



JUNETEENTH Freedom Day Friday, June 19



PROTESTS CONTINUE

SILENT OBSERVANCE

Florence observed Flag Day on Sunday with a display of star spangled banners all across town and no formal events. Due to governmental restrictions, many gatherings have been canceled or postponed, with Flag Day joining other holidays in being observed privately rather than publicly. On June 12, U.S. President Donald Trump stated in a proclamation, "For more than 200 years, the Stars and Stripes has represented liberty, justice, and the rule of law. Recently, as our nation has come together to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, our flag has been a reminder of the courage, tenacity and loyalty that define the indomitable American spirit."



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

Gradual reopening of counties slows as Gov. Brown 'presses pause'

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

As of June 16, Lane County reported 88 positive test results for individuals infected with the novel coronavirus COVID-19, with 3 of those individuals dying from the disease. Of those, 79 individuals have recovered and 8 of those with confirmed cases are resting at home. The relatively small number of cases reported in Lane County are the results of 2,370 COVID-19 tests conducted last week, which brings the total number of tests given to 12,051 since the beginning of February.

Lane County is currently in Phase II of the state's reopening plan, with any future changes delayed by at least one week and potentially longer. While the county has seen a very small increase in confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the past 10 days, other counties in the state have reported troubling increases in infections increases.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown held a press conference on Monday to announce a slowing of the reopening process, which has most counties in the midst of Phase II reopening protocols.

"The noticeable increase in COVID-19 infections in Oregon over the past week is cause for concern. In order to ensure that the virus is not spreading too quickly, I am putting all county applications for further reopening on hold for seven days. This is essentially a statewide 'yellow light.' It is time to press pause for one week before any further reopening," Brown said.

See PAUSE page 7A

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WEATHER



Mostly sunny with a high of 66 and a low tonight of 49.
Full forecast on A3

COMMUNITY



Pioneer Museum to reopen for July 4
INSIDE — A3

SPORTS



City names park
INSIDE — SPORTS

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Pandemic prompts streaming surge as people turn to online resources

BY MARK BRENNAN
SIUSLAW NEWS

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many changes in the ways Americans conduct their lives and these changes differ both from state to state and region to region. One thing that has been a loss in the lives of nearly everyone in the country is the elimination of live entertainment, youth sports leagues, education and group gatherings.

The cessation of professional

and collegiate sports, music, and theatrical performances, retail shopping, dining out, weddings and church services, fraternal organizations and going to the movies, has been national in scope. The closures have devastated the American economy and injured the psyche of a people whose sense of self and country is based on freedom, justice and individual choice.

The unexpected positive outcome of all this seemingly bad news is a major expansion of free online learning, exercise and enter-

tainment options.

This unprecedented expansion of live streamed events, often available for later viewing, presents everyone with the chance to enjoy world class performances, lectures from renowned educators and how-to classes from some of the world's great artists.

There are hundreds of online exercise classes available on YouTube, which has become an even more essential media platform

See STREAMING page 8A

'Our goal is to get kids here'

BY JARED ANDERSON
SIUSLAW NEWS

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Lane County (BGCWLC) will be opening its doors on Monday, June 22, after being authorized to reopen as an emergency childcare center.

"We're tickled pink we can have the kids back. We're excited, we miss them," BGCWLC director Chuck Trent said. "We love these kids."

However, he stressed that when the doors will reopen, things will be different.

"Everything is going to be so heavily regulated. That's to protect the kids, the families and also our employees," Trent said.

The guidelines for reopening come from a joint task force from the governor's office, made up of representatives from the Office of Child Care, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Department of Education (ODE).

The guidelines include strict

physical distancing measures, requiring all students to stay six feet apart from each other.

Health screenings will see the club turning away children for a variety of symptoms, from fever to nausea to rash.

so they can answer health screening questions, as well as fill out contact tracing information.

When BGCWLC first began notifying parents of the requirements, there was "lots of feedback that they're not really happy with the re-

"Our goal is to get them here, see how they are mentally, and see how they can transition through the difficult time."

— Lisa Crater,

*Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Lane County
Resource Development Manager*

Children will not be able to gather in large groups, but instead be placed in cohorts of 10 that will not be able to interact with other cohorts.

Deep cleaning will be a norm, with the club closing an hour early every day to ensure staff has time to disinfect the area.

Guardians will be required to drop off children, regardless of age,

restrictions," Trent said. "We're calling our parents right now to help them understand — this guidance comes directly out of the governor's office."

Summer clubs like BGCWLC will act as a testing ground for the new guidelines, many of which will be implemented in school districts statewide come the fall. However, it won't be an apples to apples compar-

Boys and Girls Club prepares to reopen June 22

ison.

Emergency childcare centers will have stricter regulations, from the sizes of cohorts they are allowed to what symptoms children will be allowed. They will also be at a disadvantage due to differences in staffing and available space, which will limit how many children can be served at one time.

Complicating the issue further is funding. While BGCWLC received a sizable grant from PeaceHealth for \$25,000, money is "still tight," Trent said, for the club as donations have slowed and annual fundraisers have been either cancelled or put into doubt because of the shutdowns.

Despite the setbacks and regulations, BGCWLC will still be providing most of the regular activities for children, including Money Matters, Smart Girls, the gardening club and sports activities. And they will be striving to ensure the regulations are as nonintrusive as possible.

See CLUB page 6A

DON'T LOOK BACK! WE'RE NOT GOING THAT WAY!



Help support your neighbors in need who have been unemployed due to the Covid-19 shutdown.
Send your kind contribution to: Christmas in June, P.O. Box 1041, Florence, Oregon 97439

Questions?
Call Sam Spayd @ 541-991-6139

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