

Oregon's primary election continues as planned

Hilary Dorsey

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Oregon's May 19 primary election will continue as planned, Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno said Thursday, March 19, in a press release. The certified list of 371 candidates that filed to run for office has been sent to the county election experts.

Ballots for military and overseas voters will be mailed

out no later than Saturday, April 4, and regular ballots will be mailed out starting April 29.

"Because Oregon votes by mail, we do not have to be concerned about social distancing issues at polling places that so many other states are struggling with," Clarno said the release. "Many states are looking to implement our vote by mail system as a safer way to conduct elections in

November."

States that have postponed their primary elections include: Ohio, Connecticut, Maryland, Kentucky, Puerto Rico, Georgia, Louisiana, Wyoming.

Primaries serve two main purposes. The first is for all voters to be able to cast ballots for candidates for nonpartisan offices like judges and some county and other local offices. The second is for the

voters registered with a major political party to select their nominees for partisan office like U.S. President, Oregon Secretary of State, Treasurer and Attorney General and legislators at both the state and national level.

Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders are running in the primary. Registered Democrats will have the two candidates on their ballots.

In the local arena, running

for Tillamook County Sheriff are Josh Brown and Gordon McCraw, which will only be on the November 2020 ballot. Tassi O'Neil is running for Tillamook County Clerk, which will only be on the November ballot as well, and Denise Vandecoeveering is running for Tillamook County Assessor.

Running for Tillamook County Commission Position One are Erin Skaar and mayor

of Bay City, Christopher Kruebbe. Running for Tillamook County Commission Position Two are David McCall and David Yamamoto.

Those registered as not affiliated with a political party, or registered with a minor party, will receive a ballot that includes only nonpartisan offices. You should register to vote, update your registration, or change your political party online before April 28.

County commissioners send tourists packing

Cody Mann

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Facing the potential spread of coronavirus, county officials are taking significant action to stop the flow of tourists during spring break. Much of Tillamook County was already closed for business after the state banned large gatherings and limited service from restaurants and bars.

On Monday, March 23, Tillamook County is closing parks and campgrounds as well as day-use areas in privately owned, county, state and federal parks except to those who live there full-time and pay month to month.

An emergency meeting by phone of the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners was held Sunday, March 22, to discuss the matter. The meeting began with an update from State Sen. Betsy Johnson, who heard from numerous constituents ranging from concerned to angry about the swell of outsiders flocking to small towns along the Oregon Coast.

Other elected coastal officials reported similar experiences. One immediate solution that was suggested was stopping short-term rentals, anything less than 28 days. Some hotels and motels have already shuttered temporarily as COVID-19 spreads across the state.

Commissioner Bill Baertlein suggested closing public access at all parks in the area. Commissioner David Yamamoto said a tour of the county Saturday revealed cramped camp-

grounds and huge crowds at recreational sites. Commissioner Mary Faith Bell also reported a massive tourist influx. All three commissioners supported closing county, state and federal campgrounds and day-use parks.

Early efforts to close some recreational areas seemed to push visitors to what remained open, causing overflows of parking and people at most beach towns and shorelines Friday and Saturday. County officials discussed pushing up timelines for recreational areas that planned to close during the week such as Sandlake, potentially giving an immediate 24-hour notice to vacate.

Tillamook County Sheriff's Office plans to enact 24-hour shifts to enforce the closures. Sheriff Jim Horton said deputies could give campers 12 hours to clear out if necessary. Concrete barriers would be brought in to shut down access to campgrounds and parks.

State Rep. David Gomberg expressed concerns about displacing homeless people who might be camping in parks. State Rep. David Brock Smith asked about the impact on low-income residents who live in some campgrounds. Baertlein said there could possibly be a compassion clause allowing long-term campground residents to remain in place.

Closing parking areas at public boat launches and marinas was also discussed. Yamamoto was worried that a



Signs demanding that visitors don't come were seen on local highways. Photo: Tim Du Bay

possible seafood import shortage could arise, making local commercial fishing even more crucial. Commercial fishing would not be restricted.

Stopping people from parking at and near beach access points was next on the list. County officials said while they cannot close the beach, access and parking could be restricted. To aid that, it was suggested that parking be banned temporarily on all county roads, though enforcement could be difficult.

Elected officials from other counties voiced concerns about freedom of movement for medical workers, short-term rentals for those in the trucking industry, and boat launch access for commercial fishermen. There was also concern that the closures would deflect the flow of tourists into counties that have not enacted restrictions

on tourism, causing them to overload.

Commissioners directed staff to draft a resolution for a vote later in the day. Yamamoto said he expects most cities will follow the county's lead and adopt its measures.

Tillamook Mayor Suzanne Weber said she would be working on the boat ramp and motels for the City of Tillamook. Public access restrictions were spotted at the wayside, playground and main beach access in Rockaway Beach Sunday morning as well.

Manzanita approved a resolution Sunday prohibiting short-term rentals until the state of emergency passes. Hotels are closed except for those registered longer than 30 days, with no new long-term rentals.

■ See **PACKING**, Page A8

Manzanita Mayor encourages residents to stay hyperlocal

Chelsea Yarnell

Guest Contributor

Even if you own a second home on the North Oregon Coast, its best if you put off vacationing to that too.

Local officials are encouraging second home owners to remain in their primary residence due to COVID-19 concerns.

Manzanita Mayor Mike Scott said this is a change in messaging. Previously, local officials had said people could inhibit their second homes as property owners.

This additional instruction comes after the City of Manzanita ordered that all visitors vacate Manzanita within 24 hours on March 22.

"We're not going to go out and issue a bunch of Class C Misdemeanor tickets," Mayor Scott said. "We're going to educate people first."

However, if violations continue, the City of Manzanita will enforce the law. Penalties for a Class C Misdemeanor include 30 days in jail and roughly a \$1,200 fine.

"Now, we can defend our own borders here. If we follow all these recommendations, we can knock this virus out," Mayor Scott said. "We should not be driving over to Portland. We should not be driving up to Costco. We should not be driving to Tillamook to go to Fred Meyer. We need to stay close to home."

Mayor Scott reassured locals that Manzanita's own grocers are still open and receiving supplies; there's no need for hoarding.

