

Unique ways to celebrate New Year's Eve during the pandemic

New Year's Eve is a highly anticipated day on many people's calendars. Social schedules tend to be busy during the holiday season, and that typically culminates on Dec. 31, when people across the globe gather to say goodbye to one year and welcome in a new one.

Much of the world is no doubt ready to put 2020 in its rearview mirror, but New Year's Eve celebrations will almost certainly have to be scaled back this year. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the ways people gather socially, so traditional New Year's Eve parties likely won't be in the cards as the world turns the calendar from 2020 to 2021.

Raucous parties might not be on the docket this Dec. 31, but that does not mean people cannot still

celebrate the end of what's proven to be a very challenging year.

Don't wait until midnight

Many people love to be around friends and family as the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns that the COVID-19 virus spreads more easily indoors than outdoors. So gathering around the television to watch the ball drop in Times Square as you count down to the new year may put celebrants' health in jeopardy.

If you want to gather with loved ones, do so earlier in the day and gather outdoors when the weather figures to be much warmer than it

will be at midnight. A champagne toast around a backyard firepit can



serve as a stand-in for midnight toasts.

Hit the road

Travel restrictions may dictate where people can safely celebrate New Year's Eve, but if large gath-

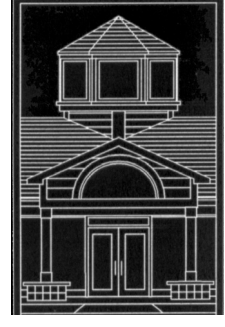
erings with friends are prohibited this year, families can plan getaways. New Year's Eve is on a Thursday this year, and many offices will be closed on the following Friday in observance of the New Year's Day holiday. That makes it an ideal weekend to get out of town. Many vacation rental services like VRBO and Airbnb have introduced guidelines to address health and safety concerns prospective travelers may have. Before booking a getaway, contact hosts to determine what they're doing to make their rentals safe for renters.

Celebrate over and over again

One unique way to see 2020

to the door and usher in 2021 is to celebrate throughout the day and night as various areas of the world officially close the book on 2020. The Pacific island nations of Tonga, Samoa and Kiribati are the first countries to ring in the new year, and they will do so at what will be 5 a.m. on Dec. 31 in New York. Many countries across the globe ring in the New Year before residents of North America, so North Americans can make a day of sending 2020 into the history books and celebrate each time a new country reaches 2021.

New Year's celebrations figure to be different as the world ushers in 2021. But there are many unique ways to celebrate that can make New Year's Eve just as fun as it's always been.



Library Tidings

News about the Siuslaw Public Library by Kevin Mittge

ice Miller accepts a post as governess at Winterbourne, looking after the twin children, Constance and Edmund, for their widower father, Captain Jonathan de Grey. Falling under the de Greys' spell, Alice believes the family will heal her own past sorrows.

But then the twins' adoration becomes deceitful and taunting. Their father, ever distant, turns spiteful and cruel. The manor itself seems to lash out.

Alice finds her surroundings subtly altered, her air slightly chilled. Something malicious resents her presence, something clouding her senses and threatening

her very sanity. In present-day New York, art gallery curator Rachel Wright has learned she is a descendant of the de Greys and heir to Winterbourne. Adopted as an infant, she never knew her birth parents or her lineage.

At long last, Rachel will find answers to questions about her identity that have haunted her entire life. But what she finds in Cornwall is a devastating, tragic legacy that has afflicted generations of de Greys. A legacy born from greed and deceit, twisted by madness, and suffused with unrequited love and unequivocal rage.

There is only one true mis-

tress of Winterbourne. She will not tolerate any woman who dares to cross its threshold and call it home. Those who do will find only a reflection of their own wicked sins and an inherited vengeance.

New Year's Holiday Hours at the Library

The library will close at noon on Thursday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve, and will be closed on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, New Year's Day. Phone orders for curbside pickup will only be available from 10 a.m. to noon on New Year's Eve and curbside pickup and returns will only be available for one hour, 11 a.m. to

noon. We would like to wish all of our patrons a better and a wonderful 2021!

