

Closure: What you need to know this week

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“We have very real concerns about being able to do the testing piece of it,” said Monica Steele, assistant county manager.



Steele

WESTERN STATES PACT
Colorado Gov. Jared Polis and Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak announced Monday that their states have joined Oregon, Washington and California in a pact, a working group of states with a shared vision for fighting the spread of COVID-19 and modifying stay-at-home orders.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown began the pact two weeks ago, listing three shared principles:

- Residents’ health comes first.
- Health and science will guide decisions, not politics.
- The states will be more effective working together.

ELECTIVE SURGERIES

Hospitals, medical and dental offices can perform elective surgeries and other nonurgent procedures beginning today, May 1.

“We supported the decision to pause elective procedures to preserve PPE for the

COVID-19 fight,” said Becky Hultberg, president of the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. “But we also understand that it’s not safe to delay some of these procedures indefinitely. Our patients need care and we are prepared to safely resume health care services.”

Gov. Brown lifted her order for all facilities that show they’ve met the guidelines on coronavirus safety and preparedness.

TESTING

Oregon Health Authority this week revised guidelines for COVID-19 testing to prioritize impacted populations and all front-line workers. The guidelines continue to allow health care providers to make clinical decisions about their patients.

In addition, if supplies allow, asymptomatic people within congregate care or group living systems can be considered for testing.

The newly revised guidelines urge clinicians to potentially increase testing for Oregonians who may be most at risk, particularly those living in nursing and other group homes, underserved populations such as racial and ethnic minorities, front-line workers, health-care providers and those serving the public, such as grocery store

workers and delivery drivers.

MORE CANCELLATIONS

Veterans of Foreign Wars Fort Stevens Post 10580 has cancelled Memorial Day Ceremonies this year.

Traditionally, the post and its auxiliary have hosted two ceremonies, one at Fort Clatsop Army Post Cemetery and one at “Flagpole Park” in downtown Warrenton.

Also, the Seaside Chamber of Commerce and city of Seaside agreed Monday night to cancel this year’s Independence Day fireworks display.

As many as 50,000 people crowd Seaside beaches for the fireworks and activities. The city estimates local businesses will suffer an annual economic impact of more than \$20 million.

NURSING HOMES

The Oregon National Guard began distributing personal protection equipment to long-term care facilities last weekend.

Nearly 400,000 pieces went to every care facility in the state, including masks, gloves, face shields and medical gowns.

The rapid distribution was to supplement efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 to residents and staff.

AUTO INSURANCE REFUNDS

Several auto insurance companies have agreed to

provide refunds and credits to Oregonians who have been staying home and, thus, not driving as much this spring.

The refunds and credits are due to the reduced risk of auto accidents.

Two dozen companies were listed by the state Department of Consumer and Business Services, including Allstate, American Family, Amica, Country Mutual, Esurance, Farmers, Geico, Liberty Mutual, Pemco, State Farm, Travelers and USAA.

For more information, contact your insurance company

or visit dfr.oregon.gov.

HELP WITH LONELINESS

Social connections help keep folks healthy while physically distancing.

Oregon Health Authority has partnered with Lines for Life’s Senior Loneliness Line to support the mental health needs of Oregonians over 55.

Their team of volunteers and staff are trained to work with older adults by providing ongoing support, connecting callers with resources, or just listening.

To get support, call 503-200-1633 or 800-282-7035.

Celebrate Warrenton High School’s Class of 2020

They aren’t able to gather for a traditional ceremony but you can show your pride in your graduate by publishing their pictures in The Columbia Press.

Publish Date:
June 5

Deadline:
May 29

Cost: \$25

**Warrenton High School
Class of 2020**



Jo Smith

June 5, 2020
Heading to the University of Oregon

For details on how you can participate, call

THE COLUMBIA PRESS 503-861-3331
Clatsop County’s Independent Weekly Newspaper

Building: Hammond Library could be sold

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“We still want to do that,” said Bert Little, quartermaster of the VFW Fort Stevens Post. “It’s a historical building for the Hammond people and we want to have the full support of the community.”

But the group and its auxiliary have little money to put toward the project since fundraising amounts to run-

ning concession stands at the city’s park and passing out buddy poppies for donations.

The commission’s consensus Tuesday night was to ask the VFW for a formal proposal and to set up a public meeting on any potential sale.

The city cannot show favoritism toward any group and can’t give away taxpayer-owned assets, Commissioner Mark Baldwin warned.

If the building is sold, “I don’t want to sway a long way from our appraisal.”

But he and other commissioners would love to see the VFW or another group make use of the historic structure in some way that preserves the building and benefits the community.

“We are one of the few towns without a VFW hall,” Baldwin said.