"I'm on an 8 am conference call every morning including Saturdays and Sundays with County Commissioners, State Senator Betsy Johnson, the department heads of the County including the Sheriff and the Public Health Department, and all the mayors in Tillamook County," Mayor Scott said. "The only weapon we have in this fight against this virus is isolation and distancing. The fastest way to get back to normal is if we hit this hard. It's just us [living in the community] now, follow all these recommendations... we're going to get through this together."

Neah-Kah-Nie High School senior cooks Teacher Appreciation Meal

Hilary Dorsey

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Neah-Kah-Nie High School senior Julian Ramirez did a Teacher Appreciation Meal for his senior project. The school district's staff appreciation week is April 6-10.

Ramirez came in a week before the school year began to cook a meal for teachers and faculty.

"I used it as an appreci-

ation meal to say, 'Thanks for all you have done in my high school career and you deserve this,'" Ramirez said. "I made them spaghetti, there was a Caesar salad, and I made garlic bread."

Ramirez said the entire project was a success. He did not get any negative responses to the meal.

"Everything just worked out really well," Ramirez said.

This project connects to Ramirez' after school plans to become a chef. He was originally going to do a job shadowing experience for his senior project, but said it did not work out, so he chose to do an event instead.

"I liked the feedback - getting that was just a big confidence booster for me and I just wanted to give

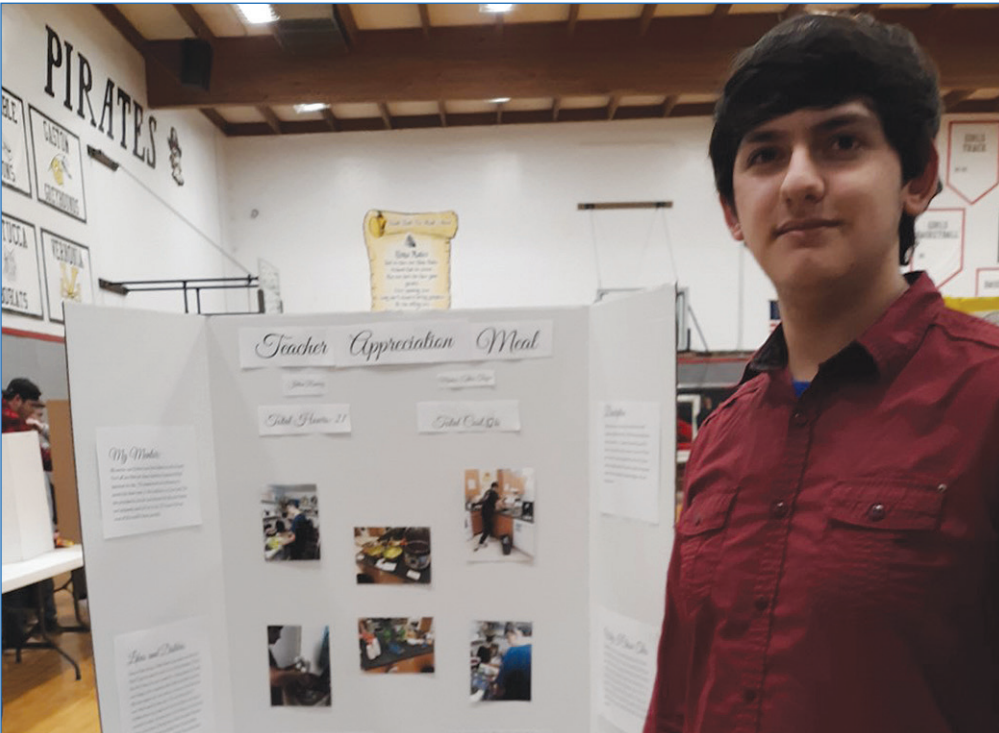
back to the teachers because they're great," Ramirez said. "I like every teacher and a lot of them get a lot of stuff from students."

Ramirez decided he wanted to cook for a living in eighth grade. He always loved cooking and sees it as an art. He is an artistic person and likes stuff he can add on to make his own.

Ramirez plans to move to Colorado and live there for one year and then plans to attend culinary school. A community college in Colorado has a culinary program.

"I'm going to be getting a job at Old Chicago," Ramirez said. "It's like a pizza grill."

Ramirez will gain more experience by cooking dinner for his family. One of his favorite dishes to make is chicken parmesan.



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H48510

Neah-Kah-Nie School District plans to implement supplemental learning

Hilary Dorsey

headlightreporter@countrymedia.net

Through Executive Order 20-08, Gov. Kate Brown ordered public schools to remain closed to students from March 16 through April 28, unless that period is extended or terminated earlier by the governor. Neah-Kah-Nie (NKN) School District plans to provide supplemental learning to its students.

Superintendent Paul Erlebach said the supplemental learning will be a combination of online learning and packets. The district has had one on one Chromebook student capacity for seven years, grade second to 12th grade. This provides laptops to students who do not have computers at home. Students are likely better positioned than other districts, Erlebach said.

“We’re excited about the opportunity,” Erlebach said. “It’s going to be a new endeavor for us.”

NKN School District is constantly reviewing and prioritizing essential and non-essential services, Erlebach said in a parent letter on Friday, March 20. With over 50 percent of its students qualifying for free or reduced meals, ensuring that all children have breakfast and lunch is a top

priority. The school district began providing breakfast and lunch to students on Monday, March 16. Erlebach said they will expand that on April 4.

“It’s not just about education, it’s about feeding students too,” Erlebach said.

Selected NKN staff and administrators are collaborating with Northwest Regional Education Service District’s (NWRES) to develop a tentative plan to provide remote learning. Administrators work on a plan to teach using instructional packets. Schools are beginning to identify students who do not have internet access.

Erlebach said the district is looking at internet hotspot capacity for those students who do not have internet access.

“We do have Chromebooks, laptops, for every student,” Erlebach said. “The thing is, we need to do a survey to see who has internet at home, who doesn’t, who has a laptop at home and who doesn’t.”

From March 30 to April 3, licensed and classified staff will receive professional development on remote learning and use of supporting supplemental instructional materials. The supplemental learning and

instructional packet plan will be implemented on April 6.

