



CORONAVIRUS

Hermiston council urges online participation for meeting

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The city of Hermiston is adjusting access to its buildings and its next city council meeting in order to better follow social distancing guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Beginning Monday and lasting until at least April 14, residents are asked to call and make an appointment before coming in to talk to

city staff or access services. Bill payment can be made online at hermiston.or.us/pay_home, by phone at 541-567-5521, or at the drive-through drop box outside the old city hall.

The city council is going ahead with its regular meeting Monday at 7 p.m., but it has been moved to the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center, and everyone interested in attending is urged to tune in via video or phone instead of attending in person.

MAKING AN APPOINTMENT

To schedule an appointment with a department in the city of Hermiston, call a number below:
City Hall or Planning Department, 541-567-5521
Building Department, 541-667-5025
Parks and Recreation, 541-667-5018
Police Department (non-emergency), 541-567-5519
Hermiston Library, 541-567-2882
Municipal Court, 541-567-6610

A livestream video will be broadcast at <https://bit.ly/HermistonYouTube> and can also be accessed after

the meeting, or residents can listen in by phone by calling 1-206-462-5569 and using the code 8262-77-4726. Call-

ers will be muted for most of the meeting, but there will be opportunity to make public comment by phone. For those who aren't able to access those options, a limited number of chairs will be available at the meeting and in an overflow room with video. The agenda includes a discussion about moving city council meetings to once a month during the COVID-19 outbreak, continuation of the city's efforts to clean up the language of its code of ordi-

nance, and staff and council reports.

"Just as many businesses have limited their contact with customers to stop the spread of coronavirus, the city of Hermiston is taking precautions to stay in compliance with state and federal guidelines," Hermiston City Manager Byron Smith said in a statement. "We will continue to operate and meet the needs of residents, and we appreciate everyone doing their part to keep this community safe."

Local schools brace for extended closure

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Public schools will remain closed through late April, but school-work is resuming.

The Pendleton School District office will be open next week to provide supplemental learning material to its 3,000 students stuck at home after the governor ordered schools closed statewide over the COVID-19 pandemic.

Beginning Monday, the district's central office at 107 N.W. 10th Street will be open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. to offer work packets for elementary school students and laptops. The packets will also be available online for download and at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Education Department in Mission. The packets are differentiated by grade, but are otherwise the same regardless of the student's class.

Matt Yoshioka, the district's director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, said middle school and high school students would receive education material through their teachers' web pages.

Yoshioka said the district already had been supplying supplemental material after Gov. Kate Brown



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

The Pendleton School District culinary arts food truck sits at the CTUIR Recreation Center as the district distributes lunches and breakfasts to students 18 and under during the closure. The recreation center site is one of three lunch sites operated by the school district on weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunches are also available at Washington Elementary School and Pendleton Early Learning Center.

closed schools March 16, but they began preparing the five-week packets once Brown extended the ban to April 28.

Despite the interruption to everyday learning, Yoshioka said Pendleton decided quickly not to switch to an online school format because it would create an inequitable situation for students without access to the internet.

While the Pendleton district does operate its own online school program that will go uninterrupted through the school closure, Yoshioka

said the district is not allowing new students to sign up during the shutdown.

Yoshioka said the packets provided by the district would contain worksheets covering reading, writing and math, and would be similar to homework in the sense that they would reinforce concepts the children have already been taught rather than introducing new ones.

InterMountain Education Service District Superintendent Mark Mulvihill said his organization would begin

activating its printers and couriers to assist Eastern Oregon districts in delivering supplementary material.

When Brown closed state schools, Mulvihill said the state promised to continue funding K-12 education as long as schools met four basic requirements: employees are paid, students are fed, supplemental education services are provided and schools provided staff and space for day-care for the children of emergency professionals.

Mulvihill said regional superintendents met for two hours on Thursday to coordinate their supplemental education programs.

While each program will have its differences, Mulvihill said the region can expect each district to roll out supplemental education plans over the next few weeks.

After some superintendents pondered reopening their schools to seniors as long as they kept the class sizes small and observed social distancing, Mulvihill said he reminded them that the school closure order was ironclad.

But educators will return to work, just without the benefit of face-to-face contact with their students.

"This isn't a vacation," he said. "This is an emergency."

BRIEFLY

Tribes suspend Kayak Public Transit for a week

MISSION — The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation announced on Friday afternoon that it would be shutting down Kayak Public Transit, according to a press release.

The closure — in response to COVID-19 — would begin Monday and run through Saturday, March 28, the release said, adding that the board will monitor the situation and a make determination concerning the following week.

"Kayak recognizes its role as a lifeline for access to employment, medical and shopping needs throughout the region and we do not take this action lightly," the release said.

Kayak Public Transit operates three fixed routes and four commuter bus services in Southeastern Washington and Northeastern Oregon, including La Grande, Hermiston and Walla Walla, Washington.

Anyone with questions are encouraged to contact dispatch for updates or inquiries.

Hermiston man killed by gunshot

HERMISTON — The autopsy of the Hermiston man found dead northeast of the city on Wednesday revealed he was killed by a gunshot wound, the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office said in a press release Friday.

A Umatilla/Morrow County Major Crimes Team is investigating the murder of Jordan Deloan Crandall, whose body was found by a resident at about 9:37 a.m. on Wednesday approximately 75 feet west of Alpine Drive, north of Punksin Center Road and next to an irrigation ditch.

"At this time, there is no reason to believe the general public is in danger due to the homicide," the press release said. "We will release further information when we are able."

According to the *East Oregonian's* archives, while attending Hermiston High School, Crandall competed with the Inter-mountain High School Rodeo team from 2007 to 2009. He was 28 years old.

— EO Media Group

State-run campgrounds forced to close

By MICHAEL KOHN
EO Media Group

SALEM — Campgrounds in state parks, forest areas and wildlife areas have been ordered to close after April 3 in the state's latest attempts to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will accommodate current overnight guests through April 2, according to a release. Reservations for campsites in state parks from April 3 through May 8 will be canceled and site fees will be refunded.

The recreation department will review the state campground closure prior to May 8 and determine at that time if the closure should be extended. All individual and group overnight facilities are affected,

including campsites, yurts, cabins, tepees and services operated by concessionaires. Reservations for group day-use areas are also suspended.

The restrictions do not affect daytime access to state parks, so people are still encouraged to visit state parks in Eastern Oregon.

Most campgrounds run by the Oregon Department of Forestry are currently closed for the season and will not reopen for individual and group use. Year-round campgrounds close starting Monday. Trails, forest roads and trailheads on state forestlands remain open to the public, but day-use campgrounds are temporarily closed due to limited janitorial services.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will close its wildlife areas to

overnight camping starting Sunday. The closure affects both dispersed camping and established campgrounds. Wildlife areas currently open will remain open to visitors for day-use activities.

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3/20
Cineplex Show Times
\$5 Classic Movie
Showing Wednesday @ 12p
Total Recall

Bloodshot (PG13)
2:10* 4:40 7:10

The Hunt (R)
12:30* 2:40* 4:50 7:00

I Still Believe (PG)
1:20* 4:00 6:40

Onward (PG)
1:30* 4:10 6:50

The Call of the Wild (PG)
12:10* 2:30*
5:00 7:20

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11:00am Stalking 101
12:15pm Sexual Assault 101
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