

## Finally, state gets some encouraging virus news

*The Columbia Press  
and news services*

News this week about the COVID-19 pandemic brought a bit of optimism to the state of Oregon, its struggling businesses and those who aren't receiving paychecks.

Infections with the virus are projected to remain level into May and stay within current hospital capacity if Oregonians continue social distancing, Oregon Health Authority officials said.

All 58 of the state's deaths have been among the elderly, and all had pre-existing health conditions. Clatsop County has had six positive cases, none of them have required hospitalization and three have recovered and are no longer under quarantine.

New projections from health researchers estimate that Oregon's "aggressive" social distancing measures have prevented 18,000 cases of COVID-19 and 500 hospitalizations. But restrictions must remain



Supplies from the federal stockpile in Dubai arrive at the state distribution center in Wilsonville.

Courtesy Oregon Health Authority

in place to prevent new cases from rising above what's happening right now, the agency warned.

Oregon received 78 pallets of personal protective equipment April 10 from the U.S. Agency for International Development, replenishing the state's stockpile of N95 masks, face shields, gloves, masks, coveralls and other equipment.

The PPE has been kept in a foreign

disaster warehouse in Dubai. The last time the stockpile was touched for a domestic emergency was after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

This week, Oregon Army National Guard members picked up the supplies from the state distribution center in Wilsonville and distributed them to all 36 counties, nine tribal nations, and two tribal health

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## Graduation in time of COVID a sad introduction to adulthood

**BY CINDY YINGST**  
*The Columbia Press*

How will our seniors graduate from high school if the rest of the school year has been cancelled? It's already a done deal, state leaders have decided.

While other grade levels continue with individualized "distance" learning, any senior who was in good standing when the governor shuttered the schools March 12 has been given amnesty for fourth quarter.



Heyen

The news is small so-lace for Warrenton's class of 2020. There will be no prom, no spring sports, no final band or dance recital, no scholarship banquet, no graduation ceremony and no grad night.

"I'm sad for them," Warrenton High School Principal Rod Heyen said. "It's an anxious time for our seniors, for sure."

Senior Melia Kapua, a three-sport athlete, appreciates the love and support from the community, which has helped her cope with such a frustrating situation, she said.

"Missing the last sport season of your final year of high school and not being able to walk at graduation are the two biggest things that have really affected me," she said. "Everything was cut off and I didn't

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Kapua

## City making post-pandemic party preparations

**BY CINDY YINGST**  
*The Columbia Press*

The city is ready to party.

With cancellation of the Easter egg hunt and a downtown street festival, plus the possibility of no Fourth of July parade, commissioners feel something should be done for citizens, many of whom haven't left town or their homes for months.

"It's important we don't just cancel everything," Mayor Henry Balensifer said during Tuesday night's City Commission meeting.

He and other commissioners are working with Spruce Up Warrenton on a "Welcome Back to the Future

### How to help

Donations can be made to Spruce Up Warrenton, P.O. Box 97, Warrenton OR 97146. To volunteer, contact the group through its Facebook page or call organizer Brenda Hoxsey at 503-861-7309.

End of Pandemic Party" at Robinson Community Park. The date has yet to be set with so much uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 virus.

The group is raising donations for the party so the city's general fund doesn't take further beatings during the unstable economy.