Neah-Kah-Nie High School Principal Heidi Buckmaster had an online meeting with seniors to summarize information. Erlebach said the district has been doing a lot of meetings on Google this week with administrators.

“It is important for students and parents to understand, NKN School District staff have never taught students remotely or with learning packets to this extent, ever,” Erlebach wrote in the letter. “This will be a new experience for students, parents and staff.”

Erlebach said the district has contracted with the web designer to create a supplemental learning page on the district’s website. This will be ready on the site on March 31. This will be a go-to for parents and will have information and materials.

“This is a new direction for how we serve our students,” Erlebach said.

The role of schools is always involved in the community, Erlebach said, and this is a new challenge for how to serve students. The district’s top priority is for the seniors, so they can graduate, and move forward.

Cities declare state of emergency in all of Tillamook County

Cities on the north coast are following state and county examples by announcing a state of emergency as the coronavirus pandemic escalates.

On March 8, Gov. Kate Brown declared Oregon to be under a state of emergency. On March 11, the World Health Organization categorized COVID-19 as a pandemic threat, causing respiratory distress, potentially serious illness and loss of life. Tillamook County announced a state of emergency on March 14. April 28 was set by most as a date to reevaluate the situation.

Manzanita

Mayor Mike Scott declared an official state of emergency Wednesday, March 18, for the City of Manzanita. The state of emergency declaration provides City Manager Cynthia Alamillo with the latitude to coordinate an effective response by

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Tillamook County Solid Waste

For more information about recycling or hazardous waste disposal:
Call (503) 815-3975 or visit our website at www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste
503 Marolf Loop, Tillamook, OR 97141

The Tillamook County Solid Waste Department has plans in place to deal with the COVID-19 situation. We intend to continue providing the full scope of trash and recycling services throughout the county, including switching to (additional) summer hours in both Manzanita and Pacific City effective April 1, 2020.

The health and safety of our employees and customers is important, and it is important that we all follow certain safety precautions so that we are not forced to limit the availability of our services. We have sufficient space available at all transfer stations for people to maintain adequate social/personal distances. We have worked hard to make operations more convenient and efficient over the past several years, which means you can get in and out much quicker than in the past, and avoid contact more easily.

Please don’t feel that our employees are avoiding you. We are trying to maintain distances from everyone, but if you have a question, feel free to ask.

If an outbreak occurs in Tillamook County, we may be forced to limit the hours we are open to the public. If that occurs, we will be notifying people through local media of the changes.

Feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

David McCall
Solid Waste Program Manager

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T A H E Q S U I C K
O C F N H W O R S B
B R X A R E T S Y O
M O R D I U J E O S
E K A D R O F A U R
S U E T E I R S B E
T H L E S L B T A F
Z E A H Y D O A G R
M A H D A M Z R E U
E T W E R P T A E S

Words go horizontal, vertical, diagonally, backwards.

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SEABIRD STRAW TRASH TURTLE ORCA
WHALE OYSTER FISH BOATS SURFERS

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Manzanita, OR 97130

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Tillamook County Solid Waste

503 Marolf Loop

Tillamook, OR 97141

Open: Mondays thru Thursdays by appt.

Pacific City Transfer Station

38255 Brooten Road

Pacific City, OR 97135

Open: Fridays, Saturdays & Mondays 9—4

Call 503.815.3975 for more information

Solid Waste Events in April

1 Fossil Fools Day

13 International Plant Appreciation Day

14 Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting

22 Earth Day

26 Save the Frogs Day

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redirecting funding for emergency use as needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city manager is authorized to initiate emergency request for aid from Tillamook County, State of Oregon, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency as necessary.

The city council and city staff continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and want residents, second homeowners and visitors to know that they are proactively taking steps to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

Nehalem

Following the local state of emergency declared for Tillamook County due to COVID-19 and social distancing measures ordered by the governor, the City of Nehalem City Hall followed the same measures effective until April 14. City Hall will be closed to walk-in traffic, and open only by appointment or for urgent business.

City staff is in contact with state and local public health authorities and will make any necessary changes to these measures as this situation continues to develop. Staff will continue to work and will be available by phone or email.

City Hall may be reached by calling 503-368-5627. The city manager can be reached by email at dshafer@nehalem.gov. The public works director is at ddavidson@nehalem.gov.

Wheeler

The City of Wheeler officials said the city is committed to the safety and wellbeing of its employees, residents and visitors. Considering the state of emergency in Tillamook County and increasing threat of coronavirus disease, adjustments have been made.

City Hall will be closed all week, but staff welcome your calls and emails. We will assess our options for next week on Friday, March 20. City Manager Juliet Hyams will take calls at 503-812-7105.

If you have any questions, please call Wheeler city staff at (503) 368-5767 or send email to cityof-wheeler@nehalem.net.

Rockaway Beach

Rockaway Beach joined the cities that declared a state of emergency on March 23. City officials are now allowed to redirect funds as needed for the coronavirus emergency.

In response to the public health emergency, the City of Rockaway Beach closed all parks and day-use areas except to those who live full-time in those locations. All beach access points and parking lots are closed, and the no parking zones in public rights of way are extended.

Transient lodging including hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts and short-term

rentals including condominiums to all visitors not providing essential services or traveling for commercial purposes.

"The City cares deeply about the economic resilience of its lodging providers and businesses in the tourism sector and is grateful for their sacrifices for the protection of their employees, guests and the community at large," a City of Rockaway Beach press release said.

Bay City

The City of Bay City declared an official state of emergency Monday, March 23.

Fire Chief Darrell Griffith said a plan needs to be activated and an emergency operation center needs to be initiated. All non-essential meetings and events are cancelled until further notice.

"Some of the other functions we have been working on such as emergency preparedness, that needs to stop," Griffith said. "It needs to stop until we are done with this emergency because we can't be out doing the functions to get people prepared at the same time we're following the guidelines of the governor and social distancing."

City offices have been closed to walk-in customers accept by appointment and the city is asking utility customers to use the payment drop slot at City Hall. Parks are also closed including the campground and bathrooms. The mayor, city council and staff are continuing to monitor the situation and are taking steps to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Mayor Chris Kruebbe said the Bay City Fire Department is fully functional; however, they are short of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, contact the Fire Chief Darrel Griffith either by telephone at 503-377-0233 or email at firedept@ci.bay-city.or.us.

