

LIBRARY: Patrons can use self-serve kiosks to check out materials

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wear masks, and we'll limit the number of people allowed in at any one time to facilitate safe physical distancing."

McKinley said customers can pick up and check out their own materials at self-serve kiosks. Meeting and tutor rooms, public computers, and children's early learning spaces will remain closed. Programs, classes and events (story times, computer labs, lectures, etc.), as well as the processing of library cards, will continue online only during this time.

Modified hours remain in place. Sisters Library is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Sundays and Mondays.

McKinley said the next phase in the Library's steps to reopening is Chapter 3, which

will include increased access to buildings, resources, and services. Chapter 2, she said, is a transition stage that will help staff and customers become accustomed to new procedures as the library works toward the next chapter. The date for Chapter 3 will be determined by the Library Director and Board in consultation with government and public health officials.

"As we take these incremental steps to reopening our buildings, our foremost goal is to keep staff and customers safe when working in and browsing the library," said Library Director Todd Dunkelberg. "We are all eager to get back to some semblance of 'normal,' but our priority is to minimize risk at every step."

Minimizing risk includes the following practices:

- **Face coverings:** All Deschutes Public Library staff members are required to wear facemasks. Customers are encouraged, but not

required, to wear facemasks as a courtesy to staff and other members of the public.

- **Increased cleanings:** The Library's janitorial service is working additional hours and paying particular attention to common surfaces such as handrails, doors, and handles. The Library also provides cleaning supplies for all workspaces and public service desk areas.

- **Hand-washing:** While public restrooms are closed during the initial phases of re-opening, outdoor hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer are available. Staff have access to soap and warm water. Gloves will be provided to staff for use during cleaning and disinfecting materials and workspaces.

- **Physical distancing:** Customers will be guided to maintain a six-foot distance between staff and other customers. Physical distancing areas will be clearly marked in spaces where the public tends to gather.

CENTER: Facility will serve citizens in mental-health crises

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the emergency department.

"Alternatives to incarceration are important when you're trying to be proactive in law enforcement. Diverting people from the criminal justice system can often be the best solution for Public Safety," said Sheriff L. Shane Nelson. "We value our partnership with Behavioral Health and are excited the opening of the Stabilization Center provides proactive opportunities as a valued resource."

Deschutes County Health Services received \$1.2 million in grant funding to use for the construction of a facility, as well as operational support from Deschutes County, the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, the Central Oregon Health Council, the City of Bend and other donors.

"It's exciting to see this

project come together," said Deschutes County Commissioner Tony DeBone. "We've known for some time that this is what our community needed and seeing partners work together to make it a reality is fantastic."

The Stabilization Center staff welcomes individuals to walk in when they are experiencing a mental health crisis, or they can be referred or brought to the facility by local law enforcement, other community partners, or family and friends.

Twenty-four staff, including all existing Crisis and Forensic Diversion Team staff who will now work out of the center, provide a wide array of crisis services to the community including: crisis walk-in appointments for all ages, adult respite services, jail diversion, peer support, case management, and more.

"This project has truly shown what a community can do when they come together," said Deschutes County Health Services Program Manager Holly Harris. "I'm thrilled that we are open and able to serve those most in need."

For more information visit www.deschutes.org/stabilizationcenter or call 541-585-7210 (non-emergency).

To access crisis services, call 541-322-7500 EXT. 9.

It's exciting to see this project come together.
— Tony DeBone.

A well-spaced yoga session...



PHOTO BY BILL BARTLETT

Sisters residents enjoyed social-distanced yoga in the commons at ClearPine Cottages under sunny skies.

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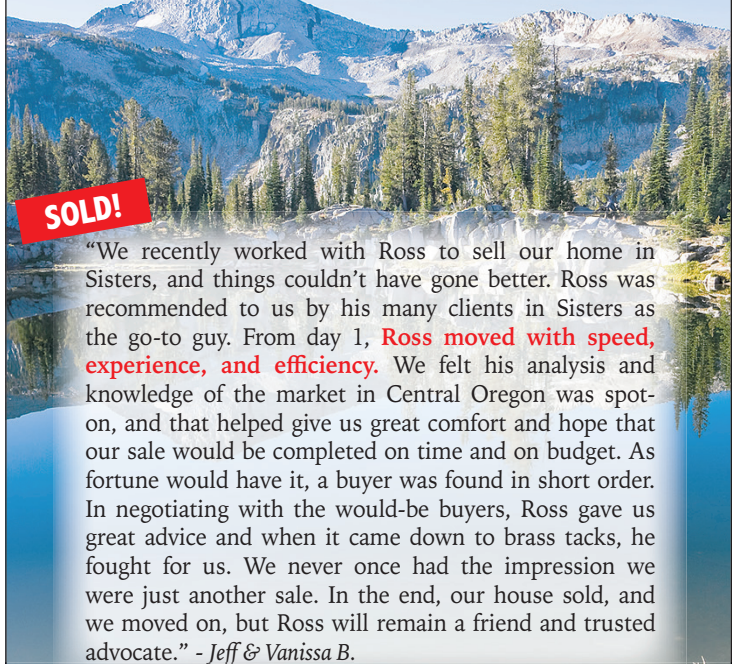
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