

**RESPONSE from page 7A**

“A lot of them are very comfortable staying at home. They may not go out a lot. And they’re more safety conscious, willing to wear masks, willing to protect their health. They’re more conscious of their health.”

That’s not to say that older populations aren’t struggling, as issues they had before the pandemic still remain today.

“A lot of the issues they struggle with are health problems, social isolation, and people who have been widowed and living alone,” Severance said. “I’m really surprised in this community by people who don’t have any kind of social support system. They may have no children, or the children live out of state. They don’t go to church, they don’t go to any social groups. They don’t have friends or neighbors who they socialize with. A lot of people lose their spouse and are completely isolated, with a very limited ability to take care of themselves as well.”

There’s also issues with disorientation, which makes up a fair amount of calls for MCR.

“It’s something that goes along with living in a much older population,” she said. “We have a city of elderly people, some of whom may be experiencing dementia, memory problems, things like that.”

But the biggest issue Sev-

erance sees right now in the older population is fear.

“Stay away from all the fear mongering in the media,” she said. “Go to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), World Health Organization or trusted media sources. We reinforce the safety measures that will keep people safe.”

Locally, the Siuslaw region is prepared for an outbreak of COVID-19 if it were to occur. PeaceHealth Peace Harbor is constantly monitoring the situation in conjunction with local governments, and contingency plans are in place. Still, there is a responsibility from community members to ensure safety measures are followed to prevent the virus from overtaking the community.

MCR employees stress safety measures.

“Wear a mask, stay home as much as you can, do not having people over and that kind of thing,” Severance said. “We address the fact that it’s very isolating and can be an issue for people. But the telephone is a great way to reach out. I’m surprised by how many elderly people have learned to use Zoom. I think that’s so impressive. We encourage them to have family gatherings through Zoom weekly.”

Ultimately, Severance suggested that everyone will have to judge their own comfort level.

“There is risk,” she said. “Of course, when you’re in

a restaurant, you’re going to have to take your mask off to eat. It’s not a perfect answer. If you’re uncomfortable with those situations, I just encourage people not to engage in them. And people who do feel comfortable and feel safe enough with a mask, and following guidelines, then that’s great too.”

However, not everyone is following the guidelines.

On Wednesday, a statewide order went into effect that requires all businesses to enforce customers wear masks while indoors. The day the rule took effect, Siuslaw News received multiple calls from businesses stating pushback, sometimes verbally abusive, toward the new laws.

Even before then, guidelines like masks and social distancing were ignored in some sectors of the community. Historic Old Town Florence was often packed with tourists shoulder to shoulder, while some local businesses didn’t regulate mask wearing among its employees. Even if someone who was at risk was able to turn off the 24 hour news cycle and went outside, they could become afraid by what they see, go back home, and further isolate.

“That’s a problem,” Severance said. “People are required, whether they’re from out of state or not, to be wearing masks. But social distancing, it may mean that people who are really fearful and have health is-

suess, that they avoid places like Old Town where there’s a lot of people and some of them just aren’t going to be compliant. That’s the problem.”

Which then exacerbates the issue of the younger generation. If the older population avoids stores, jobs won’t come back and issues of deteriorating mental health will continue. To help deescalate all of these issues, from suicide to fear, people are going to have to work together.

“We need to come together as a community,” Severance said. “It’s an issue of respect for other people. It’s not just about your own personal choice and your own personal freedom. It’s about respect for other people.”

MCR is recruiting team members — “Anybody with any experience with crisis intervention or counseling, mental health issues, who would be willing to work at least three 24 hours shifts a month and respond at all hours,” Severance said. “We do a lot of training. We’re a very tight team, and we have each other’s backs.”