Tillamook

At the March 16 City of Tillamook Council Meeting, the council made an

emergency declaration pertaining to the COVID-19 virus. Several measures will be put in effect immediately and remain in effect until March 30. These measures will be extended week by week as the emergency persists.

City of Tillamook officials said they are committed to making every effort to stop and prevent the spread of the virus to citizens. They encouraged everyone to limit contact with other individuals in the community in the days ahead and conduct as much business as possible online and by phone.

City Hall offices will be closed to walk-in traffic and the public during the emergency. City Hall staff will be limited but available to receive calls and questions. Utility customers should use the payment drop box on the corner of Third Street and Laurel Avenue or use the online payment services for any payments during the course of this emergency.

All other payments for dog licenses, business licenses, lease agreement payments, Transient Room Tax payments, liquor license fees and licenses, public works permit fees and any other payments can be submitted by mail or placed in the drop box. Vehicle impounds will be handled by appointment only by calling 503-374-1824.

Tillamook Police Department will be fully operational. Public works will have limited operations during this emergency. Mayor Suzanne Weber said limited operations for the public works means "mostly maintenance, and small jobs that don't require to many people."

"The water people are concentrating on water and the sewer folks on sewer," Weber said. "In other words, no big projects that require a larger workforce. Also, it is perfect pot hole patching weather."

Any changes to the above-mentioned measures pertaining to this emergency will be updated on the City's website at www.tillamookor.gov.



Oceanside was packed on Saturday afternoon. Photo: Josh Evans



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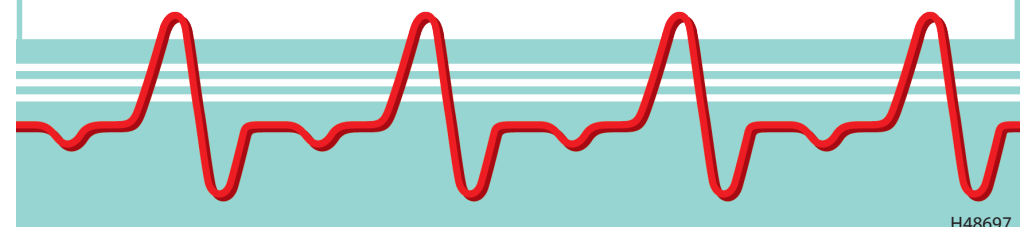
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She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at the College of Idaho in 2010 and spent six years working with mental health and youth in crisis before returning to school to study medicine. In 2019 Rainbow completed her Master of Physician Assistant Studies at Idaho State University.

Dove is an outdoor enthusiast. She looks forward to hiking, mountain biking, and kayaking the local waterways.

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Opinion

Precautions for coronavirus: Nehalem Bay-area residents

Victoria Holt

At Emergency Volunteer Corps of Nehalem Bay our mission is preparedness. That's never been truer than it is today, when being prepared for the coronavirus pandemic can make a crucial difference in the health of our community.

There is much more coronavirus infection in Oregon than we know about. A total of 30 cases were diagnosed statewide as of March 12, but fewer than 500 people have been tested, so the true numbers are likely much higher. The state epidemiologist estimated yesterday there are actually 150-250 cases in Oregon, and that number can double each week. That means there will be up to

75,000 cases in our state by mid-May if no changes are made in community practices. Our health care system cannot handle that magnitude of serious and contagious illness.

The Nehalem Bay area is at risk. We are not an isolated community - we see numerous visitors from outside the area who frequent our grocery stores, restaurants, and shops. And many of our full-time residents travel frequently. We cannot count on the current apparent absence of disease to protect us.

The speed at which the coronavirus will spread depends upon a number of factors. One key factor is the contact rate, the rate at which infected individuals come close enough to others

to spread the disease. Each person who avoids infection breaks a link in a potential branching transmission chain. By avoiding the infection, we not only avoid passing it to a vulnerable co-worker or an elderly neighbor, we break a chain that could otherwise result in dozens if not hundreds or thousands of cases over time. NOW is the time to take precautions. It will be much more effective now than waiting until the first cases are diagnosed in our community.

Avoid unnecessary personal contact with other people. If you are employed, work from home if possible. Try to conduct necessary meetings online rather than in person. Do not attend large events (the governor has

prohibited gatherings of 250 people or more, but smaller gatherings are a risk as well). If you are over 60 years of age or have ongoing medical conditions, you are at higher risk of serious complications if infected. It's prudent for those of us in this group to cancel all nonessential travel and stay home as much as possible.

If you are around other people, practice consistent and strict social distancing: keep a minimum of 6 feet from any other person and don't shake hands. Avoid anyone who is coughing or sneezing. Don't share food or eating utensils. Avoid surfaces that may be contaminated, and don't touch your face.

Wash your hands with soap and water for a min-

imum of 20 seconds frequently and after any contact outside your home and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Best practices for hand washing!

If you are sick, stay home and away from other people; especially stay away from those who are over 60 or have ongoing medical conditions. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, using a tissue or the crook of your elbow, not your hand. Call your health care provider or clinic ahead of time if you plan to seek care to get advice about how to proceed. Do not show up unannounced.

This rapidly changing situation means time is of the essence. We still have the

power and the responsibility to make behavior changes that can contribute to coronavirus control. Discuss these precautions with your family, and make sure everyone understands what to do. Now is the time to practice preparedness - for our own health and that of our community. We can make a difference.

Note about the author: A resident of Manzanita, Victoria Holt is a MPH (Master's in Public Health) and PhD from University of Washington - both of these were in Epidemiology. Faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Washington for 26 years, retiring three years ago as Chair of the department.

Newspapers: An 'essential service'



Dean Ridings

San Francisco and six Bay Area counties, with a combined population of nearly 7 million, are under "shelter-in-place" orders directing everyone to basically stay inside their homes for the next three weeks in hopes of suppressing the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the region. It looks like many of us are going to be living under similar shelter-in-place orders sooner or later. Bedroom

community New Rochelle, New York, has a "zone of containment," and at this writing, New York City's mayor is considering an order sending everyone inside in The City That Never Sleeps, which will surely encourage other municipalities to issue their own shelter-in-place edicts.

