

# Community News

## City of Florence cancels plans for 'Reverse Rhody Parade'

Due to changing health metrics from COVID-19, the City of Florence and partner agencies have decided to cancel the Reverse Rhody Parade that was scheduled for May 16. Lane County has shifted into the high risk category related to COVID-19 and the case count for west Lane County, as demon-

strated by the main Florence zip code, continues to rise. Based on the trends reported by Public Health, it is not likely that Lane County's risk level will be

downgraded significantly by May 16. "We would like to thank the participant organizations and businesses from around town who were

willing to help us make this happen," said Florence Assistant City Manager Megan Messmer. "We can't wait for next year and the 2022 Rhododendron Festival to see your creativity come to life."

For more information about the City of Florence, visit [ci.florence.or.us](http://ci.florence.or.us).

## Habitat for Humanity to collect bottles, cans later this month

Florence Habitat for Humanity will gladly take bottles and cans as it continues to raise funds for a new delivery truck. Florence Habitat is hosting its next bottle and can drive Saturday, May 29,

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This will be a social distancing, drive-thru event. People can bring their redeemable bottles and cans they wish to donate to the Florence Habitat

ReStore parking lot, 2016 Highway 101. Volunteers will be on hand to unload them from your vehicle. If people are unable to make the event and would still like to donate,

Florence Habitat collects deposit cans and bottles every day in its collection container located behind ReStore off Spruce Street.

Habitat for Humanity Office at 541-902-9227 ext 101 or visit Habitat online at [www.florencehabitat.org](http://www.florencehabitat.org).

For more information, contact Ivy at the Florence

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## Governor downgrades Lane County to 'High Risk'

With hospitalization rate leveling, 15 counties to return to high risk effective yesterday (May 7).

Last Tuesday, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced updates to county risk levels under the state's public health framework to reduce transmission and protect Oregonians from COVID-19. With the statewide seven-day average increase for hospitalized COVID-19 positive patients dropping below 15 percent, Oregon no longer meets the statewide metrics for the Extreme Risk level.

Effective yesterday, 15 counties returned to High Risk. In total, 24 counties will be at High Risk, four at Moderate Risk, and eight at Lower Risk.

A complete list of counties and their risk levels is available at [www.corona](http://www.corona)

[virus.oregon.gov/Pages/living-with-covid-19.aspx](http://virus.oregon.gov/Pages/living-with-covid-19.aspx)

Brown issued the following statement: "Across the state, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are still high, and Oregon is not out of the woods yet. However, we have met the hospitalization metric established by our health experts for counties to return to High Risk.

"From the beginning, I have said that returning counties to the Extreme Risk level was about preserving hospital capacity and saving lives.

"With our statewide hospitalization rate stabilizing, our hospitals should have the capacity to continue treating patients with severe cases of COVID-19 and other serious medical conditions in the coming weeks.

"Based on today's num-

bers, I am keeping my commitment to Oregonians.

"With Oregonians continuing to get vaccinated each week, my expectation is that we will not return to Extreme Risk again for the duration of this pandemic.

"I know this will bring relief to many across the state. However, the lifting of Extreme Risk health and safety measures comes with great personal responsibility for us all. If Oregonians continue to keep up their guard, follow High Risk health and safety measures, and get vaccinated as fast as possible, we should see our COVID-19 case and hospitalization rates decline.

"I'd like to thank Oregonians for taking this surge seriously for the last several weeks. It's because of you that our hospitals have

not been overwhelmed.

"Today, we also received the welcome news from the Biden-Harris administration that they will be reallocating unused vaccines to the states that need them. Oregon will ask for the maximum allowed, which will help us to get shots in arms faster.

"Vaccinations are still our best path to protecting our loved ones, and staying on track to fully reopen our economy by the end of June."

People can learn more about the virus, and how to get vaccinated, at:

- [www.coronavirus.oregon.gov/Pages/living-with-covid-19.aspx](http://www.coronavirus.oregon.gov/Pages/living-with-covid-19.aspx)
- [www.lanecounty.org/coronavirus](http://www.lanecounty.org/coronavirus)
- [www.lanecounty.org/vaxclinics](http://www.lanecounty.org/vaxclinics)

**Siuslaw News Garage Sale GUIDE**

**Final Moving Sale**  
Fri. 5/5, Sat. 5/6, Sun. 5/7  
9am-3pm  
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Everything must go.  
Prices slashed. 1890's Vintage Oak Sideboard.

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## What to do if you have not received your ballot

Lane County ballots were mailed on Thursday, April 29, and registered voters should have received their ballots by now.

Voters who did not receive their ballots in the mail should do one or more of the following:

- Go to [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov) to confirm they are registered.
- If they have moved to any new address, even the apartment next door, they will need to update their registration. Voters can update online at [www.oregonvotes.gov](http://www.oregonvotes.gov) if they

have a valid DMV license, identification card or permit number.

The same website can be used to update or remove a mailing address. They can also complete a registration card and mail or deliver it to Lane County Elections.

Ballots may not be forwarded by law. If voters are not going to be at a regular residence or mailing address, they need to submit a request for an absentee ballot at the temporary location.

If voters are unsure what to do, they should

call Lane County Elections at 541-682-4234 to determine what action they must take in order to receive a ballot.

Due to COVID-19, the Lane County Elections Office will be open to the public only on Friday, May 14; Monday, May 17; and Tuesday, May 18, Election Day.

Check our web page at [www.lanecountyor.gov](http://www.lanecountyor.gov) for additional updates concerning office hours.

When open, visitors will be required to observe physical distancing guidelines.

**VIRTUAL CINEMA NEW THIS WEEK**

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MAY 8	MAY 9	MAY 10	MAY 11	MAY 12	MAY 13	MAY 14
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
59°F 46°F	59°F 45°F	61°F 44°F	65°F 47°F	65°F 47°F	60°F 45°F	59°F 46°F

**Health is our #1 Priority!**

At Shervin's we are taking extra precaution in order to ensure that our customers and staff are kept safe and healthy during this quickly changing situation.

**1 Car Sanitation** - All cars are wiped down with a sanitizer before and after the service. We wipe down any areas in the interior where employees have touched, such as door handles, the steering wheel, keys, shifters and power window panels.

**2 Hand Sanitation** - Our staff will continue to wash their hands throughout the day and change gloves after each car they service.

**3 Give Customers Options** - We will pick up and deliver your vehicle to your home. You may also drop your key in our secure mailbox for drop-offs to avoid or minimize contact.

**4 Employee Illness is Serious** - We are encouraging employees not to shake hands. We are practicing "personal distancing" and encouraging employees to stay home if they feel under the weather.

**5 Wipe Down High Touch Points** - We wipe/spray counters, credit card machines, door handles, phone handles, kitchen areas, and chair arms and tables in waiting area multiple times a day. We continue to be focused and committed to working with each of you to ensure we continue to meet and exceed your expectations. We are here for you.

We thank you for your business and more importantly, your friendship. Please be safe and exercise extra precaution during this challenging time.

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