*To contact the Mobile Crisis Response team for help, call 541-997-3515, the non-emergency number of emergency dispatch. In case of emergency, contact 911 and ask for MCR.*

*For more information Siuslaw Outreach Services, visit [florencesos.org](http://florencesos.org).*

*Information on the group’s pandemic support can be found at [thesiuslawnews.com/article/sos-provides-additional-monetary-support](http://thesiuslawnews.com/article/sos-provides-additional-monetary-support).*

*More information on Spayd’s Christmas in June can be found at [thesiuslawnews.com/article/bringing-christmas-to-june](http://thesiuslawnews.com/article/bringing-christmas-to-june).*

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**New online music summer camp opens for children**

Local musicians Jason Wood and Sheena Moore are teaming up to create “Music in Motion,” an online summer camp that will run Aug. 3 to 27.

The camp is geared toward children five to 8

years old, but older children are also welcome.

“I’m really excited about this and can’t wait to explore movement and music with you,” Moore said.

People can sign up now through Aug. 1. The \$40

package includes four pre-recorded sessions, four show-and-tell sessions and materials for a DIY instrument.

For more information, or to sign up, contact [jasonbrettwood@gmail.com](mailto:jasonbrettwood@gmail.com)

or [sheenamoorevocals@gmail.com](mailto:sheenamoorevocals@gmail.com).



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**A look back at 130 years**

INSIDE EACH EDITION OF *SIUSLAW NEWS* THROUGH OCTOBER

**1898**

*The Acme Dance*  
— The West Vol. 8, No. 37  
January 7, 1898

The New Year Dance given at Acme Friday evening by the Florence and Acme dancing club was a grand success.

All the arrangements for the evening were made by the young ladies belonging to the club, and this is enough to insure a good time for those who attend any entertainment they manage.

Music was furnished by Marion Morris and Mrs. Alexander. After indulging in the light fantastic toe till midnight, the company proceeded to the Alexander building, where an excellent picnic supper had been provided.

After everyone had partaken freely of the good things of the table, all returned to the hall, and dancing was continued till early daylight.



**1899**

*Improved Train Service*  
— The West Vol. 9, No. 51  
April 21, 1899

Effective last Feb. 12, the Northern Pacific inaugurated double train service between Portland and all points east. Trains will leave Portland at 11:30 a.m. and 11 p.m. daily. These trains will be both first class and fully equipped in every respect, heated by steam, vestibulated, standard Pullman and tourist sleepers, dining cars and colonist sleeping cars.



**1900**

— The West Vol. 10, No. 41  
January 26, 1900

**Council Proceedings**

A special meeting of the city council was held in the Odd Fellows building January 19, 1900, with President Weatherson in the chair.

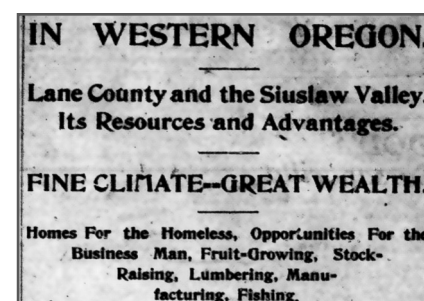
The ordinance providing for building a drive way on certain streets, presented at last meeting, was laid on the table till some future meeting.

An ordinance prohibiting the use of fire arms, air guns and spring guns within the corporate limits of Florence was presented and read the first time. The rules were suspended, the ordinance was read the second and third times and adopted.

**Elections**

It is noted that several school districts of New York State chose women for commissioners at the recent election. The number of women who were nominated for commissioners was by no means small, and this must be construed as popular recognition of women’s fitness for the position, especially in view of the fact that an increased number of women will fill the place during the coming term.

**1901**



*The Forest Rangers*  
— The West Vol. 11, No. 45  
March 29, 1901

A petition is in circulation here requesting that forest rangers in the Cascade reserve to devote a portion of their time the coming summer to improving the public highways.

It is represented that on the McKenzie wagon road above Lost Creek, a great many trees have fallen across the road, and it is almost impossible for covered wagons to get by some places.

There is practically no roadwork available from settlers along the road, as there are no settlers. It is further represented that the rangers have heretofore employed considerable time in cutting trials through the mountain country where there is no travel, and that they could accomplish more by clearing out this wagon road.

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