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The World

Speech season cut short

Back to work in Bandon

MHS students miss chances for state page A10

School district has plan for staff, students PAGE A2

SHOWERS 48 • 37 FORECAST A8 | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020 | theworldlink.com

\$2

Regional airport 'will survive' pandemic

JILLIAN WARD The World

NORTH BEND - The last time Helen Mineau saw flights canceled like she is now, it was after 9/11.

As chairman of the Coos County Airport District for Southwest Oregon Regional Airport and owner of Globe Travel in North Bend, Mineau has a front row seat to another economic crisis. Except this time, it is being brought on by the novel coronavirus, which she said is different than the 2001 terrorist attack because, "Now we have no idea what's going on ... But the reality is it will probably take another month or two before it goes back to normal because people are still getting sick."

Though the stay-in-place orders have taken a toll on travel and local businesses, SORA Executive Director Theresa Cook said the airport itself is stable for now.

"In the short term ... it doesn't affect how we manage the airport," Cook said.

This is because the airport

sees most of its revenue from businesses and organizations renting space on its property. Right now, the airport has 33 renters. This includes office buildings for Oregon State Police, Department of Human Services, Bureau of Land Management, FedEx and UPS.

"We have a very stable base of tenants," Cook explained. "In the long term, we have some businesses that aren't essential services and will feel an impact."

She pointed out that some of these non-essential services might face trouble making rent if the pandemic and restrictions continue.

"Right now the Federal Aviation Administration doesn't have an allowance for us to give waivers for airlines or airport users, but we will look at it if in the long term - it becomes an issue for them to pay rent," she said.

Though the airport isn't seeing an impact in loss of revenue, it has been working to establish flights to Portland. It received a \$750,000 grant from the Department of Transportation, which the airport applied for

almost a year and a half ago. Due to the government shutdown last year, the grant wasn't approved until recently. "... In a way that is fortunate

impacted if it continues.

because we might have negotiated a route by now and that

might have been shut down," Cook said. "Now when (the pandemic) is over, the airlines that survive - hopefully all but I've heard smaller ones might not – they will look for airports that have capital. So we might

Southwestern Oregon Regional Airport remains stable at this point through the ongoing pandemic, though it may be more

be looked at more favorably and have less competition to get flights to Portland more regularly."

But Mineau sees startling sim-

Please see **AIRPORT**, Page A9

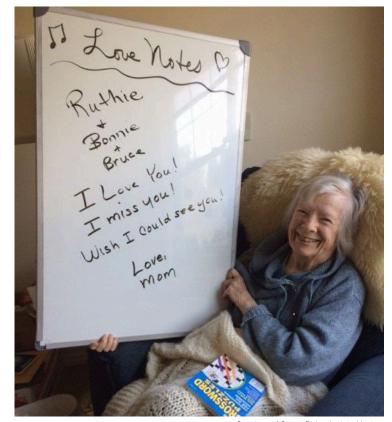
JILLIAN WARD. The World

Precautions in place at senior living centers

ZACH SILVA The World

COOS BAY – The March calendar at Ocean Ridge Assisted Living was jampacked until the novel coronavirus shut activities down.

The calendar had something called "Flexercise" every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, not to be confused with "Stretchercise" each Friday. There was chair yoga, ukulele lessons, afternoons of bingo and a trip to the casino all on the schedule. But these activities at Ocean Ridge Assisted Living in Coos Bay all came to a halt when the country began to slow down as the novel coronavirus continued to spread.



to them in their room to do," said Diane Mason, the executive director at Ocean Ridge.

"It's totally different. I'm not sure any of us know what normal is any more."

For now, those at assisted living homes like Ocean Ridge or any of the other retirement communities and senior living centers in the area have all been working through a new normal. These populations of older residents living in close quarters with one another have been taking extra precautions while there has been a close eye on their health. "We're very, very watchful for that population in those facilities," said Brian Leon of Coos Health and Wellness. As cases of coronavirus have broken out in senior homes across the country, Leon noted that the state is ready to test these individuals if anything comes up. "So in particular long term facilities, we have guidance that essentially says any type of symptom, any type of concern we can essentially escalate very, very quickly without - with very little red tape, getting a sample up to

the state public health lab and those are our priority individuals right now," he said on Monday afternoon.

"They don't have to check every box on the symptom profile. I don't have to get permission, it's more of a let me know, I ask you to get the sample, get it up to the public health lab and I let the state public health lab know



"Everything is on hold. We have no outside people coming in," said Helen Stamate, 90, who lives at Ocean Ridge.

"I'm doing just fine. Kind of bored, but otherwise doing just fine. The room gets smaller and smaller."

With no more music in the afternoons - that was Stamate's favorite time to mingle with other residents - and no brainiacs club to

Courtesy of Ocean Ridge Assisted Living. With visitors no longer able to come to the assisted living facility, Jean shares a message with her family.

attend, she is looking to fill her time. She has settled on watching Law and Order and Golden Girls and taking virtual tours of museums.

"We can't have those big

gatherings so we're finding things we can do with them individually or also finding a lot of word type puzzles and games and different things like that that we can pass out it's coming."

Hoping to avoid the spread of the coronavirus, extra measures have been taken at Ocean Ridge that include no longer eating in a group and not allowing family members to visit.

This has led to increased phone calls and video chats with loved ones while residents have taken to writing on white boards and sharing messages with family members on Facebook.

"They're having fun with it and of course they'll be anxious to see people again but they are having fun with it," said Mason.

"They're really being very positive about it. You know, families and the residents. So it helps people from being

Please see SENIORS, Page A9

Safeway takes actions to protect customers, employees

Local stores add floor stickers to guide social distancing

AMANDA LINARES The World

COOS COUNTY - Armed with extra cart wipes on hand, Plexiglas at checkout windows and 6-foot spaced stickers placed throughout its grocery stores, Safeway is ready to do its part in the battle against the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Like so many other stores around Coos County, Safeway earlier this month implemented a number of safety precautions to protect its customers shopping for

groceries as COVID-19 cases continue to spread around the state.

"We have stepped up how often we clean and disinfect all departments, restrooms and other high-touch points of the store," wrote Nicky Nielsen, the marketing promotional coordinator for Safeway, in an email. "Cart wipes and hand sanitizer stations have been installed in key locations within the stores for your convenience."

According to Nielsen, Plexiglas has also be installed in checkout lanes as a protective barrier between customers and checkers as well as stickers reminding



Contributed photo

Earlier this month, Safeway began installing Plexiglas to its cashier windows to protect customers and staff against COVID-19.

Please see SAFEWAY, Page A9



BSD to put staff, students back to work

AMY MOSS STRONG Bandon Western World

BANDON - Bandon Schools Superintendent Doug Ardiana couldn't be more excited. He's figured out a plan to bring teachers back to work and get students on track for graduation or promoted to the next grade level, despite the closure of schools until at least April 28 due to the coronavirus crisis.

Ardiana rolled out the plan at an emergency Bandon School Board meeting last week, with the intent to get started immediately.

That plan will now change somewhat, as the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction and Director of the Oregon Department of Education Colt Gill also rolled out a statewide plan Monday evening called Distance Learning for All.

Ardiana said the new plan from ODE dovetails nicely with the one he and his staff already designed, though his will now be modified to fit ODE's guidelines.

His plan involves bringing teachers back to work this week, where they are in the process of contacting parents to complete a survey of needs for each household.

Based on the survey and knowledge of their students, teachers will develop a test to determine proficiency for the course work. Students will be required to pass the test with 70% (the minimum level of proficiency).

Teachers will provide educational materials, resources and packets for students that are directly related to the proficiency test.

Ardiana said Special

Education students will have Individual Education Plans to address proficiency and out-of-district students also will be a part of the survey. Individual plans to accommodate out-of-district students will be addressed.

"The staff will use the proficiency test as a pretest to guide instruction for the remainder of the school year," Ardiana wrote in his Educational Programming Overview. "The teachers will then provide instruction to provide more instruction on specific areas."

The students will then retake the test in late May, Ardiana explained. If a student passes with a score of more than 70%, they will then be provided enrichment activities or assist with peer learning if appropriate.

Students who do not pass the test with be provided remediation work and retest.

"The goal will be to have all students meet the proficiency level of 70% or above," Ardiana wrote.

Students in grades K-8 will be allowed to be socially promoted with appropriate documentation in their student file. Students in grades 9-12 will have to pass the test with 70% or above in order to receive credit.

"I believe that our plan will meet the needs of the students," Ardiana said.

Based on the student surveys, the district will provide technology (when appropriate), deliver meals and school work starting April 8.

"We will utilize district vans and drivers to deliver meals and educational packets directly to students," Ardiana said. "The drivers and the educational assistants will be

collecting student work while wearing protective gear."

The student work will be taken to a room at Harbor Lights Middle School, where it will be scanned and sent directly to the teacher via Google classroom. The homework will then be placed in a plastic trash bag to preserve the packet for future review if needed.

Students who have the ability to be online will send their work directly to the teacher. The teacher will review and assess work of the students. If the student is able to be online, the teacher will provide results directly to the student.

If the student is not able to access information online, the teacher will print out the work and provide it to the student with the next packet.

"This way the teachers are not directly in contact with student work sent in from home," Ardiana said. Teachers, board weigh

in Bandon School Board members and administrators were enthusiastic about the plan and expressed their gratitude to Ardiana for moving ahead with what's best for Bandon's students.

"I appreciate the hard work you've put into this," said Board Chairman Ryan Sherman at the emergency meeting on March 25.

"I think our goals that we set (for the district) are about student success," said Board Member Marie Simonds. "I think this is an aggressive plan and I applaud our staff for not sitting back and waiting."

Ocean Crest Elementary School Principal Becky Armistead said there are a lot of online options that will make the plan work-

> At 11:55 a.m., a suspisubject was cious reported on 12th and Collier Street in Coquill

At 7:46 p.m., suspicious conditions were handed on Bothwick and Eighth Street.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

on

Sixth

between students and teachers will look and feel different and cannot be fully replicated across a distance, Gill admitted.

"It will not and cannot happen overnight. We need the grace and patience of our state's leaders, our communities. our families and our educators as we learn together to move powerfully to ensure care, connection, and continuity of learning happen in entirely new ways for our students."

The Distance Learning for All plan will continue to evolve, but Bandon administrators and educators are on board, Ardiana said.

