

**IN REVIEW from page 1A**

The World Health Organization declared the coronavirus contamination to be a pandemic, a recognition that the virus has or will soon spread around the globe.

"We expect to see the number of cases, the number of deaths, and the number of affected countries to climb even higher. This is not just a public health crisis, it is a crisis that will touch every sector — so every sector and every individual must be involved in the fight," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director General of the WHO.

**Local virus preparation continues**

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown declared a state of emergency over the virus. Fifteen presumptive and confirmed cases of COVID-19 were re-

ported in.

Locally, schools and other agencies created plans in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19, working closely with other governmental organizations on addressing safety.

**Notable Mentions:**

- Siuslaw School District launched a mobile food, schoolwork program to distribute two meals a day to hundreds of children along bus routes

- WLAD Operations Chief Matt House becomes operations chief for all of Western Lane Fire and EMS Authority

- More than 60 people attend Florence Habitat for Humanity's 2020 Women Build

- Western Lane Emergency Operation Center is activated to streamline community response of the pandemic

- Three Rivers Casino Resort ceases all gaming, hotel and restaurant activities on Tribal property for two weeks

- Florence Restaurant Alliance forms to "keep our small businesses thriving"

- Gov. Brown closes Oregon school districts starting March 16

- Brown issues strict 'stay at home' measures after tourists come to coast for Spring Break

**APRIL**

**Lane County unable to confirm location of rural COVID-19 cases**

County Public Health protocols prevent identifying rural communities with confirmed cases of the virus. Instead, cases are reported as either from Eugene/Springfield or from "rural areas outside of Eugene/Springfield."

LCPH said the reason is

patient privacy and safety.

**Chamber cancels Rhody Festival**

Florence Area Chamber of Commerce announced the cancellation of in-person events for the 113th Rhododendron Festival, annually held the third weekend of May. This was the first time since WWII that Rhody Fest has been canceled.

**Schools close for the remainder of school year**

Oregon's public schools will remain closed for the remainder of the school year, according to an announcement by Gov. Brown. "School, and learning, will continue as best as we can using remote means," she said.

**Community gathers PPE for local emergency response**

Medical first responders in Florence and nationwide are experiencing shortages in personal protective equipment of all types, including protective masks. The City of Florence and WLEOG initiated a PPE donation program at the Florence Public Works Facility.

**What people in the Siuslaw are doing for each other**

"Helpers" find ways to pay kindness forward during the pandemic, including by sewing masks and feeding people. The Hand family sewed more than 1,000 PPE masks and gowns to fill the gap for local medical and emergency personnel.

Cindy Wobbe and her nonprofit The Good Deed Project began the Soup Brigade, combining gourmet chefs and bakers with delivery drivers who take meals to housebound or immuno-compromised people.

**OSAA cancels all remaining spring activities**

The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) officially cancelled all remaining spring sports season activities and state championships. The decision came after current OSAA policies enacted in March prohibited the use of school facilities and coaches from organizing or directing workouts and practices.

**Notable Mentions:**

- City Lights Cinemas begins to offer streaming service

- Community holds first drive-by parade, this time for longtime resident Blair Sneddon's 85th birthday

- U.S. President Donald Trump approves a major disaster declaration for the State of Oregon

- Port of Siuslaw declares emergency, closes indefinitely to campers, anglers

- Mapleton High School lights up the football stadium lights each week for the Class of 2020

- Boards and committees move online, with many meetings held via the Zoom application

- PeaceHealth Peace Harbor creates incident command, increases telehealth options

- Restaurants reopen for take-out food options

- Dunes City votes to become a 2nd Amendment Preservation City

- U.S. Census begins, with most responses coming from online

- Paycheck Protection Program loans are authorized under the CARES Act, which provided \$349 billion in small business loans through Small Business Administration

**MAY**

**Farmers Market returns with online ordering and drive thru**

The seasonal Florence Farmers Market created an

online ordering format and a drive-through pickup for fresh produce, baked goods and canned delicacies. People were able to go to [florencefarmersmarket.org](http://florencefarmersmarket.org) to shop individual vendors and place orders.

**Governor releases new guidelines**

Gov. Brown announced a timeline for lifting the ban on business operations and social interactions. The main goal of the initial stage of the reopening plan is based on increasing both the number of tests given and reducing the number of needed tests by limiting which individuals will be allowed to take a test.

**Rhody Days moves to online celebration**

Rhody Days featured a virtual Rhododendron Festival Grand Floral Parade, Photo Contest and Rhody Run and a video presentation of the talents, sponsors and plans for the future of the 2020 Rhododendron Court.

**Lane County enters Phase I of reopening**

After two months of stay-at-home orders, 28 counties in Oregon slowly began to reopen as small business owners and their employees learn how to work in the age of COVID-19. The state continued to monitor testing rates, contact tracing, isolation of new cases, hospitalization rates and other metrics.

**Notable Mentions:**

- Siuslaw School District serves up 26,500+ meals in 8 weeks

- Port of Siuslaw Campground reopens on May 26

- OCHS selects Charles Brown as the new executive director

- Mapleton School District honors students with class achievement awards

See 2020 page 6A

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<p>1 year Established</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">2020</h2> <p>Coastal Home Services 2530 Kingwood Street Florence, Oregon 97439 CCB# 221760 <b>541-590-7027</b></p>		