At the national level, there are doubtless officials who gaze longingly at the lockdowns ordered across Spain and Italy.

One key to shelter-in-place orders is that businesses that do not provide "essential" services must send workers home. Most coverage lists the essential services as grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and vital services from police and fire fighters to utility workers.

In California, newspapers are among the essential services exempt from shelter in place. And that is exactly how it should be.

It is imperative that all future shelter-in-place orders recognize that newspapers provide "essential services." It's imperative that these orders recognize their communities badly need those services in this crisis

— and would be imperiled by their absence.

Day in and day out, newspapers bind communities together, enhancing civic life and informing, entertaining and educating their local audiences.

But it is during crises that newspapers prove their mettle. In hurricanes, in floods, in tornadoes and wildfires, newspapers have provided the information, the background, the warnings and the directions to financial and psychological aid that help communities prepare, survive and rebuild in emergencies.

Newspapers are especially essential in this COVID-19 public health crisis.

For one thing, it is a complex and often baffling crisis. Again and again, public health experts speak of being in "unchartered territory" confronting this invisible, shape-shifting deadly menace. Newspapers are uniquely situated to provide the extensive background people need to understand as a community and as individuals.

In these weeks of crisis, they have ceaselessly delivered the best practices for individual and community hygiene. Newspapers (in print and

online) continue to demonstrate their ability to tackle and explain complex issues with the necessary and important details.

Newspapers have also been a voice demanding accountability on behalf of their communities during this COVID-19 crisis — from a President who denounced coronavirus as a "hoax," to administration officials overpromising and failing to deliver testing kits, to lies and fudging of disease statistics.

And when this crisis passes and office workers flock back to their cubicles and waitresses to their dining stations, line cooks to their restaurant kitchens, bartenders to their taverns, actors to their stages, beer vendors to their stadiums, cashiers to their registers - when, in short, America begins to rebuild its economy, its trust and its health - newspapers will continue to provide the essential services vital to the commonweal.

Are newspapers "essential services"? You bet.

Dean Ridings is CEO of the organization America's Newspapers.

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Community News

SUNDAY

MEDITATION - 5 p.m.
Center for the Contemplative Arts. 300 Division St. Manzanita.

MONDAY

AL-ANON - 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. North County Recreation District, Nehalem. 503-368-5093.

MEDITATION - 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. at St. Catherine's church, located next to the Bunk House. Free. Contact Lola Sacks at 503-368-6227.

MEALS FOR SENIORS - 11:45 a.m. St. Mary's by the Sea in Rockaway. Call Bob Dempster, 503-355-3244.

TUESDAY

VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT HELP - 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. WorkSource Oregon, 2105 Fifth St., Tillamook. 800-643-5709, ext. 227.

ROCKAWAY LIBRARY - 3 p.m., Pre-school story-time. 503-355-2665.

WRITING LOUNGE - 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hoffman Center. \$5 suggested donation. Call 503-368-3846.

MAH JONG LESSON - 3 p.m. at the North Tillamook County Library in Manzanita. For more information, call 503-368-6665.

WOMAN'S AA MEETING, SISTER'S IN SOBRIETY - Noon to 1 p.m. every Tuesday at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, 36335 N. Hwy 101, Nehalem.

WEDNESDAY

VOLUNTEER CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Historic American Legion Cemetery on Necarney Blvd in Nehalem. For more information, contact Val Magee at 808-264-1454.

TAI CHI YANG STYLE: Pine Grove Community House. Wednesdays at 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. at 225 Laneda Avenue n Manzanita, 97130

PICKLE BALL - 2:30 p.m. in Manzanita City Park on 3rd Street. New members or drop-ins welcome. Contact Corinne at cbbcalm@hotmail.com for more information.

MOVIE NIGHT - 6 p.m. at the Rising Star Cafe in Wheeler. Call 503-368-3990.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - 7:30 p.m. to 8:30

p.m. North County Recreation District, Nehalem. 503-368-5093.

BRIDGE, PINOCHLE AND CRIBBAGE - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. North County Recreation District, Nehalem. 503-355-3381.

MEALS FOR SENIORS - 11:45 a.m. St. Mary's by the Sea in Rockaway. Call Bob Dempster, 503-355-3244.

THURSDAY

CHRISTIAN MEN'S GROUP - 7:30 a.m. Grumpy's Cafe, 202 Hwy 101, Rockaway Beach. 503-355-0567.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS - 7-8 p.m. St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Nehalem.

GARIBALDI LIBRARY STORYTIME - 2:45 p.m. 503-322-2100.

FRIDAY

GARIBALDI JAM - 6-8 p.m. Featuring local musicians at the Garibaldi Community Hall.

MEALS FOR SENIORS - 11:45 a.m. St. Mary's by the Sea in Rockaway. Call Bob Dempster, 503-355-3244.

SPIRIT DANCE - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays. Pine Grove Community Center, Manzanita. Free-form dance celebration.

OPEN GALLERY - 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita. Check out the latest work by local artists. For more information, call 503-368-3846.

LIVE MUSIC - 9 p.m. at the San Dune Pub on in Manzanita. Cover charge. For more information, call 503-368-5080.

SATURDAY

MANZANITA PACE SETTERS WALK/JOG/RUN GROUP - 7:30 a.m. Parking lot behind Spa Manzanita.

PICKLE BALL - 2 p.m. in Manzanita City Park on 3rd Street. New members or drop-ins welcome. Contact Corinne at cbbcalm@gmail.com for more information.

GRANDPARENTS PARENTING AGAIN - Call Steve or Jackie for meetings. 503-355-2440.

Sheltering-in-Place... Prepare NOW to stay at home

Victoria Holt

As coronavirus testing ramps up, it's clear the virus is spreading rapidly in the US. Many states have enacted shelter in place recommendations or mandates. As of March 20, Oregon Governor Kate Brown had not yet ordered residents to shelter in place, but she announced that all Oregonians should stay home except for essential activities.

We are all susceptible to this virus. Sheltering in place (stay at home) is similar to what Governor Brown recommends: we should go out only for activities such as procuring food and medicines, and receiving needed medical care.