"I feel good about it," Ardiana said. "I believe in our teaching staff and I believe we can do this. I have faith that we will work to go the extra mile to make this happen."

COQUILLE POLICE LOG

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

At 2:10 a.m., suspicious conditions were reported on South Cedar Street. At 9:43 a.m., a patrol check was conducted on was North Birch Street. At 10:17 a.m., a traffic stop was conducted on At 9:29 a.m., suicidal U.S. Highway 42 near subject was handled on Milepost 18.

MONDAY, MARCH 23

information

complaint

gathered on 19th Street. At 1:50 p.m., criminal At 11:25 p.m., animal At 6:07 p.m., suspicious mischief reported on complaint handled on conditions handled on Broadbent Road. Spruce St Railroad Avenue At 10:25 p.m., driving WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 At 5:59 p.m., public The World assistance was provided on Fifth Street. **THURSDAY, MARCH 26** 350 Commercial Avenue, Coos Bay P.O. Box 1840, Coos Bay, OR 97420 © 2020 Country Media, Inc. At 10:25 p.m., a theft 541-266-6047 was handled on Eighth Office Street **TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS** FRIDAY, MARCH 27 During this critical time in our community DON'T JUST KINDA TV. DIRECTV. we are modifying our office hours in respect Where sports fans call home to the social limiting restriction. 9:00am-Noon Mon.-Fri. **NEWS DEPARTMENT**

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

MYRTLE POINT POLICE LOG

Bandon School District food service aides Vickie Brawley, left, and Tammy Anderson hand out free bagged breakfasts and lunches to parents and guardians outside the district cafeteria. Food service manager Sharon Haga said the meals are for anyone ages 0-18 and the children to not have to be in the vehicle to receive a

able.

"We have teachers literally waiting at home to get in touch with their families," Armistead said. "I think everyone is more concerned with the wellness of our families and keeping them engaged."

The plan is based on schools reopening on April 29, though it has not yet been determined if that will be the plan.

If schools do not reopen on April 29, the Bandon School District will move forward with a pretest for students and provide packets and study guides for instruction (traditional and online).

In a message to all Oregon school districts from ODE, Gill wrote that ODE is partnering with districts "on an historic transformation of our education system to maintain care, connection and continuity of learning for

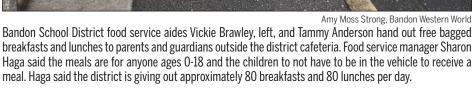
Oregon's response to COVID-19 has responsibly and necessarily evolved with the use of data and knowledge of effective suppression measures, Gill wrote.

our students."

"We now have a moral imperative to meet the changing nature of the pandemic and evolve our approach to serving our children.

"As we continue the effective measures of Governor Brown's "Stay Home, Save Lives" order, we also foresee the strong possibility that our students may not come back through our school house doors this academic year," Gill continued. "This calls for a shift from providing supplementary education to a formidable effort to provide Distance Learning for All."

Education without face-to-face interaction



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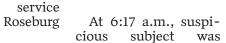
844-945-2056

At 2:25 p.m., restrainorder ing conducted on Roseburg Road. At 11:58 p.m., menac-

ing reported Arago Fishtrap Road.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

At 2:32 p.m., counterfeit money handed on Maryland Avenue.



handled Street.

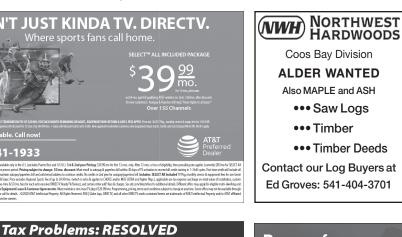
Fifth Street.

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At 1:48 p.m., animal compliant handled on Roseburg Road.



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SUNDAY, MARCH 29

At 11:29 a.m., a patrol check was conducted on 17th Street.

At 11:55 a.m., a patrol check was conducted on North Gould Street.

At 2:10 p.m., a traffic stop was conducted on U.S. Highway 42.

At 3:54 p.m., mental subject reported on North Laurel Street.

AT 6:41 p.m., suspicious conditions reported on North Birch Street.





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April blood drives seek to help in COVID-19 fight

ADAM ROBERTSON The World

SOUTH COAST – As hospitals around the world work to treat the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Red Cross is holding blood drives all around the area in April to collect donations of blood and platelets.

On April 14, there will be a blood drive in Coos Bay, at Southwestern Oregon Community College and another in Reedsport at the Reedsport Community Center on April 15. There will also be blood drives at Southwestern on April 15 and 16.

The blood drives at Southwestern will be in Newmark Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Reedsport event will be from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. There will also be a blood drive at North Bend High School on April 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

According to Valerie Gordon with the Red Cross they are accepting all blood types, though due to the short shelf life they have an ongoing need for platelets. She encourages donors to make appointments online. Donors can save time by filling out their health history questions prior to their visit at www.redcrossblood.org/ rapidpass.

"These questions can be answered via computer or smartphone and must be completed the day of the drive," said Gordon. "This process will save donors 15-20 minutes."

The blood drives will be conducted to allow for social distancing and providing enough space between everyone. Gordon noted that blood drives are considered essential health events, and that Governor Kate Brown is encouraging everyone to give blood.

"In times of crisis, the Red Cross is fortunate to witness the best of humanity as people roll up a sleeve to help those in need," says a statement from the Red Cross. "We greatly appreciate the generosity of the public to help stock hospital shelves. There is no known end date in this fight against coronavirus and the Red Cross needs the help of blood and platelet donors and blood drive hosts to maintain a sufficient blood supply for weeks to come."

For more information, or to schedule appointments, visit www. redcrossblood.org.



Reedsport Junior Alex Carson donates blood for the first time.

Contributed Photo

Reedsport school websites receive a new look

ADAM ROBERTSON The Umpqua Post

REEDSPORT – The websites of the Reedsport School District have been undergoing changes as the board and staff update them for a new look.

Savanna Wright, a member of the Reedsport School Board, is making the initial changes to the sites. She recalled she's already familiar with the program that runs the websites. So far, the work has been going well and the board is happy with the updates.

"I am really happy with the progress of all three websites and I've gotten good feedback from administrators," Wright said. "It's a slow process because I also work fulltime, but as long as I do a little bit every day the progress seems to show."

The website for Reedsport Community Charter School has had features added that the board expects to be useful to students. A new "seniors" page has been added with scholarship information, important dates, and a countdown to graduation. Wright recalled RCCS office manager Sheri Wall came up with the idea and that it made sense.

"The seniors are busy and have a lot of information they need to know and dates to remember, so this will be that one-stop shop for them," she said.

There is also a link on the homepage that shows a list of emergency numbers and websites. Wright noted one website is oregonyouthline.org, a site that allows teens to live chat or text with other teens working to support their peers who are struggling with depression, drug problems, or just dealing with stress.

Highland Elementary has a new page called "online learning" with links to some of the resources students use in the classroom. Some students already have usernames and passwords to access sites and email their teachers to get information.

"Especially now, with school closed, this is an important resource for parents to know about," said Wright.

Highland Pool's section of the website has also undergone changes. While the pool always had a link on the school's site, it now has a full webpage with information on fees, pictures, and seasonal schedules, rather than a PDF with the schedule.

Wright said the board's biggest goal for the updates is for every website to become a place where people can get the information or resources they need. So far, a large portion of the sites have been updated to the new look, though she added there's still lots to be done.

"I think this is especially important because not everyone has Facebook," she said. "And although social media can be a great

	REEDSPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT 105	We are an inclusive community with heart, empowering all who enter our doors.' 2019-20 Audit RFP
HOME PAGE		
COVID-19 UPDATES CALENDAR		
COMMUNITY	COVID-10 UPDATE: March 20, 2020	Kids Lunch Menu
RESOURCES	There has been a change in the expectation of the school closure recently. We have moved	Free Grab N'Lunch System
CONTACT US	away from the workforce shortage being the reason for the school closure. We are now	Remote Site Schedule
DISTRICT POLICIES	practicing isolation techniques and the school closure is an effort to "flatten the curve" and	Effective Dates:
DISTRICT REPORTS	slow the spread of the virus. This essentially means that social distancing and isolation should	March 16-20; March 23-27; March 30-31
EMPLOYMENT	reduce the numbers of people getting CoVID-19 and how quickly people get affected.	Reedsport
OPPORTUNITIES	"Flattening the curve" allows doctors and health professional to manage the pandemic, use	Highland Elementary: 11am - 11:20am
HUMAN RESOURCES	resources more efficiently, and move closer toward any form of cure/vaccine. Your understanding of expectations and willingness to follow the expectations greatly helps all of	Food Trucks – Forest Hills Complex: 11am – 11:10am
SCHOOL BOARD	us. This past week has been challenging for many people. We will be our best when everyone	Circle Drive (RCCS): 11:15am – 11:25am
	does their part. Stay alert to what is going on and I hope you find calm in the effort.	Henderson Park: 11:35am – 11:55am
SPECIAL EDUCATION		Gardiner Fire Dept.: 12:05pm – 12:15pm
SURPLUS	Remember:	Hawthorne Complex: 12:25pm - 12:35pm
SURPLUS	https://www.cdc.gov//workplace-school-and-home-guidance.pdf	Skate Park (Lion's Park): 12:40pm -
	Some questions that have been brought to our attention recently	12:44pm

The Reedsport School District home page has a new look as Board Member Savanna Wright makes updates to the district websites.

tool, the bottom line is the district still needs a place where all of their information is easily accessible and that place will be these websites."

There will be ongoing updates once the websites' renovations are completed. Wright said her goal is to get initial information in place, then hand the reins over to the schools and administrators. The office managers of the individual schools, and the district office manager will be taking over making updates after Wright finishes the initial remodel.

"I'm going to provide the administrators with an instruction manual to help them navigate the editing program and then I will also be available to make changes at their request," Wright said.

When Wright joined the School Board, one of her big goals was to see the websites updated. She recalled they lacked basic information that school district websites should have.

"Communication through the website was one of my goals to achieve once I joined the School Board," said Wright. "I joined and realized the board already had this goal in mind too. I was able to jump in and really put the project in gear."

Local law enforcement sees drop in thefts

AMANDA LINARES The World

COOS COUNTY — Some local law enforcement agencies in Coos County have reported seeing a decrease in thefts over the past two weeks as the coronavirus pandemic continues to unfold.

