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INSIDE: Cutting back, A11



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GRACE IN ISOLATION



Brian Kelly | Bainbridge Island Review

Grace Smith, a senior at Bainbridge High, takes an online ballet class via laptop in the empty sanctuary at Seabold United Methodist Church. Smith was looking for a quiet, empty place with a hardwood floor to practice, and found it Wednesday afternoon at the Seabold church.

Third case of COVID-19 confirmed on Island

Community hunkers down as virus spreads

BY BRIAN KELLY
AND LUCIANO MARANO
Kitsap News Group

There's no place like home. So you better get used to it. Bainbridge Island has joined the world community — in isolation — as 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues its devastating and deadly spread around the globe. Kitsap health officials announced a third case of COVID-19 on the island earlier this week, and the number of confirmed cases had grown to nine countywide by late Wednesday. State officials are asking people to stay home to help stop the spread of the virus. Life as we know it has changed, completely.

The way we live and learn; how we socialize and what we prioritize.

Gov. Jay Inslee, at a press conference Monday in Seattle, said normal life is different now.

An emergency proclamation signed by Inslee — mandating the immediate two-week closure of all restaurants, bars, and entertainment and recreational facilities, as well as additional limits on large gatherings — went into effect at midnight Monday. It will be in place through March 31.

"If we are living a normal life, we are not doing our jobs as Washingtonians," Inslee said.

More inside

Coverage of the COVID-19 outbreak continues inside.

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"We cannot do that anymore. We need to make changes, regardless of size. All of us need to do more," he said. "We must limit the number of people we come in contact with. This is the new normal."

These numbers will rise

The death toll in Washington state from the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has climbed to 66 late Wednesday, according to the Washington State Department of Health.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Washington stood at 1,187, with

nine cases in Kitsap County.

The Kitsap Public Health Department reported Wednesday that two new COVID-19 cases have been found in Kitsap; a North Kitsap resident in their 60s, a South Kitsap resident in their 30s.

There are nine total COVID-19 cases in Kitsap, including three on Bainbridge Island.

The newest case on Bainbridge was a resident in their 40s who tested positive.

The other cases are: March 16, a South Kitsap resident in their 50s; March 15, a Bremerton area resident in their 50s; March 15, a Central Kitsap resident in their 40s; March 13, a South Kitsap resident in their