Best Books Questionnaire

Each year librarian Kevin Mittge presents the "Best Books" of the previous year in a fast-moving "60 books in 60 minutes" program around the end of February. Even though we won't be hosting an in-person program this year, there will be a virtual presentation online, with follow-up videos posted to the library's YouTube channel (you can still view last year's videos).

The library asks for input from library patrons

each year as to their favorite books of the year.

If you would like to provide input as to your favorite books of 2020, please click on the link on the library's website at www.siuslawlibrary.info. The link is the poster entitled "Best Books 2020 Survey" on the scrolling screen in the middle of the page.

We don't share your name or email address with anyone else. Only a selection of books will be presented in the program — we have to make some choices to keep the program limited to an hour! — but all books recommended will be included in the booklist provided.

ODOT extends driver license, vehicle tag grace period into 2021

SALEM—Oregon residents with a vehicle registration, permit or driver license expiring between Nov. 1, 2020, and April 30, 2021, have up to three months after their expiration date without being cited by law enforcement for an expired license or tags. The Oregon Department

of Transportation and Oregon law enforcement agencies agreed to the new grace period as DMV catches up with a backlog due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Under the agreement, Oregon law enforcement officers will exercise more discretion for recently expired licenses and registration

before choosing whether to write a citation. Law enforcement can verify the status of a driver or vehicle registration electronically during a traffic stop.

A law enforcement moratorium under Senate Bill 1601 from an Oregon Special Legislative Session last summer will expire Dec. 31. Under that legislation, a police officer cannot issue a citation for the following DMV products if they expired between March 1 and Dec. 31, 2020:

- Driver license and identification cards
- Passenger vehicle registrations
- Commercial vehicle registrations
- Trip permits and tempo-

rary registrations

- Disabled parking permits

DMV offices open by appointment

DMV offices are open by appointment — mostly those that require in-person visits such as driver license and other identification card-related services. In some parts of Oregon, the first available appointment may be two months out, so don't wait until the last minute to schedule your appointment.

As DMV catches up with the backlog, more services will become available by appointment. We do not yet know when walk-in services can resume, but some appointments for vehicle title

and registration are available now. Visit www.OregonDMV.com for a complete list of services available by office.

See if you can get what you need at DMV2U

Many services are available online at DMV2U.Oregon.gov and more will be added soon. Those available now include:

- Renew your vehicle registration
- Access your DMV profile
- Schedule an appointment
- Replace a lost, damaged or stolen license or ID card
- Pay a reinstatement fee
- Report your change of address
- Report the sale of your car
- Calculate vehicle fees to mail in title and registration applications
- You can also download forms and complete many transactions by mail including vehicle title transfers.

Find detailed instructions at www.OregonDMV.com. We are continually improving our website to help you get what you need.

DMV has been increasing its capacity to provide services as safely as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to use new system capabilities so customers get their DMV services from the comfort of their homes, and to hire more staff to help catch up with the backlog.

Among current efforts:

- Hiring additional temporary staff for field offices and call centers.
- Authorizing overtime to process mailed-in transactions.
- Adding services online by successfully finishing a multi-year system replacement in July.
- Expanding capacity for appointments from 16,000 per week this summer to nearly 28,000 per week now.
- Adding new knowledge test machines to increase capacity.
- Increasing drive test appointments at DMV offices in addition to expanding the number of private drive-test providers — both using COVID-19 safety practices.

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To our clients and fellow community members:

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone and we are proud to be part of a community that showed so much support for one another in times of need. We realize you have a choice when choosing a real estate professional to represent you and we strive to continue earning your business. Thank you for including Windermere Real Estate in your selection process when buying or selling your home. We appreciate and are grateful for your partnership. We wish all of you and your loved one's good health and happiness as we move forward into 2021. Happy Holidays!

To the Realtors of Windermere Real Estate:

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication this year as we navigated through uncharted waters. You maintained the high standards of professionalism and service our clients have come to expect from Windermere Real Estate and did it all while keeping everyone's safety a top priority. We are truly proud to be affiliated with Lane County's premier real estate company, comprised of dedicated, full time brokers, who have worked hard over the years to build the superb reputation Windermere enjoys today. Thank you for all that you do and cheers to 2021!

Sincerely,
Elliott Wood and Alec Armour

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