According to Coos County Sheriff's Cpt. Gabe Fabrizio, deputies have seen a number of crimes impacted by the coronavirus restrictions as people have been ordered to stay home and to socially distance themselves from one another.

This year, from March 17 to March 30, the Sheriff's Office has seen thefts decreased by about 40 percent compared to the number of thefts reported last year (2019) during the same timeframe.

From March 17 to March 27, the Coos Bay Police Department has seen about a 28 percent drop and the Coquille Police Department about a 50 percent drop in the number of reported thefts as compared to last year.

Traffic stops have also seen a decline as deputies have been advised to limit their contact with people when possible to protect themselves from potentially being exposed to COVID-19, said Fabrizio. There are also less drivers on the road, which has also contributed to less stops being made, he added.

While overall thefts are

down, Fabrizio said the number of calls its dispatch center has received related to criminal trespass, disturbances and other suspicious conditions has gone up.

According to Fabrizio, the Sheriff's Office, from March 17 to 30, received about 24 calls this year for criminal trespass compared to 16 last year. For disturbances, dispatch received about 49 calls this year compared to 27 last year.

"... We have seen an increase in disturbances, some people getting angry at each other and fighting," said Fabrizio. "We do always go out to those as fast as we can and of course obtain as much information from the individual as possible."

According to Coos Bay Police Department Deputy Chief Chris Chapanar, once a report of a disturbance undergoes investigation it likely gets re-categorized based on the information collected, such as a harassment case or domestic dispute. As calls vary from area to area, he said so far he hasn't seen a major uptick in disturbance-related crimes.

Compared to last year, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle and burglaries appear to have slightly gone up from March 17 to 27, according to preliminary crime stats from the Coos Bay Police Department.

"We're just really advising people to be extra cautious during this time," said Chapanar. "A majority of the community members out there are doing some wonderful things, helping each other out and really coming together as a community to try to get over this situation that we're dealing with ... However, there is always going to be a few people within our society that take these types of situations and use them to their advantage in terms of their criminal activity.'

Chapanar said he encourages people to be extra alert and cautious when it comes to protecting their property and becoming victims of fraud or theft by making sure their vehicles and homes are locked and secured.

He advised business owners who have been ordered to close their doors temporarily do the same and make sure they have their alarm systems up to date and their valuable items out of sight and out of their storefront windows.

"Another thing we're reminding folks about is to be aware of potential scams and fraudulent activity such as illegitimate organizations or nonprofits seeking donations," said Chapanar.

Community members are also being advised to frequently check their mail and to essentially reduce any opportunity a person might take to commit a crime.

Coos Bay to hold special meeting today

NICHOLAS JOHNSON The World

COOS BAY — Today at 2 p.m. the Coos Bay City Council will be holding a special meeting at Coos Bay City Hall.

The topic to be discussed is the consideration of approval of Resolution 20-07 requesting transient lodging facilities to limit the rental of rooms only to individuals providing essential services in the community.

Due to Governor Kate Brown's Executive Order 20-05 prohibiting large gatherings to slow the spread of COVID-19, the city will only be allowing 24 people to attend.

For those who wish to watch the meeting from the internet, click here or visit the city of Coos Bay's website for the link.

Local seeks emergency relief for young adults

NICHOLAS JOHNSON The World

OREGON — North Bend High School alum and Oregon State University sophomore Austin Goergen has organized a petition to try and get young adults still being claimed on their parent's taxes as eligible for federal relief during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week Congress passed H.R. 748 which designated an emergency relief check of \$1,200 to taxpayers who make less than \$75,000 a year and those who can't be claimed as a dependent on someone else's taxes.

"If you're a dependent you don't get anything, and the problem with that is parents are getting an additional \$500 per child, but that's only if their child is under the age of 17," Goergen said. "So you have this demographic of 17 to 24-yearolds who are essentially seeing no aid from this package, and neither are the people who are claiming them as a dependent."

In response to this lack of emergency relief funding for young adults, Goergen started a petition that in the past three days has gotten over 1,400 signatures online, as well as over 9,000 up votes on the website Reddit.

"The idea is to get enough signatures that it's really obvious this is a problem people care about, and then send this to our Oregon senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley," he said. "Also working with people in other states to get this message to their representatives. We're using the petition to deliver this message that this is something that really effects a lot of people."

Goergen was fortunate enough to keep his work hours through the recent closures, but said he has a lot friends who weren't so lucky.

"I have a lot of friends who are trying to look for other jobs right now, and a lot of their families are not able to support them financially," Georgen said.

For those who are interested in Goergen's petition, e-signatures are being collected at https:// www.change.org/college_covid19.



OPINION

The World

A Country Media Newspaper 350 Commercial Ave., Coos Bay, OR 97420 news@theworldlink.com | theworldlink.com/news/opinion

> BEN KENFIELD Publisher AMY MOSS STRONG News Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good reading in **The World**

Thanks for the great article by historian Steven Greif in last weekend's paper on the 1918 flu pandemic as it affected the South Coast. One for the scrap book for sure!

Also thanks for the staff and carriers bringing us the local paper ..

Charlotte Koepke Coos Bay

Please look into carelessness issue

Spectrum is sending technicians to Cottage Grove to cover for several technicians who have quit in recent days.

I find this to be extraordinarily careless during this fight with COVID-19.

I would suggest someone bring this to the attention of someone that might be able to put a stop to it before these Coos County citizens are forced to go to an infected area of the state and bring the virus back to Coos County.

I hope you can find someone that can take care of this issue. **Bruce Tucker** Coos Bay

Concerns over firing of Bandon hospital CEO

Dear Southern Coos Health District board members,

I find it deeply disturbing that our local hospital is, once again, without a CEO. My concern is particularly intense at this time as the world faces a pandemic.

I have questions that I hope you can answer to help me understand your rationale for this decision.

facts. Without understanding your decision, I cannot state that I have confidence in your oversight of the hospital. Right now, more than ever perhaps, I want to be confident that our medical community is there for me. I ask you to help me understand your decision.

cerely want to understand the

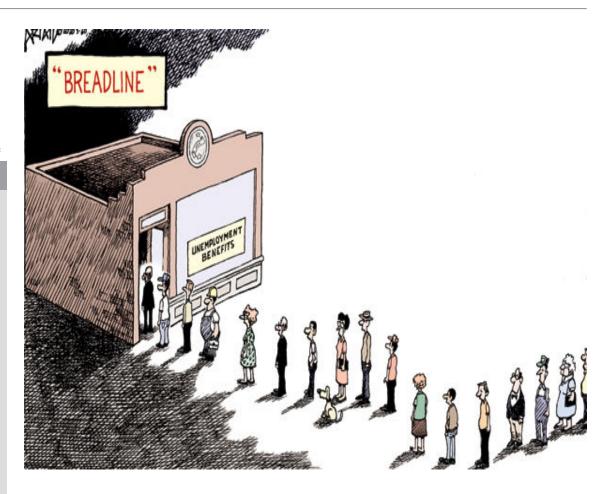
Nancy K. Koontz Bandon

Decision to fire CEO was not made lightly

I care deeply about Southern Coos Hospital. Making a motion to terminate CEO Amy Fine was not a decision I made lightly. I am in my 16th year on Southern Coos Board of Directors and have seen 4 CEO's in that time (Jim Wathen, Charles Johnston, JoDee Tittle and Amy Fine). I also spent a dozen years in California on a hospital board. Other than Charles Johnston (who was relieved by the Board unanimously), I have never before voted to fire a CEO.

The short version of "Why?" is that a majority of the Board completely lost confidence in Amy Fine's leadership. Publicly discussing "reasons" other than a loss of confidence is counter-productive and ultimately hurtful to both Amy Fine and to the Hospital. One of the responsibilities of a Director is to hire and, if necessary, to fire a CEO. And if I have no confidence in Amy Fine's ability to lead in normal times, why would I want her to be in charge during a crisis?

Debi Ellis, our Chief Nursing Officer, who served as Acting CEO during Amy Fine's recent 10-day vacation is temporarily serving again as Acting CEO. I am hopeful we will fill the inter-



Virus escapees' dilemma: **Borders without doctors**

In "The Decameron," seven women and three men leave plague-tormented Florence for a villa in the hills, where they tell one another bawdy stories. Written nearly 700 years ago, the tale remains fresh, as affluent New Yorkers try to escape the coronavirus outbreak by moving into their second homes at the beach or in the woods.

But there are two big differences. In Renaissance Italy, people living outside the city didn't patrol their borders. By contrast, Florida and Rhode Island have tried to deter visitors from New York by demanding that they undergo two weeks of self-isolation. After New Orleans became a coronavirus hotspot, Texas started checking cars at the Louisiana state line, ordering their passengers to do likewise. Texas was already imposing self-quarantines on airline passengers flying from Miami, Atlanta, Detroit and elsewhere.

Another big difference is that in the distant past, the only thing people could do about the plague was avoid getting it. They did that by staying away from others. That's still essential, but today there are medical interventions to help most of the afflicted survive. The big city health systems have the hospitals, the doctors and the equipment to provide them. True, many of these urban hospitals are being overwhelmed by the crush of patients, but the caseloads are now growing at faster pace in rural areas that generally have vulnerable older populations. Health officials everywhere now worry about shortages of ventilators, masks and tests. Over half the U.S. counties don't have a single hospital intensive care unit bed. By contrast, health officials in large metropolitan areas have the option of moving patients from overcrowded hospitals to other facilities in the region. That was done in the Seattle area, one of the worst-hit parts of the country.

ing policies may be slowing rates of infection and mortality -- even as Washington state sees infections rise in rural areas.

Whether one state can legally restrict travel or commerce from another remains questionable. Most constitutional lawyers hold that only the federal government can do this. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture forbids many Hawaiian farm products from entering the U.S. mainland because they may harbor invasive pests or disease. If the USDA can stop Hawaiians from shipping berries and cactus plants to other states (flower leis and pineapples are OK), why couldn't the federal government stop Americans from crossing state lines to slow the spread of disease?

On Saturday morning, President Donald Trump talked about quarantining travelers from the New York City metropolitan area but dropped the idea by evening. Instead, an advisory was issued asking them to avoid nonessential travel -- a policy already in place.

The recent infection rate in New York City was 1 in 1,000 people. That's a high number

1. Did Ms. Fine do anything unlawful while performing her job?

2. Did Ms. Fine treat staff unfairly or inappropriately while performing her duties? If so were these instances addressed by the Board? Were they mitigated?

