

## PANTRIES Sites distributing food Gorge-wide

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unable to deliver. "We went out to Maupin last week," Morris said.

### Columbia Gorge food banks

A calendar of food pantries currently operating in Wasco, Hood River and Sherman counties is available on the CGFB Facebook page, and is being updated daily.

Open pantries include:  
**The Salvation Army**, 623 E. Third St., The Dalles, Monday and Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday, 3-6 p.m.  
**FISH Hood River**, 1130

Tucker Road, Hood River, Monday and Friday, 3:30-5 p.m.

**FISH Parkdale**, 4910

Baseline Drive, Parkdale, Mondays, 4-6 p.m.

**SDA Hood River**, 1090

22nd St., Hood River, Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Wamic Grange**, Wamic, Tuesdays at noon.

**CGCC Chinook Campus Pantry**, 400 E. Scenic Drive, The Dalles, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2-5 p.m.

**FISH Cascade Locks**, City Hall, Cascade Locks, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**Dufur School Pantry**, Dufur High School, Dufur, Thursdays, 3-6 p.m.

**Rufus Food Pantry**, 304 W. Second St., Rufus, Fridays, 4-6 p.m.

## School Meals, grab and go

**North Wasco County School District**

The Dalles Middle School, Chenoweth Elementary School, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to noon.

**Hood River County School District**

Cascade Locks Elementary, pickup outside main entrance, 9-11 a.m.

May Street Elementary, pickup outside main entrance, 9-11 a.m.

Mid Valley Elementary, pickup outside west entrance of cafeteria, 9-11 a.m.

Parkdale Elementary, pickup outside main entrance, 9-11 a.m.

Hood River Valley High School, pickup outside east entrance of cafeteria, 9-11 a.m.



Julian Uvalle, Mid Valley fourth-grader gets help from staff members with a backpack full of meals for his family Tuesday. Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea



Cars line up for meals as part a cooperative effort between the district and restaurants to provide meals over Spring Break. Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

3300 Cascade Ave, pickup at Hood River Mobile Manor, From 9:45-10 a.m.  
 1823 Cascade Ave, pickup behind El Reconcito Taqueria, From 10:15-10:30 a.m.  
 955 Sieverkropp Ave,

pickup across the street from Sieverkropp Apartments, From 10:45-11 a.m.

## COVID-19 Bridges not taking cash tolls

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past few weeks. Businesses have stepped up to provide meals, sail makers are sewing PPEs for medical providers, non-profits are creating new ways to help our most vulnerable citizens, and countless community members are reaching out to neighbors to offer support, assistance with errands and comfort during this difficult time. Stay safe.

Visitors were also asked to stay away for the time being.

"We all love the Gorge — but this is not the time for you to visit," reads the statement. "An influx of visitors creates an undue burden on our efforts to maintain social distancing and strains our supply channels, public safety resources and health care system. We look forward to hosting you again when things are back to normal."

All county and city-owned parks and campgrounds are closed, including recreational staging areas on county forest land, and the City of Hood River has ordered all lodging stays for discretionary travel to cease immediately, with exceptions to currently registered guests, essential personnel requiring lodging for work, and individuals deemed vulnerable by Hood River County Health Department, including homeless individuals or individuals placed in quarantine due to the public health emergency.

"The city fully anticipates voluntary compliance while we all work to manage the

COVID-19 outbreak," said City Manager Rachael Fuller. "Enforcement will be handled on a case-by-case basis under the provisions outlined in the municipal code." The City of Hood River set a special meeting for 10 a.m. on March 27 to officially approve the lodging restrictions (after press time; see hoodrivernews.com for updates).

Both the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge and the Bridge of the Gods have suspended cash handling and are not collecting cash tolls until further notice.

While the Port of Cascade Locks is currently processing BreezeBy transactions and accepting cash tolls via mail, with plans to reassess the situation soon, all tolls on the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge are suspended until May 1 — which is when the port expects to have a license plate recognition tolling system online.

BreezeBy accounts will not be charged for tolls during this period, and BreezeBy users need to make no changes to their accounts or transponders.

The commission held at special meeting Tuesday, March 24 via remote video conference to discuss operational changes in response pandemic, where they unanimously approved to extend that initial seven-day toll suspension until they can begin tolling all non-BreezeBy customers via license plate recognition.

The system was initially developed as a way to enforce toll payments and fine repeat violators. The Oregon DMV would manage Oregon license plates, while Duncan Solutions would manage all out-of-state plates, including

Washington plates — for a \$3 processing fee per transaction.

To cover the cost of the fee, the port intends to raise the toll for non-BreezeBy customers to \$5 until cash tolls can be accepted again.

"We designed this system for violators, not for an all-electronic tolling system," said Chief Financial Officer Fred Kowell.

While the Oregon DMV system was ready to go Thursday, March 26, Duncan is not expected to be ready to start until May 1.

Due to financial concerns — waiving tolls through the end of April is expected to cost the Port of Hood River approximately \$600,000 in revenue — the commissioners discussed the possibility of starting collecting tolls from Oregon license plates as soon as March 26.

"Charging some customers and not others is not acceptable to me at all," said Commissioner Ben Sheppard. "I understand the financial implications, (but) that is not something we can do."

"It may not come down to what's fair to all people," said Commissioner Hoby Streich. "...I think we've got to look past tomorrow: This is a whole new situation ... The use of that 'fair' word concerns me a bit because it (the situation) is not fair. It's just not fair."

