



GUEST WRITER

# Keeping the peace in farm country **B1**

■ City council postpones Baker Creek North decision **A2**

■ Along the Street: Chamber says fall Italy trip is still on **A3**

# Yamhill Valley News-Register

Friday March 13, 2020 \$1

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED SINCE 1866

McMinnville, Oregon 155th year, No. 20

CORONAVIRUS

# WINE CLASSIC CANCELED AS STATE BANS LARGE EVENTS

All gatherings of more than 250 people canceled for four weeks; other guidelines issued

By **ANDREW SELSKY**  
Of the Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon should prepare for thousands of cases of coronavirus, Gov. Kate Brown said Thursday as she announced a ban on all gatherings of more than 250 people statewide for four weeks to try to stop the spread.

Appearing at a news conference, the governor said she and other state officials are also worried about testing capacity, which a health official estimated was about 80 per day, and said "the federal government is the only



## MORE INSIDE

■ Editorial: State, county slow to move on fast-spreading pandemic **B2**

■ School districts are canceling all non-essential school-based activities **A5**

■ Organizers cancel Spring Into Garden

Enjoy this automotive special feature brought to you by the News-Register Advertising Department and local businesses. Remove the four page outer wrap to find this issue's regular news section.

## AUTOMOTIVE INFORMATION MONTHLY

MARCH 2020

### INSIDE

- EXHAUST SYSTEMS
- SPRING MAINTENANCE
- LOCAL AUTO BUSINESSES
- SHOP FOR CARS

# MARCH MADNESS

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**AUTOMOTIVE INFORMATION MONTHLY**

# HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR EXHAUST SYSTEM LATELY?

Today's cars have very good exhaust systems. In fact, the exhaust system now plays a more important role on vehicles than it did in the past. Indeed, its job is not only to get rid of the gases produced by the engine's internal combustion, it must also clean them up almost completely in order to meet environmental standards. But, just as with any other car part, the exhaust system will have the unfortunate tendency to deteriorate with time, its worst enemies being heat and corrosion.

**A quick glance at the system might not reveal any flaws, but a closer inspection could turn out to be more informative.**

In the case of heat, if you don't drive long enough to heat up the metal and allow it to dry out completely, condensation will build up within the exhaust system, allowing rust – the system's second worst enemy – to develop.

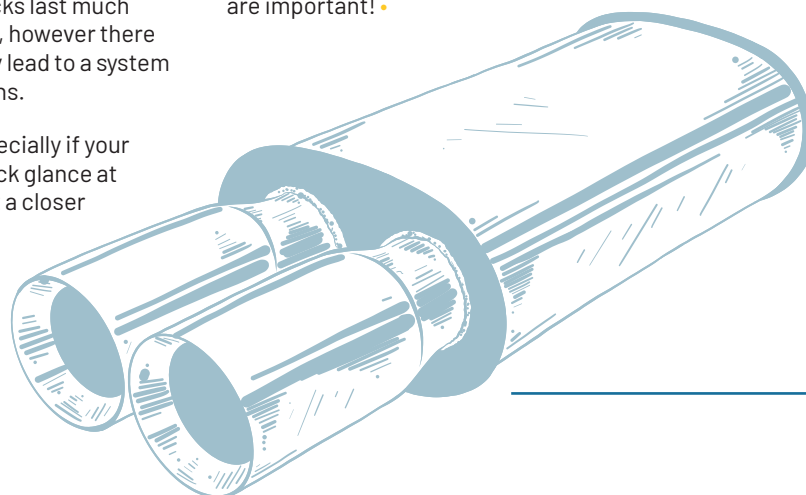
Although many recent exhaust systems are made of stainless steel, rust will still develop, mainly on the exterior. The exhaust system is composed of several parts, beginning with the exhaust manifold which connects from the engine, the catalytic converter (an expensive part to replace!) the muffler and/or resonator and the pipes themselves, clamps, brackets, hangers and heat shields. Finally, modern cars and trucks also have sensors in the exhaust system which work with the computer.

Exhaust systems on modern cars and trucks last much longer than they used to on older vehicles, however there may still be some flaws that could not only lead to a system failure, but could also pose health concerns.

Have your exhaust system inspected, especially if your vehicle is more than a few years old. A quick glance at the system might not reveal any flaws, but a closer inspection could turn out to be more informative. Although exhaust systems are made of stainless steel, some

welding points could be weaker and rust, thus causing a slight leak that could possibly become hazardous over time. Have the system inspected by an expert – don't wait until it becomes noisy.

At the same time, have the rubber straps closely inspected. If they break, the whole system will dangle and will eventually break. If you hear a rattling noise under the vehicle, chances are one of the heat shields over the exhaust system is loose. Don't remove it, have it repaired; all of the shields are important!



## CAR MAINTENANCE: FIVE THINGS TO CHECK IN SPRING

*With winter almost over, it's time to check a few things on your car. The following five components will help you optimize its performance and avoid some expensive repair work:*

**1 OIL** Whether you use standard or synthetic oil, it should be changed at least twice a year, in spring and fall. For best results, use an oil quality and viscosity recommended by your vehicle's manufacturer. The oil filter should also be replaced at this time.

**2 COOLANT** Coolant loses its effectiveness and oxidizes from one season to the next. Because it protects your engine during hot weather, make sure there's enough and that it's of good quality.

**3 BELTS** Your engine's belts should be in good condition at the start of the summer. Why? Because if one gives way while you're driving, your car could break down. If that happens, several other parts, including the camshaft, crankshaft, valves and pistons, could be affected as well.

**4 UNDERCARRIAGE** Winter driving can sometimes damage the parts underneath your car. During your spring maintenance check, have the underside of your vehicle inspected, including the suspension, brakes and muffler.

**5 SPARK PLUGS** Even if your car is new, you should have your spark plugs checked every time you bring it in for a routine tune-up. A bit of prevention could save you a lot of trouble.



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