3. Were any criticisms of Ms. Fine's management style addressed by the Board. Were those concerns mitigated?

4. Did the Board fail to perform its fiduciary duties?

5. Was the Board aware of any failure to perform their duties?

I realize the word "transparency" is little more than a buzz word these days and that I may never get the true story, but I sinim CEO spot promptly (and may have already done so by the time you read this). We have contacted Nielsen Healthcare/Merraine Group, a leading healthcare executive search firm, which has already sent us a list of qualified candidates, and we are also considering one or two local candidates. We hope to have an interim CEO on board within the week.

Your entire hospital team is strong and dedicated. We are, and will be, here for you.

> **David Allen** Southern Coos Health District Board of Directors Bandon

And there's a spark of good news from Seattle. Its early and stringent social distancof cases (though partly a reflection of New York's more aggressive testing for the virus). But -- and not to sugarcoat this -- it also means that 999 out of 1,000 were not found to be infected. New Yorkers who follow the rules for hand-washing and keeping a distance from others would seem to have a very good chance of avoiding the virus.

Obviously, Americans who contemplate bolting from a coronavirus hot spot have more calculations to make than did the gentry of plague-ridden Florence. On one hand, Americans could go to lower-populated areas where they are less confined and the virus has not spread as widely. On the other, medical facilities are scarcer there and perhaps not as state-of-the-art as the ones in town. Put simply, are there ventilators, hospital beds and doctors on the other side of the border?

Stimulus bill provides \$350B in relief to small business

Danielle Kane and Roseanne Freitas **Better Business Bureau**

Help from the \$2 trillion stimulus bill will soon be on its way with the House passage on Friday, March 27, and President Donald Trump pledging a quick signature. The bill addresses the economic crisis brought on by COVID-19 authorizing direct payments to taxpayers, dramatically expanded unemployment benefits and an aid package for small business owners.

At Better Business Bureau Northwest + Pacific, the bulk of our customers and contacts are small business owners and we understand how deeply this pandemic has affected them. The \$350 billion loan package allocated specifically for small businesses could be a game-changer for the countless mom-and-pop's that have had to shut their doors and/or lay off employees during this time.

So, what do business owners need to do to access this aid? First, they must apply at a lender approved by the Small Business Administration (SBA). In the past, securing such loans can take months. To get the money out quickly, the stimulus bill is calling on the U.S. Treasury Department and SBA to expedite the loan

process and approve more institutions to make the loans. No official word has been given yet on exactly how fast that could be.

The other important item to note is that at least a portion of the loans that small businesses take out will be forgiven so long as the business remains intact and employs its staff.

If you're a small business owner crunched for cash right now, consider getting in contact with your bank, credit union or lenders to understand what documents you're going to need and start collecting organizing those records immediately. But understand, lenders won't have all the pieces yet. Banks and credit unions are currently waiting on the SBA to provide reporting guidelines to fasttrack the loan process.

If you're a business owner in the mid to large range, your available loan package is slightly larger, sitting at \$454 billion.

Unemployment Benefits

As of Thursday, March 26, unemployment claims skyrocketed to 3.2 million (link to my unemployment article here) – far more than we ever saw during the Great Recession. On the whole, the stimulus package is now going to give more workers more benefits for a longer time.

The \$250 billion in unemployment aid is on top of what was already approved earlier in March in the Emergency Unemployment Insurance Stabilization and Access Act. That bill granted \$1 billion right away for states to use for growing unemployment claims and to use for administrative costs of running unemployment offices. However, as unemployment grew, additional expansions were made to unemployment benefits in this stimulus bill.

So, how much money are we talking about? Unemployed workers will get up to \$600 per week - again, this is on top of state benefits.

For perspective, federal relief during the Great Recession came in the form of an additional \$25 a week on unemployment checks.

Workers can claim these benefits for no more than 39 weeks, up from the usual 26 weeks.

As of March 27, there has still been no timeline officialized for how soon unemployed workers could expect their checks. Nonetheless, BBB understands the pain of small business owners right now and heard about layoffs many owners have been forced to take.

BBB encourages employers to work with their employees - even those you

just let go - to try and help answer any questions about unemployment expectations. In keeping this relationship strong, you maintain trust and credibility with your workforce that will pay dividends down the line when the crisis is over. **Direct Stimulus Payments**

Individual taxpayers can expect up to \$1,200 from the government thanks to the stimulus bill. Couples would receive \$2,400 plus \$500 per child. The total of direct relief amounts to \$301 billion.

How much you get will be based on how much you make, which will be determined by your 2019 or 2018 tax returns. BBB's tip is always to file your taxes early-we are doubling down on that right now.

Unfortunately, it's still uncertain when consumers can expect the money. As of the passing of the bill, it is expected to take three weeks for the IRS to start sending out money. This is subject to change.

If you've already allowed the IRS to directly deposit your tax return in the last two years, you will likely receive the money into your account this way. If not, the IRS will send you a check.

For more information like this head to: https://bbb-businesses.org/covid-19/

OBITUARIES / NEWS

DEAR ABBY

Dad chooses friend over his family



JEANNE PHILLIPS

DEAR ABBY: My father has been mostly absent from my life. We reconnected when I was an adult. I have always had feelings of abandonment, and because of this, I have constantly tried to build a relationship with him and allow him to have one with his grandchildren.

Dad met my friend of 10 years, "Danielle," two months ago when I threw him a birthday party. Since then, he and Danielle have begun a relationship on the sly. The problem is, Danielle tells Dad things I confided to her over the years, and he is coming back to me with whatever she has told him.

Dad has been separated for 14 years, and Danielle insisted that she wouldn't date him under those circumstances, but she did. Since the start of this, my relationship with my dad is even worse, and my long friendship with Danielle has been ruined because I know I can't trust her. Dad spends all of his time with her and her child now and hasn't begun to build a bond with me or his own grandchildren, which has been the story of my life, and my friend knows this. Abby, am I being selfish? What do you think I should do? -- MORE THAN AWKWARD IN ARKANSAS

DEAR MORE: I don't think you are selfish. You have good reason to be hurt and disappointed. Your father is remaining true to character, but your friend has betrayed your trust. You may need the help of a licensed therapist to move beyond this, and that is what I recommend you do.

Believe me, you have my sympathy. But you can't change your father or Danielle. You can, however, change the way you react to them, and a therapist will help you do that more quickly than you can do it on your own.

DEAR READERS: On April 1, I like to share a few of the more offbeat letters I receive. Here are three:

DEAR ABBY: For more than 50 years, my wife has had a close relationship with a stuffed panda bear she received when she was 8 years old. His name is Daffy, and he sits by our fireplace and pretty much rules the house. She makes him "talk" and takes him places.

When I make a mistake, like not hanging up my jacket, I say that

White House projects 100,000 to 240,000 US deaths from virus

WASHINGTON (AP) -President Donald Trump on Tuesday warned Americans to brace for a "hell of a bad two weeks" ahead as the White House projected there could be 100,000 to 240,000 deaths in the U.S. from the coronavirus pandemic even if current social distancing guidelines are maintained.

Public health officials stressed that the number could be less if people across the country bear down on keeping their distance from one another.

"We really believe we can do a lot better than that," said Dr. Deborah Birx, the coordinator of the White House coronavirus task force. That would require all Americans to take seriously their role in preventing the spread of disease, she said.

Trump called American efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus "a matter of life and death" and urged the public to heed his administration's guidelines. He predicted the country would soon see a "light at the end of the tunnel" in the pandemic that has killed more than 3,500 Americans and infected 170,000 more.

"I want every American to be prepared for the hard days that lie ahead," Trump said.

"This is going to be one of the roughest two or three weeks we've ever had in our country," Trump added. "We're going to lose thousands of people.'

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said the numbers are "sobering" and called on Americans to "step on the accelerator" with their collective mitigation efforts.

"We are continuing to see things go up," Fauci said. "We cannot be discouraged by that because the mitigation is actually working and will work."

Birx said pandemic forecasts initially predicted 1.5 million to 2.2 million deaths in the U.S. But that was a worst-case scenario, without efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus through social distancing.

Birx said states that have not yet seen a spike in cases as New York has could take action to flatten the curve of rising hospitalizations and deaths

As for the projection of 100,000-240,000 deaths, Fauci of the National Institutes of Health said: "We don't accept that number, that that's what it's going to be. ... We want to do much better than that."

It's not only social distancing that could make a difference, but also the frantic efforts by hospitals around the country to prepare for an onslaught of seriously ill patients. The better prepared hospitals are, the greater the chances of lives being saved.

There's also a wild card when it comes to treatment: whether the drug combination Trump has touted a medicine for malaria and an antibiotic - will actually make a difference. That combination is already being used on thousands of patients, and Fauci said he would want to see a rigorous test of its effectiveness.

Trump's comments came after he announced Sunday that he was extending to April 30 the social distancing guidelines that urged

Americans to cease large gatherings, work from home, suspend onsite learning at schools and more in a nationwide effort to stem the spread of the virus.

It was an abrupt reversal for Trump, who spent much of last week targeting April 12 as the day he wanted to see Americans "pack the pews" for Easter Sunday services.

Trump called the data "very sobering," saying it was his understanding that the 100,000 deaths was a minimum that would be difficult to avoid. He also sought to rewrite his past minimization of the outbreak, saying he rejected those who compared the new coronavirus to the flu — when in fact he repeatedly did so publicly.

"This could be hell of a bad two weeks," Trump said. He added: "You know 100,000 is, according to modeling, a very low number. In fact, when I first saw the number ... they said it was unlikely you'll be able to attain that. We have to see but I think we're doing better than that."

Trump played down concerns from New York's Andrew Cuomo and other governors that their states' hospitals don't have enough ventilators to treat an anticipated crush of patients. Trump said the federal government currently has a stockpile of 10,000 ventilators that it plans on distributing as needed.

"Now, when the surge occurs, if it occurs fairly evenly, we'll be able to distribute them very quickly before they need them," Trump said. "But we want to have a reserve right now. It's like having oil reserves.'

Washington state and California give her hope that other states can keep the coronavirus under control through social distancing. That's because they moved quickly to contain the early clusters of coronavirus by closing schools, urging people to work from home, banning large gatherings and taking other measures now familiar to most Americans, she noted.