To decrease personal risk, sheltering in place is essential for older folks and those with underlying medical conditions - two groups who are known to be at increased risk of mortality if infected. We know now that younger, healthy people also are experiencing severe life-threatening disease, and this group should take precautions to decrease their potential exposures as well. We can only protect ourselves and our Nehalem Bay communities if all of us work to minimize the spread of disease and slow its progress.

How can you prepare to shelter in place?

Stock up now on nonperishable, easy-to-prepare food. If you go to a grocery store, choose a time when the store is not crowded and practice social distancing and good hygiene:

- stay 6 feet away from all other people while in the store
- wipe down any surfaces before you

come into contact with them

- wash your hands thoroughly when you return home

As an alternative to visiting a grocery store, opt for picking up groceries and supplies ordered online or arrange for home delivery. Here are some local options:

Little Apple in Manzanita (website: manzanitamarket.com, phone: 503 368-5362) delivers to elderly or immunocompromised customers. Note: CLOSED until March 31st

Fresh Foods in Manzanita (email: manzanitafreshfoods@hotmail.com, phone: 503 368-5250) will begin home delivery on March 23. Details still being worked out.

Costco in Warrenton, online ordering for members only, home delivery. Same day service is not available in our area, but there is two-day delivery for non-perishable grocery items. Visit Costco.com and click the dropdown box next to the search bar. Select "Grocery" and search for the items you'd like. Any items eligible for 2-day delivery will be tagged with 2-Day Delivery.

Fred Meyer in Warrenton or Tillamook, online ordering with curbside delivery at their store parking lot pick-up area after you notify them you are there. Set up an online account at fredmeyer.com.

Walmart in Warrenton, online ordering (grocery.walmart.com) for curbside delivery at their store. You notify them via the app or text message when you are on the way.

We don't know how long the emergency will last, so this is a good time to set up mail delivery of prescriptions, if available through your health care

plan. Check online with your insurer.

Also, Rinehart Pharmacy, 230 Rowe St, Wheeler (phone 844 715-2299) will have curbside prescription pick-up starting March 23.

If you get sick, obtaining medical care may be a challenge in our coastal communities. Investigate the option of obtaining care from your usual provider by phone, video or secure texting. You may need to set this up in advance, so contact your providers now to find out what virtual options they offer.

If you need in-person medical care, call your provider before going in. If you do not have a health care provider in this area, see the list below for local urgent care or emergency resources. Please call them before visiting as well.

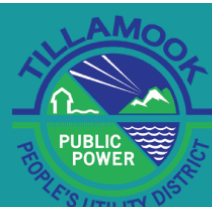
Urgent Care Clinics:

Adventist Health, 10445 Neahkahnie Creek Rd, Manzanita. 503 368-6244
Providence Seaside, 725 S Wahanna Rd, Seaside, 503 717-7060
Columbia Memorial Hospital Medical Group, Seaside, 503 738-3002

Emergency Rooms:

Providence Seaside Hospital, 725 Wahanna Rd, Seaside, 503 717-7000
Columbia Memorial Hospital, 2111 Exchange St, Astoria, 503 325-4321
Adventist Health Tillamook Hospital, 1000 Third St., Tillamook, 503 815-2280

It's a stressful time for us all, with the level of uncertainty and concern for our well-being and that of our loved one. Please do what you can now to prepare for whatever comes next.



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Tillamook County officials declare state of emergency

Cody Mann
headlightnews@countrymedia.net

County officials held an emergency meeting Saturday, March 14, to declare a local state of emergency due to the coronavirus outbreak. Most county offices will close to the public, operating by phone and email instead.

Tillamook County Commissioner Bill Baertlein said the declaration was necessary due to the rapidly developing situation around COVID-19. Commissioners Mary Faith Bell and David Yamamoto agreed with the necessity. No COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in the county at this time.

"Are we going to be infected," Yamamoto said. "I can tell you pretty much yes, we will."

Votes for a resolution declaring the emergency and enacting a contingency plan passed unanimously. The state of emergency will last until April 1, when it will be re-evaluated.

"This is a very fluid situation and things are changing rapidly," Yamamoto said.

Concerned about the impact of a possible COVID-19 spread in the area, Bell said with only a few intensive care beds, Tillamook County lacks the capacity to handle a serious outbreak.

Access to the Tillamook County Courthouse will be screened. County department offices at the courthouse will serve the public by appointment. The Community Development office will close to the public but will serve people by phone and email.

County Public Works will be closed to the public, though the solid waste transfer stations remain open.

The north courthouse entrance will be closed. Those who need to access the building should use the south entrance. Access to the Justice Court, District Attorney's office, Juvenile Department and Circuit Court will be available. Handicapped access to the courthouse also remains available.

The Tillamook County Health Department will still be open. Public access will be closed off at the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office, but jail visitations will continue. All Tillamook County libraries and the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum will close immediately.

The Tillamook County Fairgrounds is suspending all events of 250 people or more in compliance with Gov. Kate Brown's mass gathering ban. Canceled and rescheduled events include the Spring Bazaar, Creamery Association meeting, roller derby practice, Collectors West Gun/Knife Show and the Headlight Herald Home & Garden Show.

Tillamook County Transportation District (TCTD) has joined other transit agencies from across the United States to take measures to fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

TCTD has enhanced its vehicle and facility sanitation and disinfection protocols and developed a plan to guide the efforts. The vehicle sanitation plan is to

spray and wipe down up to 75 percent of all buses and vans with disinfectant each day and have all vehicles thoroughly sanitized every other day.

District staff are also periodically wiping down high-touch areas of vehicles and facilities throughout the day. The district said the chemicals being used to combat the COVID-19 virus are recommended by the Federal Transit Administration and registered with the Environmental Protection Agency as being effective.

Given the social distancing directives from the state, passengers should maintain six feet of space between to help prevent the spreading the virus. With more people traveling less there is more space on the buses and the

district asks that passengers maintain the recommended distance from each other.

Oregon Youth Authority has cancelled visits at all youth correctional facilities and transitional camps statewide. Oregon Youth Authority reports it does not currently have any known or presumed cases of COVID-19 in its facilities. The no-visitation policy will be in effect for up to 30 days. Juvenile parole/probation officers, attorneys and contractors will still have access.

