

COLUMN

# Coronavirus changes the way we connect

A lot comes to my mind as we all struggle to come to terms with the current situation regarding COVID-19.

First of all, I understand the concept of “social distancing.” However, I wish it were referred to as “physical distancing.” We are social beings and during this time of uncertainty, it’s important to refrain from isolating.

I recently saw a meme that referenced “The Shining,” a 1980 psychological horror film that starred

Jack Nicholson and Shelley Duvall. It features a picture of the Torrance family and says, “A couple of weeks of isolation with the family. What can go wrong?”



Tammy Malgesini  
INSIDE MY SHOES

For those who haven’t viewed the flick (or its 1997 TV mini-series remake), the story centers around Jack Torrance, an aspiring author with writer’s block.

He accepted a job and took his family to a remote hotel to serve as the off-season caretaker. During the stay, strange occurrences begin

to happen and Nicholson’s character slowly begins to lose his mind.

During this pandemic, I encourage people to stay connected via text, video chat, phone calls and letters. Also, I think it’s important to talk to others when we’re in their presence.

When Jacob, our contracted janitor, came in the other night, I was walking through the kitchen and made a comment about the “social distance dance.” I urge people to continue with social pleasantries and not just merely steer

clear of our fellow human beings.

And, I can’t say it enough — wash your hands. Medical professionals have long said that hand washing with soap is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid the spread of germs, including the coronavirus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends scrubbing your hands for at least 20 seconds. At a loss for how to gauge 20 seconds — years ago, I read that if you hum the “Happy Birthday” song to yourself two

times from beginning to end, that would be a sufficient amount of time.

I’ve been a hand washing fool. I’ve been quite joyfully singing “Happy Birthday” to myself (I turned 60 last month) numerous times per day. Oh, I did take a break and insert my cousin Laura’s name on March 15 — and will sing to cousin Lynda next month.

Also in recent weeks, I’ve increased my dexterity skills. I’m becoming really proficient at opening doors, turning on/off water and lights with my

elbow, feet, knees and, yes, even my butt. I’m glad there isn’t someone following me around videotaping my moves. I’m afraid when this is all over, I’m going to need a serious chiropractic adjustment.

Again, I urge you to reach out to others — just don’t reach out and touch someone.

*Tammy Malgesini is the community editor. Her column, Inside my Shoes, includes general musings about life. Contact her at tmalgesini@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4539.*

## Courts

Continued from Page A5

- Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Julianita Ortiz: seeks \$2,287.02.
- Evergreen Financial Services Inc. vs. Jerrad and Jessica Romig of Umatilla: seeks \$1,934.51.

### Judgments

**PENDLETON — The following judgments have been rendered in Umatilla County courts (interest, court costs and fees not listed):**

- Capital One Bank vs. Duane Grassl: judgment for \$1,152.47.
- Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Idet Rodriguez of Hermiston: judgment for \$1,333.22.
- Midland Funding LLC vs. Agustin Cano of Hermiston: judgment for \$755.41.
- Quick Collect Inc. vs. Ron D. Hinkle of Echo: judgment for \$459.51.
- Barclays Bank Delaware vs. Sherinda M. McKnight of Umatilla: judgment for \$2,028.71.
- Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Curtis Goller of Hermiston: judgment for \$6,406.02.
- OneMain Financial Group LLC vs. Michael J. Lieuallen: judgment for \$15,096.11.
- Credit Corp Solutions Inc. vs. Nancy Gomez of Hermiston: judgment for \$1,491.75.

- OneMain Financial Group LLC vs. Michele E. Cox (Michele E. Massari Cox): judgment for \$1,020.39.
- Credits Inc. vs. Jose Chavez Acosta (Jose Chavez) of Hermiston: judgment for \$4,214.76.
- United Finance Co. vs. Jose L. Chavez Gonzalez and Cristian Chavez Flores of Umatilla: judgment for \$5,367.08.
- Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Jocelyn Guardado of Umatilla: judgment for \$2,567.33.

### Divorces

**PENDLETON — Divorce decrees were signed in Umatilla County Courts for:** Jamie Lea Loiland of Echo and Jeffrey Dwane Wallace of Hermiston; Christine Marie Studer and Loyd Dale Studer of Hermiston.

### Marriages

**PENDLETON — Marriage licenses were registered in Umatilla County for:** Enrique Navarro Castro, 46, and Rosa Isela Romero Gonzalez, 32, both of Hermiston. Miguel A. Mendoza Cortez, 43, and Maria DeJesus Rubio, 40, both of Hermiston. Andrea Summer Crane, 42, and Paul Russell Miller, 42, both of Hermiston. Christina Brittany Mecham, 26, and Christopher Richard Holden, 36, both of Umatilla. Kevin Michael Fitzpatrick, 30, and Guadalupe Yave Garza Monsivais, 31, both of Hermiston.

## BRIEFS

### Hermiston VFW Hall to host blood drive

Veterans of Foreign War Desert Post #4750 is stepping up to help with an American Red Cross blood drive that was canceled because of the closure of Stafford Hansell Government Center in Hermiston.

The VFW leadership is opening the doors to allow American Legion Post #37 to host Red Cross volunteers. The blood drive is Friday, April 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, which is behind Pizza Hut at 45 W. Cherry Ave., Hermiston.

The Red Cross has a goal of at least 18 pints. It’s estimated that 25-30 appointments should be scheduled to cover donor disqualifications or no shows.

According to the American Red Cross, healthy donors are needed to provide blood to patients. There is a shortage because of the cancelation of numerous collection events because of COVID-19. Blood donors must be at least 16 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health at the time of the donation.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Also, appointments can be scheduled by calling 1-800-733-2767.



HH file photo/East Oregonian

**A phlebotomist collects blood from a donor during a 2019 blood drive in Hermiston. People are encouraged to schedule a donation appointment for an April 3 American Red Cross blood draw at the VFW Hall in Hermiston.**

### Walden accepts entries for art competition

The office of U.S. Rep. Greg Walden is seeking entries for the Congressional Art Competition. The contest is open to high school students in Oregon’s Second Congressional District.

A panel of experts, which includes local artists and art professors, will review submissions. One winner and several runners-up will be selected. In addition to a spot in the 2020 national student art exhibit in the U.S. Cap-

itol, the winner will receive round-trip airfare for two to Washington, D.C., a chance to see their artwork on display and an invitation to a reception. Runners-up will receive local recognition and their artwork will be displayed in one of Walden’s offices.

Students may enter no more than two pieces of two-dimensional artwork. A picture (in jpg format) and forms must be submitted by April 24 to [wyndess.james@mail.house.gov](mailto:wyndess.james@mail.house.gov).

For more information

go to <https://walden.house.gov/artcompetition> or contact Walden’s office at 541-776-4646.

### Lions Club seeks scholarship applicants

The Hermiston Lions Club is accepting scholarship applications from high school seniors from Echo, Stanfield, Umatilla, Hermiston, Irrigon, Boardman and Ione.

The group will award four \$1,000 Hermiston Lions Club Service Scholarships. Students should submit completed applications, which are available from Lions Scholarship Chair Kelly Sanders ([ksanders@gshealth.org](mailto:ksanders@gshealth.org)) or high school counselors. In addition, applicants should provide information on how they have given service in the local community.

Send completed applications either electronically or via mail to Sanders, at 610 N.W. 11th St. Hermiston, OR 97838.

The application deadline is Friday, April 17.

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