"I am reassured by looking at the Seattle line," she added. "California and Washington state reacted very early to this." Many other states and local governments already have stiff controls in place on mobility and gatherings.

Trump said he would also ask Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis to allow the docking of two cruise ships with passengers who have had contact with patients suffering from COVID-19. Passengers are anxious to disembark once they reach Florida, but DeSantis said the state's health care resources are already stretched too thin to take on a ship's coronavirus caseload.

"They're dying on the ship," Trump said. "I'm going to do what's right, not only for us for but humanity."

Trump spoke after another troubling day for the stock market, which has been in a free fall as the cononavirus ground the economy to a near-halt and left millions unemployed. The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged more than 400 points, or roughly 1.9%, to seal the worst first-quarter finish of its 135-year history.

Birx said the experiences of

Amazon fires warehouse worker who staged walkout

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon fired a worker who organized a walkout at a New York warehouse to demand greater protection against the new coronavirus, saying the employee himself flouted distancing rules and put others at risk

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio ordered the city's Commission of Human Right to investigate whether the dismissal was retaliatory. New York Attorney General Letitia James called on the National Labor Relations Board to investigate and said her office is also considering legal options. "It is disgraceful that Amazon would terminate an employee who bravely stood up to protect himself and his colleagues," James said in a statement. Amazon said the worker, Christian Smalls, received several warnings for violating social distancing guidelines. Amazon said Smalls showed up at the protest at the Staten Island warehouse Monday despite a order to remain home for 14 days with pay because he had come into contact with a co-worker who had been diagnosed with the virus.

and encouraged the person in a brief conversation to go home.

Smalls said that Tuesday had been his first day back at work after more than a week because he had been using paid and unpaid time off to avoid going to a job where felt exposed to the virus.

After the worker tested positive, Smalls said he and others workers asked if the warehouse would be shut down for cleaning but were told it would stay open. After that, Smalls said he spent the rest of the week going to the warehouse without clocking in, instead spending each day in the break room leading protests. "Everybody is scared. People are scared to lose their jobs. Who's their voice? I'm their voice. It cost me my job but so be it," Smalls said. Amazon said a small fraction of the 5,000 workers work at the warehouse joined the walk-out. The company said it had asked "anyone who was in close contact with the diagnosed individual to stay home with pay" but did not specify how many. The Seattle-based company said it has taken aggressive steps to protect its employees from the virus, including cleaning and distancing measures. Amazon is checking the temperature of anyone entering the Staten Island warehouse, a step the company

said would be implemented in other facilities as soon as possible.

The company said it consults with local and federal health authorities on how to handle building closures if an employee tests positive, including evaluating the worker's interactions with others.

"We have taken extreme measures to keep people safe," Amazon said in a statement. "The truth is the vast majority of employees continue to show up and do the heroic work of delivering for customers every day."

the sick-out had "no operational impact" on its services.

Whole Foods said it offers workers up to two weeks of paid time off if they test positive for COVID-19 or are quarantined, an additional \$2 per hour on top of hourly base pay, and increased overtime pay. Amazon is also offering an additional \$2 per hour for its hourly workers.

Amazon is hiring 100,000 more workers to meet a surge in demand for deliveries, one of several companies that have announced such hiring sprees. Despite the hazards of the jobs, many people are applying as

Daffy told me not to do it. She gets mad, and I get a lecture from Daffy about how he isn't to blame and he never makes a mistake. I am joking when I blame Daffy, but my wife and Daffy don't find it funny. Am I wrong to make a joke, or should I not blame Daffy? (Daffy told me to write this letter.) -- PANDA-MONIUM OUT WEST

DEAR PANDA-MONIUM: It appears there are not one, but three "daffys" in your household. If you can't "bear" what's going on, stop joking. P.S. You must think I'm daffy to believe this letter is legit.

DEAR ABBY: How do you address a letter to three doctors who are in a domestic partnership? Two are married to each other and have the same last name. I addressed it as. "Drs. Jane and John Doe and Joe Brown," but I wanted to be sure for future correspondence. -THREE'S COMPANY IN ATLANTA

DEAR T.C.: Surrounded by so many doctors, you must be receiving excellent health care! The correspondence should be addressed to "Drs. Jane and John Doe and Joe Brown, M.D." Joe earned his degree and deserves that title -- even if he is coming in third.

DEAR ABBY: When I put my hand on my wife's knee at the dinner table last night, she blurted out the name of another man. What do you make of this? -- CURIOUS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CURIOUS: Unless the name she blurted was Alfredo and you were eating pasta, I suspect you may have a problem.

HAPPY APRIL FOOLS' DAY, **EVERYONE!**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)COPYRIGHT 2020 ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

1130 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106; 816-581-7500

But Smalls said his contact with the infected worker was limited and felt Amazon put him on leave to get him out of the way. He said he noticed the worker looked ill last Tuesday

EUGENE (AP) - A

chip factory in Eugene has

week.

ty."

The new owner is an

Ohio digital sign company

"We are in a dialogue

with several different eco-

nomic agencies throughout

Oregon about our plans for

this," said Andrea Poley,

Stratacache's manager of

She said the coronavirus

outbreak has slowed those

conversations but said "we

do have an outlook and see

Economic development

future uses of the proper-

officials in Eugene have

hoped a new owner could

revive the property, either

as a factory with new man-

ufacturing jobs or perhaps

as a data center.

global communications.

called Stratacache.

long-shuttered computer

sold at auction for \$6.3

to do with the site.

to build and equip the

1.2-million-square-foot

1998. It closed in 2008

factory, which opened in

during a downturn in the

memory chip market. The

closure left 1,400 people

out of work, one of the

biggest mass layoffs in

Oregon history, The

OregonLive reported.

The plant sold twice

since, for \$31 million and

\$13.4 million, but previous

buyers abandoned plans to

the site. The property went

revive manufacturing on

Oregonian/

million, but it's not clear

what the new owner plans

Hynix spent \$1.5 billion

Several walk-outs and protests have drawn attention to fear and discontent among low-wage workers on the front lines of the pandemic, particularly those packing and delivering groceries and other essentials for millions of people hunkering down at home.

A group of workers at Whole Foods, which is owned by Amazon, planned to stage a "sick out" Tuesday to demand hazard pay, immediate closure and cleaning of stores if a worker tests positive for the virus and health benefits for part-time and seasonal workers. It was unclear how widespread the protest was.

Whole Foods said the protest was being led by a "small but vocal group," including many who don't work for the company. In a statement, Whole Foods said

DEATH NOTICES

layoffs soar retail, restaurants, airlines and other industries.

Instacart, the San Franciscobased grocery delivery app, is hiring 300,000 more contracted workers, saying orders have surged 150% in recent weeks compared to last year. Some Instacart workers walked off the job Monday to demand hazard pay and more protective gear against the virus.

Obituaries

RICHARD R. HEFFERNAN

February 10, 1926 - March 13, 2020

Richard left behind his daughter, Richanne Jennings; grandchildren, Faith Brockway and Ryan Speed; 7 great-grandchildren; and a greatgreat-granddaughter. A memorial is pending.

Shuttered Eugene chip factory sells at auction

passed away on March 20, 2020 in Lakeside. Arrangements are under the care of North Bend Chapel, 541-756-0440.

Cynthia G. Ruckdashel - 60, of Coos Bay, passed away on March 30, 2020 in Coos Bay. A private family gathering will take place at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of North Bend Chapel, 541-756-0440 www.coosbayareafunerals.com.

Peggy L. Schwarze - 73, of Coos Bay died March 28, 2020 in Coos Bay. Services will be announced and held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Coos Bay Chapel. 541-267-3131. www.coosbayareafunerals.com.

James H. Bardin - 79, of Bandon died March 28, 2020 in Bandon. No public services will be held. Arrangements are under the direction of Coos Bay Chapel. 541-267-3131. www.coosbayareafunerals.com.

Mark R. Socia - 28, of Coos Bay died March 26, 2020 in Coos Bay. Arrangements are under the direction of Coos Bay Chapel. 541-267-3131. www. coosbayareafunerals.com.

Alan Dale Shaffar Sr. - 92, of Powers, died March 31, 2020 in Powers. Arrangements are pending with Amling/ Schroeder Funeral Service- Myrtle Point Chapel, 541-572-2524.



Candy J. Falkoske - 59, of Lakeside, up for auction again last

COMICS





Dear Mary: I work out at a gym regularly, and I like to drink a protein shake or smoothie afterward to optimize the benefits of my workout. Shakes and smoothies at the gym can run \$4-\$6 and more, but they sure are convenient. Do you have any suggestions for making my own when I get home without a



over the long **MARY HUNT** run. Thanks for your great col-

umn and website. -- Bill Dear Bill: You're right; con-

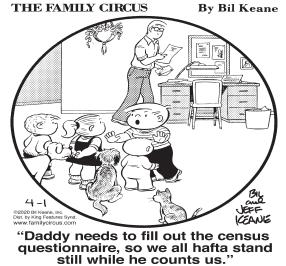
venience is expensive. However, it seems to me that you're already a pretty disciplined guy if you're at the gym regularly. I'm sure once you can see what you can save, you'll find the discipline to make your own healthy drinks. Here's a simple recipe: Place in a blender one container peach yogurt, 1 banana, 2 cups orange juice (or frozen concentrate to equal 2 cups reconstituted), 4-6 frozen strawberries and a scoop of soy protein powder. Blend it all up, and enjoy. While the cost of the ingredients will vary, the most expensive is the soy protein powder -- about \$1 per 1-ounce scoop. Even if the yogurt and fruit add another \$1, you'll save about half, or \$2, per effort to make it yourself. Over a year's time, that's a chunk of change! There are many brands of protein soy powder such as GNC and Met-RX. Log on to Amazon, and do some comparison shopping.

Dear Mary: I am so deeply in debt, but not from buying things I didn't need. I am in debt from gambling. I won a large sum -- over \$22,000 -and thought I'd be OK, but I gambled it all away. I have made a promise today, and this is why I am writing to you. I am not going to gamble anymore, but where do I start with my finances? I do have a good job making over \$90,000 a year. Is there help for me? --Susan

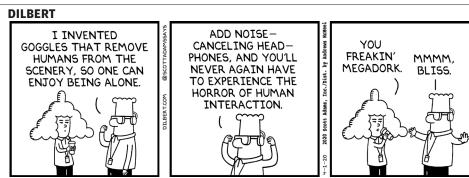
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NEA Crossword Puzzle



SUDOKU



FRANK AND ERNEST



THE BORN LOSER



ZITS



CLASSIC PEANUTS







GONE FOR A WHILE

I'VE HAD MANY BRIEF FOREVERS.