Ultimately, the commission unanimously decided to wait to resume tolling until all vehicles could be tolled fairly.

"If we have no toll for the month of April, and for the rest of March, then I think that is a gesture to the community that will be seen and will be appreciated,"

said Commission Chair John Everitt, adding that they will have April to do community outreach concerning the increased toll and encourage residents to get onto the BreezeBy system, which enables motorists with transponders to pay tolls

electronically via a prepaid account for a discounted cost: \$1 each way.

The Dalles Bridge continues to operate toll-free, and officials have confirmed that there are no scheduled closures due to COVID-19 and that the bridge will remain

open to motor vehicle traffic.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was sent to print Thursday March 26, and due to how rapidly this story is developing, may be out of date. Please see hoodrivernews.com and thedalleschronicle.com for updates.*

## 4 Easy Options to Pay Your Bill

1 Customer Portal

Visit our website ([www.nwascopud.org](http://www.nwascopud.org)) and set up recurring payments (autopay) or make a one time payment. You select the date that the funds get withdrawn. Please call our office at 541.296.2226 if you need assistance to set up an account. Your password can be up to 10 characters.

2 Smart Phone App

Download our Mobile App (optimized for both iOS & Android) and sign into your account to easily pay your bill. Go to the App Store and find us under NWCPUD. Our Mobile App is designed to give you fast, secure account access. Your password must be the same as your customer portal password.

3 E-Z PAY

Have your electric bill paid automatically each month. For your records, you will receive a copy of your electric bill showing your usage and the amount to be deducted. Visit our website to download the E-Z Pay enrollment form and return it to our office with a voided check.

4 IVR (Interactive Voice Response) 

2345 River Road, The Dalles, OR 97058 | 541.296.2226 | [www.nwascopud.org](http://www.nwascopud.org)

## GEAR Businesses, providers join in

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page. "We are making masks for two purposes," said co-organizer Shelley Toon Lindberg: "Immediate use by those in high person to person contact occupations and to create an emergency stockpile of masks for medical professionals to be distributed if the necessity arises." The pattern was designed by Holly Higdon-Wood, with advice from experienced medical professionals and skilled seamstresses who tested the pattern. One workshop has been transformed into a factory for plastic wrap-around facial shields. Gowns, meanwhile, are being made at a variety of locations out of materials not originally designed for medical purposes. Several local garment and gear makers are collaborating on a new gown design, in a program spearheaded by Providence emergency medicine physician Ryan Brevard, and Maui Meyer of Hood River. Brevard, who serves on the Providence Hospital Foundation Board, facilitated an emergency fund donation by the Foundation this week to support the project, and Meyer is working with a long list of underwriters. The goal is to create enough gowns, and masks and shields, to meet the needs of providers in the Gorge — hospitals, first responders and others who engage in public interface and want more protection.

### 'Really significant risk'

Van Tilburg is coordinating the stockpiling, inspection, and distribution of all

materials. While homemade medical gowns are acceptable to donate, Dr. Neal Douglas of Heritage Family Medicine advises against donating homemade protective masks, as most tend to be ineffective. He does encourage donations of face shields, or any form of eye protection that seals around the eyes — Douglas himself is currently using a snorkel mask when he performs drive-thru COVID-19 tests for his patients. "You just have to make do with what you've got," he said, "that's kind of the way I'm approaching this, you do the best you can with what you've got."

Because repeated potential exposure to the novel coronavirus increases the risk of contracting it, "All of us healthcare workers are taking a really significant risk," Douglas said. "That's why healthcare workers running out of PPE is a disaster."

Swisher said, "We will collect, sort, and catalog the cache. The County Health Department will receive requests from direct communication with all the Gorge hospitals and distribution will be based on need, not size of hospital. Currently, there is strong collaboration between the hospitals."

### Hood River County

Health Department currently organizes a weekly call with approximately 50 healthcare professionals in the valley to talk through different problems related to the COVID-19 pandemic, discussing possible solutions and ways to pool resources. "Behind the scenes, there is a ton of work going on to protect our community," Douglas said. "The doctors in the community are banding together to try and come up with solutions."

## HONKE HEATING AND THE CORONAVIRUS

# Still open and ready to serve you!

Together, we are facing a truly unprecedented situation. The global coronavirus pandemic is affecting all our families, our businesses, our communities, and our way of life. During this time, we will remain open to serve our customers, unless we are told to close. I wanted to reach out and update you on how we're approaching the situation at Honke Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

First and foremost, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones during these uncertain times, and like so many, I have a heavy heart as I hear each day about the impacts COVID-19 is having on our communities. We continue to monitor this situation closely and wanted to take a moment to summarize some of the things we are doing to keep you connected and safe.

We are following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, as well as guidance from federal, state and local officials, to make informed decisions. We appreciate everyone's commitment to recommended prevention methods. We are fortunate that we currently have no reported team member or customer cases and our services remain open for business. At this time, we feel confident we can continue to operate our services. Below are some of the precautions that we are taking.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water (20 seconds of scrubbing) or use alcohol-based hand cleaners (cover all surfaces and rub until dry).
- Cough/sneeze into a tissue. Dispose of used tissues immediately into a trash can. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into the crook of your elbow, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, which accelerates the spread of infections.
- Avoid close contact (within 6") with others. Please don't be offended.
- If you are sick, stay home or go home.
- Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched regularly, using your standard cleaning products.
- Ask and do not enter a home where someone is sick.

I want to thank you for your business during these troublesome times and if there is anything that I can do for you, please reach out to me...



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