"We encourage families who wish to stay in contact with their youth to contact the youth's case coordinator or camp counselor to set up phone calls or video calls using Skype for Business," a statement from Oregon Youth Authority said.

Due to the Headlight Herald Home and Garden Show being postponed, the Tillamook Beekeepers Association have had to reschedule the date for their annual Raffle Beehive drawing.

The new date and time is **7:00 PM, April 14, 2020** during the monthly TBA meeting. This meeting will be a Virtual Meeting held via Teleconferencing technology by Zoom.

As a reminder:

- 1 The winner of this raffle will get this beautifully handcrafted cypress 8 frame beehive (shown above) including 2 deep boxes, and 3 medium supers, 24 medium frames with foundations, 16 deep frames with foundations, and hive stand. (Hand made by Master Craftsman Rick Stelzig). The winner will also receive a one-year free membership in the Tillamook Beekeepers Association
- 2 The value of the hive and membership is estimated at \$620
- 3 All raffle ticket buyers must be 18 years of age to participate (proof must be shown at drawing)
- 4 All raffle ticket buyers must be a resident of Oregon to participate (proof must be shown at drawing)
- 5 Drawing will be conducted at 7:00 PM during our April 14th monthly meeting. This meeting will be an online Video Teleconference meeting.
- 6 You do not need to be present to win
- 7 The total number of tickets which may be sold is 500

Raffle tickets are still being sold online at <https://tillamookbeekeepers.org>. The hive is on display at Rosenbergs for all to see.

H48879



Stores scramble to keep shelves stocked

Cody Mann
headlightnews@countrymedia.net

If you've purchased toilet paper in the past week, count yourself among the lucky ones.

Across the country and here in Tillamook, shelves are stripped daily of essential hygiene and cleaning products. Many stores are limiting purchases on some of the most wanted products – toilet paper, tissues, cold and flu medicine and cleaning supplies.

At Fred Meyer, the company is adding shifts to its distribution centers, drivers and store staff. To prevent the spread of coronavirus, hourly cleaning has been implemented as well as overnight cleaning that is done while restocking. There is a round the clock cleaning mentality focused on sanitizing commonly touched surfaces.

"We are all aligned and committed to getting product to our customers as effectively as possible," said Jeffrey Temple, director of corporate affairs for Fred Meyer. "Our store associates are working with a greater sense of purpose and responsibility toward the community than ever before."

The Kroger Co. Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation recently announced a \$3 million commitment to rapidly deploy hunger-re-

lief resources to communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fred Meyer also added \$25 to every associate's Rewards Card for them to spend as a token of gratitude for working hard and being there for customers, the community and each other.

Fred Meyer stores are currently open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., giving employees more time to restock and clean.

At Safeway, the company is reserving 7-9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays for vulnerable shoppers who must leave home to obtain their groceries. Safeway asks for customers help to reserve this shopping time for those most at risk in communities.

"We thank our customers in advance for their compassion and understanding toward their neighbors and friends, and in helping us maintain this temporary operations guideline," said Nicky Nielsen, marketing promotional coordinator for Safeway.

Safeway has enhanced its cleaning and disinfecting measures in all departments, restrooms and other high-touch points of the store throughout the day, as well as a deep cleanse at the end of each business day. Protective screens went up recently in Tillamook, sort of a sneeze guard for the cashiers.

Cart wipes and hand sanitizer stations are available.

The company also created "contact free" delivery procedures for its team and has changed its signature processes so delivery drivers can sign for customers when delivering orders.

"The health and well-being of our team remains our top priority. Our teams across our stores are truly the people to thank for keeping our stores operating," Nielsen said. "Working long hours and stocking our shelves to keep up with demand, we truly cannot express enough gratitude for their dedication and commitment these last few weeks."

As recommended by state and local health officials, Safeway encourages you to wash or sanitize your hands before entering and leaving the store as a courtesy to your neighbors.

The Northwest Grocer's Association offers the following tips for shoppers during the coronavirus outbreak: observe social distancing the best you can with department personnel and your clerk when checking out, use self-checkout stations whenever available, ask for a cleaning or use a sanitation wipe before each use, bag your own groceries and remember to wash your reusable bags after each use.

COVID-19 test kits limited; Tillamook County supply unclear

Cody Mann
headlightnews@countrymedia.net

Coronavirus testing is happening in Tillamook County, but it is not clear how many people are waiting for results or how many test kits are available locally.

The virus has claimed five lives in Oregon, with 191 cases reported in the state Monday, and 56 hospitalized for treatment. No COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in the county as of press time. Nine tests have come back negative, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Officials and medical staff cannot say how many test kits are available in the county because each health facility has its own supply, according to Marlene Putman, administrator, Tillamook County Community Health Centers. She said the current turnaround time for tests is approximately 48 hours, but that timeline has been widely questioned by the public.

"I can say that the supply is very limited in the county, state and nationally," Putman said. "There has been some increased capacity this week ... it is expected that there will be increasing capacity in the coming days and weeks."

Through a medical screening process and provider clinical judgement, Community Health will determine who needs a medical appointment that may occur at the mobile clinic. The mobile clinic will be stationed in the parking lot of the Community Health Center

clinic, located at 801 Pacific Ave. in Tillamook.

Putman said the Oregon State Public Health Lab (OSPHL) is conducting laboratory testing of prioritized samples sent to them using state and federal guidance. She said commercial labs can receive samples that may not meet the strict guidelines required to protect OSPHL inventory for higher risk cases, public health investigations and the safety net.

OSPHL can process up to 80 tests a day and is building surge capacity, Putman said. CDC guidelines on who should be tested included those with fever, cough, difficulty breathing and who have traveled to certain affected regions outside the U.S., and those who had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 or is hospitalized, has evidence of viral pneumonia and a negative influenza test.

A Tillamook lumber mill worker was tested for coronavirus, leading operations to shut down March 12 for cleaning. Mark Elston, Hampton Lumber Mill plant manager, said the employee was tested at the local hospital and advised by medical professionals to self-quarantine at home pending results.

"I am very happy to report that our employee finally just received a negative test result on their COVID-19 test," Elston said in an email Monday, March 23.

Elston said upon learning of the possible infection risk, Hampton Lumber closed shop to clean and sanitize areas the employee frequented. He said the relevant break rooms, restrooms, offices, and control rooms were sanitized by a local cleaning service.