WHICH IS HOW IT SHOULD BE

THANK

HEV, AREN'T VOU WANDA FROM THE YOUTUBE I JUST LOVE IT! YOU'RE SO FUNNY! CAN WE TAKE A SELFIE? I THINK MOM MIGHT BE COOL WHOSE MOM? UM, YEAL! (HANNEL]

ROSE IS ROSE

GOUIRREL RUNNING

LUANN

I KNOW THIS SEEMS

THROUGH

THE

NEATOW

TH GHE SHOULD BE DON'T BOTHER ... THIS 400'RE NOT FAST I SAW THE CUTEST ENOUGH TO

ATCH

LOTS OF PEOPLE.

OH SURE

HIM

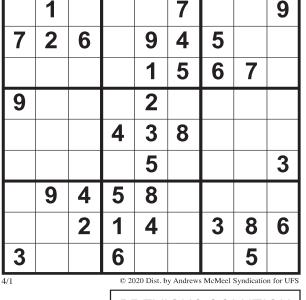
step when you wrote to me to admit your problem and seek help. There are three things I want you to do: 1. Get yourself to the very next meeting of Gamblers Anonymous in your area (or the Gamblers Anonymous website). 2. Get my book, "Debt-Proof Living" (available in libraries, bookstores and on Amazon), and read every word of it. 3. Work on the steps and start to immediately live the plan. You'll understand once you get into the book, which will likely be the easiest book you've ever read. Please stay in touch with me. I want to know that you are getting back on track and making the progress I know you can.

Dear Mary: I've been subscribing to your blog, everydaycheapskate.com, for a little over a year now. My husband and I have reduced our \$37,000 unsecured debt to \$28,000 and at the same time have built our contingency fund for emergencies. Although none of us are certain of what lies ahead, by following your guidelines and continuing to read the tips and advice, we can face whatever obstacles come our way. Thank you, thank you! -- Regina

Dear Regina: This is wonderful news! Wow, you paid down \$9,000 in just one year? Excellent! I am so impressed. Just keep going, and don't ever give up!

Would you like more information? Go to EverydayCheapskate.com for links and resources for recommended products and services in this column. Mary invites questions, comments and tips at EverydayCheapskate.com, "Ask Mary." This column will answer questions of general interest, but letters cannot be answered individually. Mary Hunt is the founder of *EverydayCheapskate.com, a* lifestyle blog, and the author of the book "Debt-Proof Living." COPYRIGHT 2020 CREATORS.COM





	PREVIOUS SOLUTION								Ν
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must con- tain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.	4	2	1	9	5	3	6	8	7
	6	5	9	8	7	1	2	3	4
	7	8	3	4	2	6	9	5	1
	8	3	4	7	6	9	1	2	5
	2	1	7	3	8	5	4	6	9
	5	9	6	1	4	2	3	7	8
	1	6	8	2	9	7	5	4	3
	3	4	5	6	1	8	7	9	2
	9	7	2	5	3	4	8	1	6

MODERATELY CONFUSED





GUY HAD LIGHTNING

WOW! WHO

SPEED.

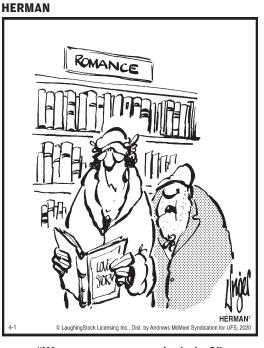


REALITY CHECK

YOU ARE NOT OMG, DAD! GOING OUT LIKE COME ON! THAT, YOUNG YOU KNOW LADY! IMA HAIRLESS CAT! WHAT

രി

SHE'S OFF TO THE HAIR BALL



"Wanna go see a movie, baby?"

Too little too late? Experts decry Mexico virus policy delay

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico has started taking tougher measures against the coronavirus after weeks of its president hugging followers and saying religious medals would protect him. Some experts warn the sprawling country of 129 million is acting too late and testing too little to prevent the type of crisis unfolding across the border in the United States.

Last week Mexico banned non-essential government work as confirmed cases climbed, but took until late Monday to extend that to other business sectors and to bar gatherings of more than 50 people. By Tuesday, Mexico had reported more than 1,000 confirmed cases and at least 28 deaths.

Experts say those figures greatly understate the true number of infections. Mexico has done far less testing than many other countries — fewer than 10,000 tests. New York state alone had performed more than 205,000 tests by Tuesday. There were also signs the disease may be far more advanced in Mexico than the limited testing shows — three state governors have already tested positive for coronavirus.

"Politics is very, very much involved in the decision-making going on right now," said Janine Ramsey, an infectious disease expert who works for Mexico's National Public Health Institute, a federal research agency, and has spent 35 years of her public health career in Mexico.

"Mexico, politically, does not value scientific evidence. Why? Because it takes decision-making away from the politicians," Ramsey said.

"For most of us, especially those of us who work with infectious pathogens, there is absolutely no excuse not to test because you cannot predict a) the response, b) the velocity of transmission, or c) the vulnerability of people" to becoming infected or to infecting others, she said.

"February and March is when we should have been testing everybody."

Dr. Joseph Eisenberg, chair of the Epidemiology Department at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health, agreed. "Testing is really our eyes, otherwise we're kind of blind," he said.

"The only way you can really understand where the disease is and where you really need to focus your energies with respect to control is to be able to know where the infections are. And the only way to know that is through testing."

The Mexican government has defended its policies, saying that its robust health surveillance system gives it a good idea of how the epidemic is evolving and that health experts are charting the country's fight against the virus. It's focus now, it says, is keeping people at home to avoid a rapid spread that would quickly overwhelm the health care system.

"We're making an energetic, emphatic, unmistakable call: Stay at home," said Hugo López-Gatell, the government's coronavirus spokesman. "It's urgent, it's our last opportunity to do it, and do it now."

Still, despite some tougher measures by Mexican states that have imposed quarantines enforced by police, the federal call to stay home remains voluntary with no talk of penalties.

And although Mexico and the U.S. agreed earlier this month to restrict traffic at their shared border, the ban applies only to people who cross for tourism, recreation or other non-essential activity. Mexican border communities have complained that Mexico was not restricting anyone from entering, and residents in one city even blocked the border crossing with their vehicles to try to stop traffic from the U.S.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has maintained a relaxed public attitude despite the increasing alarm sounded by his health officials. He flew commercial to the western state of Sinaloa on Sunday, where he shook hands with residents, including the mother of convicted drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera.

"Coronavirus isn't the plague," the president declared in a video message on social media. And although he has met with people diagnosed weeks later with the virus, he hasn't been tested because he hasn't experienced symptoms, his spokesman said.

Some experts bemoaned the mixed messages.

"Ideally we'd see all public figures taking the actions that health authorities are calling for," said Mauricio Rodriguez, a professor of medicine and spokesman for the coronavirus commission of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

The measures announced Monday are "too late" said Dr. Miguel Betancourt, president of the Mexican Society of Public Health. Those moves should have come two weeks earlier when the curve of infections began to steepen.

"We still have time to avoid an outbreak that grows out of control but we all have to do our part," he said.



THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020

Keep the peace. Working alongside others is in your best interest. Personal improvement should be a priority this year, along with throwing yourself into something that not only excites you, but brings joy and satisfaction. Aim to please yourself as well as others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Avoid getting involved in projects with people who don't share your sentiments. Equality and a strong work ethic will be essential if you want to get things done correctly and without conflict.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Time spent at home will bring you back to reality. Separating work from pleasure will be good for the soul and encourage you to spend more time with loved ones.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- How you handle peers, friends and family will make a difference. Stick to the truth and question anything that sounds suspicious. Facts matter, and choosing the right words will determine your success.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- An invitation may unnerve you, but attending the event in question will bring rewards. Get out and share your thoughts, and exciting options will be made available to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Choose to do your own thing and follow the path that offers the least amount of stress. Don't feel that you must make a change because someone else does. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Explore new possibilities. Networking will pay off. The connections you make will provide insight into the pluses and minuses of something you are considering. It's time to make personal improvements and to give romance a chance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- You'll face controversy if you are too forthcoming with your opinions. Make your responsibilities priorities, and don't leave anything unfinished or open for criticism. Avoid a costly change or joint venture.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Refuse to get into a debate with one of your peers or relatives. Put greater emphasis on expanding your interests or knowledge, or on developing a creative project. Personal growth is favored.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Romance is evident. Be discriminating. Short-lived connections could turn out to be a disaster if someone isn't honest about his or her past. Concentrate on friendships, not on courtships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- A change will do wonders for your outlook on life, love and happiness. Make time for a loved one or update your appearance and show off a trendy new look.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Look at all your options and consider what will make you happy. Don't do something that doesn't appeal to you just to please someone else. Put your needs first.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- You will be misled by someone or will unintentionally mislead others. Choose your words wisely and your gestures carefully. The right move will bring spectacular results.



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LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to ORS 477.250, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held at the Coos Forest Protective Association (CFPA) Headquarters, 63612 Fifth Road, in Coos Bay, in Coos Bay, Oregon, on April 10, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. to receive from any interested persons suggestions, advice, objections or remonstrance's to the proposed budget for the forest protection district. A copy of the tentative budget for the Forest Protection District may be inspected during normal working hours. ensure the broadest range of services to individuals with disabilities, persons with disabilities requiring special arrangements should contact Dominique Ray, at 541-267-3161or dominique.c.ray@oregon.gov at least two working days in advance of the scheduled hearing.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

PETER DAUGHERTY, STATE FORESTER

Published in The World & ONPA March 25 & April 1, 2020. (ID:279092)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR COOS COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of GEORGE SHERMAN CUTLIP, Dece No. 20PB00902

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed and has qualified as Personal Representative of said estate. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice as stated below to the Personal Representative at the office of James R. Martin, P.C., P.O. Box 29, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420, or they may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representaor the tive.

