimately up to personal choice, there are other restrictions that could blunt tourism in the summer months.

Oregon coast state parks such as Jessie M. Honeyman, which attracts thousands of tourists in the summer, will continue to be closed.

As for concerts and festivals, "Restarting events of this size will require a reliable treatment or prevention, like a vaccine, which is many months off," Brown said.

However, she didn't rule out festivals entirely, if organizers can get creative.

Of the Oregon State Fair, Brown said, "Some aspects of the fair could continue with

physical distancing, face coverings and limiting the number of people."

However, locally, the Lane County Fair scheduled in July announced Monday that it will not be taking place this year.

But the virus itself could be the biggest halt to tourism. Statistical models on the future of COVID are wide ranging, with some predicting a large, national spike in cases during the next few months. Others show a spike in the fall, or possibly winter. None have shown that the threat of COVID-19 is over.

Will these regulations stop the spread?

"We are venturing into uncharted territory, safely reopening businesses in the midst of a pandemic," OHA Director Patrick Allen said during the press conference.

Relatively little is known about COVID-19, as state and county officials frequently point out testing was, and in some cases still is, limited.

It is unknown exactly how widespread the virus is in Oregon, how exactly it has spread, or how deadly the disease actually is.

While the rapidly changing science surrounding COVID may change the need for some restrictions, right now the only effective method of abatement that is known is social distancing. This is what OHA has based its requirements on.

But no one requirement has been proven to stop the spread of COVID, and many of the requirements are still not universally accepted in the medical community. While the Centers for Disease Control maintains six feet is a reliable average for social distancing, the World Health Or-

ganization only recommends three feet. However, a recent study by MIT has found that COVID can travel up to 27 feet in specific circumstances.

Without clear scientific evidence, OHA is relying on a variety of methods that could stunt multiple possibilities of infections.

"Let me be clear, these choices are not easy," Brown said, explaining how COVID cases will increase in Oregon as it reopens, even with requirements and suggestions being followed. The goal is not so much to stamp out COVID completely, but to ensure the virus does not spread to the point that it overwhelms medical staff.

"We're not in the clear, in the country or in our state. COVID infections could spike quickly, if we aren't careful — all of us," the governor said.

While the state has not mandated such suggestions like masks and restricting travel, they are counting on citizens to follow those rules to ensure stricter measures are not needed.

These suggestions include staying home if they are sick, practicing good hygiene, maintaining social distance and wearing masks.

Is this the new normal?

If a county is accepted into "Phase I," it has 21 days before it can qualify for Phase II.

During that time, counties have to avoid certain red flags. This includes an inability to meet contact tracing requirements, evidence of increased prevalence of COVID-19 over seven days, or a rise in hospital admission over a seven-day period.

"If any of these metrics are violated, OHA will call an

immediate meeting with local public health officials for further discussion and evaluation," Brown stated.

At that point, a county, or a specific region, could have Phase I extended, or even reduced to shut-down level restrictions.

If a county passes all requirements, it will enter Phase II, which will "further expand gathering size, allow some office work, plus begin to allow visitation to congregate care," Brown said.

Phase II could also see an easing of restrictions on businesses placed in Phase I. Further details were not forthcoming as of press time.

If a county is able to meet requirements for 21 days in Phase II, it's possible that it could enter into Phase III, which would represent low risk for COVID and a return to normal. In this stage, concerts, fairs and crowded sports events are allowed.

But the governor reported that these events will be unlikely until a reliable treatment or vaccine is found.

"This virus is still very dangerous, and it still poses a great threat," Brown said during her conference. "Until there's a vaccine, unfortunately, we will not be able to go back to life as we knew it in Oregon or, frankly, anywhere."

Despite the difficulties that many businesses face with the restrictions, there are multiple avenues for financial assistance.

Editor's note: In next week's edition, Siuslaw News will look at a variety of these measures, as well as the rights of employees and employers while working in the new normal.