"We take the health and safety of our employees and the community very seriously," Elston said.

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners has urged the public to avoid unnecessary social contacts in the coming weeks. They hope to prevent a surge that would leave hospitals and clinics overwhelmed with sick patients.

Becky Hultberg, president and CEO of the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHS), spoke out on the need for stronger social distancing measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. OAHS represents Oregon's 62 acute care hospitals.

"Hospitals and health systems are preparing for a surge in COVID-19 patients and it is critical that we have the capacity to care for those patients and others who present at our facilities," Hultberg said. "Absent widespread testing and the ability to isolate patients, the public health tool we must use to avoid a rising patient surge is social distancing."

Hultberg said OAHS

See COVID19, Page A8

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Coronavirus: County weighs loans for local businesses

County officials and local tourism leaders held a conference call Thursday, March 19, and discussed using Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) funds to bail out local businesses that are struggling because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Tillamook County Commissioners said assistance in the form of short-term bridge loans would be targeted at tourism-related businesses, though the definition of what is tourism-related could be vast in Tillamook County. A committee is being assembled to further discuss the idea and plan how the loans would work and who would be eligible.

There is currently around \$3.5 million in the TLT pot, though \$2.5 million is earmarked

for upcoming grant awards for which applications have already been filed. Commissioners are also exploring state and federal funding possibilities and are seeking to collaborate with local banking institutions.

Tillamook County has not yet been added to the list of counties that are eligible for coronavirus relief loans announced this past week by President Donald Trump. The Small Business Administration can offer up to \$50 billion in low-interest loans to small businesses during the economic downturn caused by the coronavirus. Impacted businesses can apply for up to \$2 million in loans.

"We need to get his money out there – we can't just sit on it," Commissioner Bill Baer-

lein said. "These businesses are bleeding."

Baerlein said he wants to see money being disbursed by early next week, admitting that would be a breakneck pace. Commissioner David Yamamoto echoed the need for rapid response, saying local companies can't afford to wait on longer state and federal timelines.

"Small businesses that aren't able to fully operate are going to be in deep trouble," Commissioner David Yamamoto said. "It's my hope that we can find a way to help small businesses so that they are still around when this is all said and done."

Restaurants are among the most at risk because of limitations put on service by the state. To clamp down on the possible spread of

coronavirus, the governor ordered restaurants and bars to ban on-site dining, allowing only takeout and delivery service.

Local restaurants are reportedly already struggling to make payroll and cover taxes for the coming weeks. A gap in support and resources for the self-employed and sole proprietorships meant they are also at a high risk of shuttering for good without financial help.

"I was thinking about a business here in north county called Wolfmoon Bakery, they just passed their first-year anniversary and the community really loves them, and it's just a husband and wife," Commissioner Mary Faith Bell said. "They're really suffering."

Covid-19

Continued from Page A6

supports action on the state or local level to further limit retail commerce, unnecessary travel, and adopt shelter in place strategies.

Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the CDC has awarded \$7.2 million to Oregon to support the state's effort to help contain and fight the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The funding

is in addition to an initial \$500,000 that the state received at the beginning of the month.

"As our states tackle the unique challenges of responding to coronavirus, the federal government needs to be a full partner," Merkley said.

The new funding comes from a bipartisan \$8.3 billion package of emergency funding signed into law earlier this month. Merkley pushed to secure more funding for the CDC, small business disaster loans, reimbursements for state and local government expenses

incurred fighting the coronavirus, and support for tribal governments – all of which are included in the package.

A COVID-19 information line staffed by registered nurses is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (Spanish available). If you have questions about flu-like symptoms or COVID-19 warning signs call: 503-842-3940. Dental services will be limited to essential care only. Non-essential dental procedures will be postponed and rescheduled. If you have urgent needs, call dental services staff at 503-842-2356.



Tillamook County Community Health Centers staff members Cassandra Orozco, Amy Lake and Dove Rainbow at the mobile clinic. Cody Mann/Headlight Herald

Packing

Continued from Page A1

Visitors were given until noon Monday to leave town.

When they reconvened, the board of commissioners voted unanimously to approve the resolution and to enact the restrictions effective noon Monday. The resolution pushes

the local state of emergency to April 28 unless further extended, closes county, state and federal parks in Tillamook County, county parking lots, county beach access and certain road-

side parking areas, public boat launches except for commercial fishing, and all transient lodging facilities – hotels, motels, short-term vacation rentals, bed and breakfasts, RV parks and

campgrounds, all closed except to guests registered longer than 30 days, essential personnel and emergency responders.

"We have not had a single case of COVID-19 here," Yamamoto said. "Our intent is to keep it that way."

The commissioners released a statement after the vote saying they acted in response to the public health emergency presented by COVID-19.

"COVID-19 represents and unprecedented threat to public health the likes of which has not been seen in the past 100 years," the statement said. "The severity of the threat to life, health and safety calls for extreme measures and immediate action."

"We care deeply about the economic resilience of our lodging providers and businesses in the tourism sector and are grateful for their sacrifices for the protection of their employees, guests and the community at large," the statement said. "We ask the community's support and forbearance as the outdoor recreation opportunities that we all value including parks, beach access and boat launches are closed to us all."

The mayors of Manzanita, Rockaway Beach, Garibaldi, Bay City and

Tillamook were among those who supported the resolution and thanked the board of commissioners for acting. Tillamook County Emergency Manager Gordon McCraw also supported the resolution.

Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District closed beach access in Pacific Sunday prior to the commissioner's vote. Port of Garibaldi is working on locking down its facilities except for commercial fishing purposes.

Gov. Kate Brown again Sunday urged for an end to crowds in public places during spring break, but she has not officially ordered people to stay home. She said people should "stay home, stay healthy," and has banned large gatherings, reduced restaurants and bars to carry out or delivery, and closed schools because of the coronavirus.

Brown lamented on social media that despite her request to stay home, Oregon trails and beaches were packed this weekend. She acknowledged it was difficult but said it was a "matter of life or death."

As of Saturday, March 21, 138 in Oregon have tested positive for COVID-19 and four people have died. No cases have been confirmed in Tillamook County.

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