Dated and first published: April 1, 2020 /s/ Mary Ann McDonald

Marv Ann McDonald Personal Representative 243 W Commercial Ave. Coos Bay, OR 97420. Published in The World and ONPA April 1, 8 & 15, 2020. (ID:279808)

Public Notice/Auction Sale Chad Payant Unit C09 Auction date: April 15 2020 Time of Sale: 10 a.m. Location of sale: 69088 Wildwood Rd, North Bend Or 97459 541-756-7755 Call prior to coming out to make sure auction is still proceeding. Published in The World & ONPA April 1 & 8, 2020. (ID:279767)

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Home For Sale - \$219k Living Trust Myrtle Point, 1.21 acres in city limits. Older home. built 1958, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1239 Sg Ft. Large living room, Laundry room, Kitchen/Dining room heat. New roof. Large 2 car detached garage with cement floor, fenced patio. Lots of potential, lot can be subdivided. Interested buyer or investors, call: Chris 541-344-9784

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BRIDGE

Hermann Hesse wrote, "Eternity is a mere moment, just long enough for a joke."

I doubt today will last for an eternity, but if you know a funny, clean joke, please email it to me at phillip@bridgeforeveryone.com.

This deal features a declarer-play technique that is almost sure to be right. How should South plan the play in four spades after West leads the club seven to the six, king and ace?

When the opener has 5-4-3-1

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 ★ — ♥ J 7 3 ♦ A 9 7 4 		•	Q 10 9			
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South						
♠ QJ1072						
♥ A K 4						
♦ J 6						
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Г	Dealer: N	[orth				
	ulnerab		h			
-	West					
South	WESI					
1 🔶	Pass		Pass			
1∞ 4♠						
42	rass	rass	Pass			
C	pening	lead: 秦	7			

shape and 12 to 14 high-card points, opens in his five-card suit and hears partner respond in his three-card major, he should raise to two of that major. Even if opener has 4=3=5=1or 4=3=1=5, rebidding two hearts will usually work better than one spade. Note also that if South's spade two were in either minor suit, he would rebid three no-trump, not four spades, to offer his partner a choice of games.

In four spades, South saw four

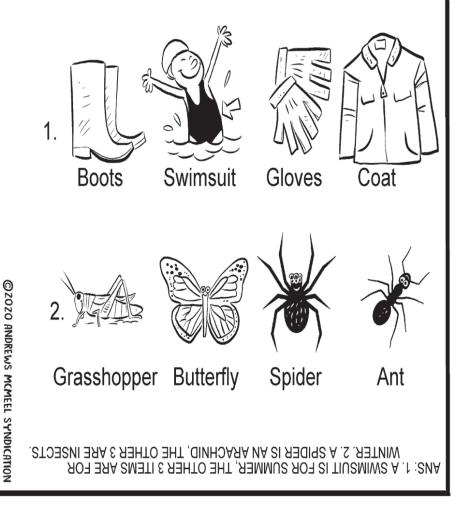
potential losers: one heart, one diamond and two clubs. However, declarer knew that any time he could ruff a loser in the shorter trump hand, it would be the right line of play.

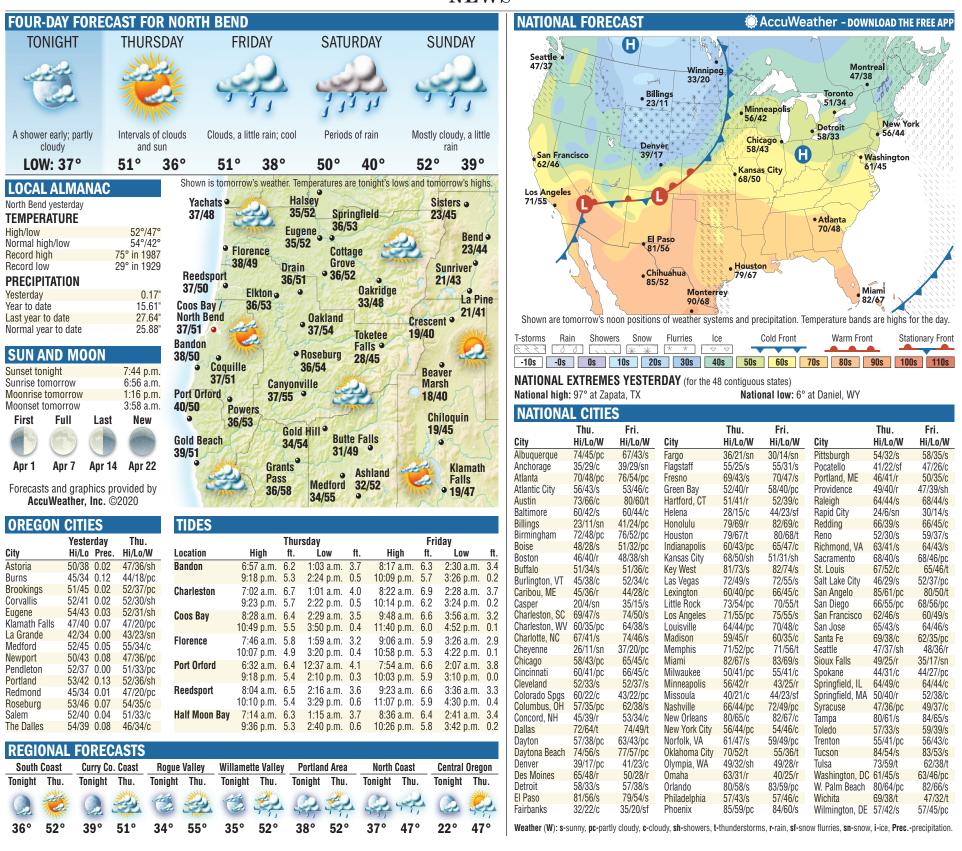
So, he ruffed a club at trick two, played a heart to his ace and ruffed his last club. Then he cashed the spade ace, getting the surprising news about the 5-0 split. After checking that West wasn't having a little joke, momentarily reneging, declarer played a diamond to his jack. West won with his ace and gave his partner a diamond ruff, but that cost East one of his natural trump tricks. South took five spades, two hearts, one club and the two club ruffs on the board.



Odd one out

There is one misfit in each group below. Can you spot the one that doesn't belong? Why is it different?





Seniors

From A1

depressed and they're all very grateful because they don't want to get sick and their family members don't want them to get sick. However, everybody has been really, really good."

At Life Care Center of Coos Bay and Inland Point Retirement Community in North residents mean the world to us," said Life Care Center's executive director Barbara Hutchison. "Their happiness and fulfillment are why we're here every day, and it's an honor to serve them." Activities that once

Activities that once brought residents together are now a challenge, if not impossible.

"We have really ... limited group activities and what we call life enrichment," said Tom Stanley, founder of Cascade Living Group, which oversees Inland **Point Retirement** Community. "Everyone is spread out around the room and there is a staff member who is spread out from her residents and we're doing that kind of thing. So that's been a big inconvenience. You know, it's really tough on seniors to be isolated like that."



Bend, similar measures are being taken. Only essential visitors, such as those giving medical treatment, are allowed in and everyone who comes through, including employees, has to have their temperature taken.

"While we know the term is social distancing, we're still doing social things – just safely. It's been a challenge we've readily embraced because our

Courtesy of Ocean Ridge Assisted Living Residents at Ocean Ridge Assisted Living have been sending notes to loved ones online, including Esther letting her family know she is doing well and that they have toilet paper.

Charles at Ocean Ridge Assisted Living relays a message to his family.

Safeway

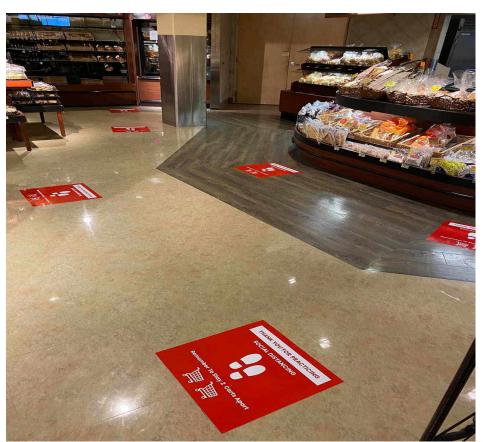
From A1

people to socially distance themselves from one another.

"As always, we encourage customers to wash their fresh and packaged produce before consuming at home," wrote Nielsen. "We urge everyone to follow the recommendations of the CDC to help prevent the spread of disease, like frequent hand washing, covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough, and staying at home when you have a fever."

As an essential business, Safeway will continue to remain open to serve and meet the needs of the community.

"We thank all of our customers for their patience and understanding every day we open our doors, but especially right now," wrote Nielsen.



Contributed photo Stickers reminding customers to socially distance themselves from others were also placed at local Safeway stores.

Airport From A1

ilarities between 9/11 to the ongoing pandemic in terms of her travel business and the cancellation of flights.

In the aftermath of the 2001 attack, she had to lay off all of her employees at Globe Travel because she had no income at the time to pay them.

"... Which is kind of what's happening now," she said. "Right now, every day you get a new list of rules and airlines (that) aren't giving back any money. It is constantly changing and is more frustrating now because it was easier when no one flew for 10 days"

Now Mineau is busy trying to bring home local residents who were traveling while flights started to be canceled.

"We are working to get them home," she said, adding that as of Thursday last week they were dealing with 75 families. "We're taking care of them by being proactive and not reactive. We're getting them home and are making sure they know what's going on."

According to Mineau, the airport is also entering its busiest season which spans from April through September. Most of those flying are golfers intent on visiting Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, which also has restrictions in place due to the pandemic.

"Right now May is booked full, all the way into June," Mineau said. "They book 11 months ahead of time."

She said the airport sees even more air traffic in the summer months from corporate jets that fly in for business.

"The airport will survive," Mineau assured. "And from the travel perspective, I'm telling people be patient ... Let's pray this gets over quickly."

NORTHWEST STOCKS

NORTHWE	Mi Nił		
Stock	Close	8:30	NV
Frontier	.38	.35	Sk
Intel	54.12	53.78	Sta
Kroger	30.12	31.53	Un

Microsoft	157.71	155.89
Nike	82.74	80.23
NW Natural	61.75	57.28
Skywest	26.19	23.73
Starbucks	65.74	64.18
Umpqua Hldgs	10.90	10.22

Weyerhaeuser16.9515.90Xerox18.9418.01Levi Straus12.4311.01Dow Jones closed at 21,917.16Provided by Coos Bay EdwardJones

LOTTERY

MegaMillions March 31 8-17-51-57-70 Megaball: 2 Multiplier: x4 Jackpot: \$121 million

Powerball March 28 7-40-48-55-66 Powerball: 11 Multiplier: x2 Jackpot: \$170 million **Megabucks** March 30 3-7-23-26-27-46 Jackpot: \$1.6 Million Win For Life March 30 21-42-49-63

> Pick 4 March 31 5-0-5-2

Courtesy of Ocean Ridge Assisted Living

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020 | theworldlink.com

NFL owners approve expanding playoffs to 14 teams

BARRY WILNER The Associated Press

The NFL is gearing up for a normal season and playoffs with two additional wild-card teams in the Super Bowl chase.