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90by30 from page 1A

In this experiential learning, the baby is the "teacher" and a catalyst to help children identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others – empathy. The instructor also visits the classes the weeks before and after

each family visit to reinforce teachings, for a total of 27 classroom visits.

A dozen years of research from four countries confirms Roots of Empathy's effect to successfully reduce aggressive attitudes and behaviors and develop/increase children's healthy social and emotional

skills.

In the short term, Roots of Empathy focuses on raising levels of empathy, resulting in more respectful and caring relationships and reduced levels of bullying and other aggressive behaviors. In the long term, the focus is to build the capacity of the next

generation for responsible citizenship.

Many thanks to Western Lane Community Foundation for their generous support to the West Lane 90by30.

For more information about 90by30, visit www.90by30.com. — Submitted by **West Lane 90by30**



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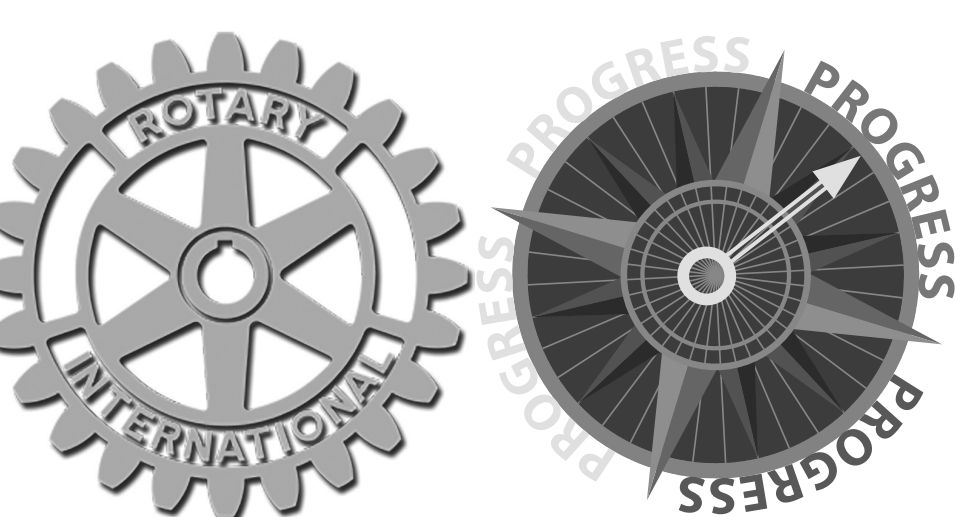
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ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD



The 2020 President's Scholarship

The Rotary Club of Florence takes applications for our high school senior's scholarships.

Every year the current president chooses the guidelines for a student that is the recipient of the President's Scholarship.

It is one among several annual scholarships and opportunities that our local Rotary Club of Florence provides to help students achieve their goals.

Siuslaw Public Library Director Meg Spencer, who serves as this year's president, noticed that there are many high school seniors in our community that do well academically, and they are employed full time.

This leaves many struggling to meet the civic and extracurricular requirements that most scholarships require.

However, while going to school and working, the students have been learning good time management skills as their service skills are being developed in their work environment.

This year Meg wanted to help one of these students. Someone who

works full time, contributing to their households needs by being one of the primary "bread winners."

"Those kids are often students who have great skills to go to college, but who are not able to do the extracurricular activities that other kids are able to engage in," she said.

Contributions for this scholarship come in a variety of ways. A significant portion is from the Rotary Auction each year. Also, each of the 115 local Rotary Club members are given a "coin jar" to collect donations with.

The members make it a little competitive amongst themselves, with two groups: New Rotarians vs. Seasoned. To date, they have collected over \$2,500 for this scholarship along.

If you would be interested in contributing, the Rotary Club of Florence gladly accepts donations.

Please contact Kim Erickson at 541-991-2070 or kim.erickson@opbc.com.

For more information about Rotary and its programs, go to www.theflorencerotary.org.