NFL team owners voted Tuesday to expand the playoffs by one team in each conference for a

Sports Briefs

BASEBALL

MLB veterans will get advanced pay for 60 days

NEW YORK — Gerrit Cole, Mike Trout and other veteran major leaguers will receive \$4,775 per day in advance pay for the first 60 days of the season during the stoppage caused by the new coronavirus, a total of \$286,500.

That's just 2.5% percent of the \$193,548 the New York Yankees pitcher and Los Angeles Angels outfielder were scheduled to earn each day during the 186-day season from their \$36 million salaries, tied for the major league high this year.

The daily total was obtained by The Associated Press after it was confirmed by Major League Baseball and the players' association following their agreement last week on how to proceed during the stoppage.

Less veteran players receive smaller amounts specified in the agreement: \$16,500, \$30,000 or \$60,000, depending on the contract.

Minor leaguers will be paid through the end of May

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball is extending its financial support to minor league players through May while suspending their contracts because of the new coronavirus pandemic.

MLB announced March 19 that it was giving minor leaguers \$400 weekly allowances through April 8, the day before the minor league season was scheduled to start. The commissioner's office said Tuesday that minor leaguers will continue to receive those allowances and health benefits through May 31 or the minor league opening day, whichever comes first.

Minor league contracts have a provision allowing them to be susended "during any national emergency." MLB said Tuesday it had told the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the minor league governing body, that it was unable to supply players to minor league affiliates because of the emergency.

total of 14 next season as they continue to plan for the 2020 season to begin on time.

During a conference call to discuss league business after the annual meetings were canceled due to the new coronavirus, the owners also awarded one of those extra games to CBS and one to NBC. Three-fourths of the 32 owners

needed to approve the change, and the vote was unanimous, football operations chief Troy Vincent said.

As for opening the season on Sept. 10 as scheduled, NFL lead counsel Jeff Pash said: "All of our focus has been on a normal traditional season, starting on time, playing before fans in our regular stadiums and going through our

full 16-game regular season and a full playoffs."

That would include the two stadiums still under construction in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, plus international games in England and Mexico.

As for the first expansion of the postseason field since 1990, when the NFL went from 10 qualifiers to 12, only the teams with the best record in the AFC and NFC will get a bye under the new format; the top two teams in each conference skipped wild-card weekend in the past. The seventh seed will play No. 2, the sixth will visit No. 3 and the fifth will be at the fourth seed for wild-card games



Marshfield's speech team gathers for a picture outside the high school earlier this school year.

Photo courtesy of Kayla Crook

Speech season cut short for Marshfield

ZACH SILVA The World

COOS BAY — Bella Sperling wasn't going to cry. She wanted to, but it wasn't the right moment

"People were crying. I don't like crying in front of people so I didn't, but I was very upset about it," said Sperling, a Marshfield senior. "I tried maintaining myself. There are a lot of younger kids and I felt if they saw all the older kids crying it would make them start crying."

set for the entire year and one of those was to beat the record for consecutive banners in our gyms. So the banners are for state championships or runner ups and for the last four years we have had one placed in the gym. So they are kind of a little heartbroken because they feel like that was taken away"

Tied with speech and debate for consecutive banners is the Marshfield dance team, which

ment, but there are more years to come for them and I've already had three years myself of those opportunities. I guess just being more appreciative of what we've been able to do," she said.

Sperling was looking forward to her dramatic interpretation of a piece from the actress Gene Tierney. She had read books, watched movies and studied fashion to fully inhabit this performance.

"You have to love your piece. If you don't

Major and minor league seasons are on hold due to the new coronavirus.

Former Astros great Jimmy 'The Toy Cannon' Wynn dies

Jimmy Wynn, the diminutive Houston slugger whose monster shots in the 1960s and '70s earned him the popular nickname "The Toy Cannon," has died. He was 78.

The Astros said the three-time All-Star outfielder died Thursday in Houston, but did not provide further details.

Just 5-foot-9, Wynn was packed with power. He hit more than 30 homers twice with Houston, including a career-high 37 in 1967 at the pitcher-friendly Astrodome.

Wynn spent his first 11 seasons in Houston, first with the Colt .45s and then with the Astros before making stops with the Dodgers, Braves, Brewers and Yankees in a 15-year major league career.

Wynn left the team as the franchise leader in hits, home runs, RBIs and walks. Overall, he finished with 291 homers with 964 RBIs and 225 stolen bases in his career.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Arizona freshman Nnaji declares for NBA draft

TUCSON, Ariz. — Zeke Nnaji has declared for the NBA draft after one productive season at Arizona.

Nnaji didn't arrive in Tucson with the same hype as fellow freshmen Nico Mannion and Josh Green, but he was arguably the best player of the three during the 2019-20 season.

The 6-foot-11 forward from Hopkins, Minnesota, dominated at times, averaging 16.1 points and 8.6 rebounds while shooting 57% from the floor. Nnaji was named Pac-12 freshman of the year and was a first-team all-Pac-12 selection.

Sperling and her teammates on the Marshfield speech and debate team had received the news that there was not going to be an OSAA Speech State Championship due to the coronavirus.

Over the past four years the Pirates have been right with the best in the combined 4A/3A/2A/1A classification at the state championships. In 2016, 2018 and 2019 the Pirates placed second at state while 2017 was the year the team snagged the title.

"So a lot of my seniors were extremely upset, of course," said Kayla Crook, the coach of the team. "The other thing is, they have their goals

also had its state championship canceled.

While most extracurricular activities revolve around one particular season, for speech and debate it takes up most of the school year. The season runs from August to April and is also a class for students to take with Crook throughout the year. The team practices a few times each week and competes in about two tournaments a month throughout the year.

For Sperling, who has been involved in the program all four years and poured countless hours into the program, she is still looking at the positives from her time on the team.

"I guess just remembering the moments that we did have. Be thankful for the previous tournaments we had because we did get to the end of the year and we missed the biggest tournalove your piece, you won't connect with it. And you have to connect with it for the audience to connect with it," said Sperling. "If there's no emotion there, like personal emotion, you can't see the emotion, then why are you doing it?"

With the season canceled, the Pirates now look toward nationals which, as of now, are still scheduled for mid-June in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Alternative options are currently being considered that would have teams competing online.

"It takes away some of that audience members, the feeling in the room," said Crook about the biggest difference compared to competing in person. "When I mentioned something about maybe doing a video recording and sending it in a couple of my students said but that takes away from the entire experience."

Coaches may go to creative rotations

SEATTLE (AP) — Even with major leaguers likely to receive some semblance of another spring training to get ready, teams are going to have to be creative with how they handle starting pitchers whenever baseball returns.

The last thing anyone wants is arm problems to arise almost immediately after baseball restarts -- whenever that ends up being because of coronavirus outbreak.

"Possibly having a six-man rotation or something along those lines. Maybe a piggyback situation for us just those first couple outings," Seattle left-hander Marco Gonzales said during a conference call on Tuesday.

Gonzales was slated to be the Mariners' starter on opening day.

"Maybe we go three or four innings for the starters. And that's who this affects most really is starting pitchers. Maybe we have a piggyback situation or something along those lines. Like I said, those are things we need to get creative with," he said.

No one knows when baseball will start again after being derailed by the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Players want to play as many games as possible -- even into November and December possibly -- without risking their health.

For pitchers, and specifically starters, the unknowns can be unnerving. After weeks in Arizona and Florida of building up arm strength pointed toward the start of



Seattle's Marco Gonzales throws during the first inning of a spring training baseball game against the Chicago Cubs on Monday, Feb. 24.

the regular season, they're back into offseason mode trying not to lose all that was gained during spring training.

"I think that as starting pitchers

I'm speaking for myself and probably a bunch of other guys on the team — we're doing everything we can to maintain kind of where we were, getting our up-and-downs and our pitch counts and all of that," Chicago White Sox All-Star Lucas Giolito said.

"Despite limited resources, we're able to pick up a ball and throw it and change intensities and measure it out," he said. "I think when it does come time for us to play again, we've already been communicating pretty much on a weekly basis with our coaching staff and training staff and everything like that. We'll just kind of

pick it up and kind of gauge where guys are at and make decisions from there."

Gonzales said he's viewing this stretch as though it's the December portion of his offseason throwing program. He's been trying to find empty fields near his home in Seattle to go throw on occasion with a teammate, but it's mostly been limited to just long toss

Still, between the limited throwing and having a home gym in his basement, Gonzales estimated between three to four weeks of build-up would probably be needed to get ready for the start of a season.

Gonzales also stressed that teams should be allowed to carry extra players to help ease the burden.

Scoreboard

On The Air

Today No national sports Thursday, April 2

No national sports

Local Schedule

Today No local events scheduled Thursday, April 2 No local events schedule

Professional Sports

NBA Season suspended

Major League Baseball Season suspended

National Hockey League Season suspended

Major League Soccer/NWSL Season suspended

Transactions

FOOTBALL

National Football League CHICAGO BEARS - Re-signed S DeAndre Houston-Carson to a one-year contract. Acquired QB Nick Foles from Jacksonville Jaguars in exchange for its 2020 compensatory fourth-round pick.

CINCINNATI BENGALS - Released CB Dre Kirkpatrick. Re-signed CB Greg Mabin. DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed DT Gerald McCoy to a three-year contract.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS – Announced that WR Daurice Fountain has signed tender. Signed CB T.J. Carrie.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS - Signed OG Chance Warmack and WR Phillip Dorsett to one-year contracts. Released DB Tedric Thompson and TE Ed Dickson. TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to terms

with OLB Vic Beasley on a one-year con-

tract. WASHINGTON REDKSINS - Signed LB Kevin Pierre-Louis. Re-signed G Brandon Scherff to a one-year contract.