

# Coronavirus:

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Oregon U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley announced late Monday that \$7.2 million has been awarded to Oregon by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support Oregon's effort to control COVID-19. The funds are part of the \$8.3 billion relief bill passed in a bipartisan effort by the U.S. House and Senate, and signed by President Donald Trump last week.

But Pace was unsure of how much funding would be available to Wallowa County and what it might be used for.

Superintendent Erika Pinkerton told the Enterprise School Board on Monday that the school was told to expect a two-week shutdown, which would permit Enterprise and other districts to treat the lost time as snow days. That would allow the school year to end on the originally scheduled dates, would not interfere with prom and would not require any extra measures that might include online teaching or one-on-one tutoring.

However, there's some expectation that schools statewide — and even nationwide — will be closed

## SOME WALLOWA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19

Wallowa Memorial Hospital has provided information about COVID-19 as of Tuesday, March 17. It includes:

### Regarding Testing:

Wallowa Memorial Hospital is currently looking at alternative testing through commercial labs providing they maintain capacity.

Until then, to be tested for coronavirus you must meet all of these three criteria: clinical need for admission to an inpatient facility, evidence of

viral lower respiratory infection, and tested negative for influenza. All tests currently are done through state labs and require about 5 working days.

We are currently and will continue to test for influenza in-house and provide results quickly (around an hour). Influenza A, a strain currently spreading in Wallowa County, has some symptoms that are similar to COVID-19. A test for influenza will help determine which of these illnesses you may have.

If you do not meet the criteria for testing and are still concerned you have COVID-19 Stay home except to get medical care

### Stay home:

People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to recover at home. Do not leave, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas. Avoid public or shared transportation: Avoid using public transportation or ride-sharing.

for up to eight weeks. That would require either online teaching or other arrangements, she said.

"People have asked me that if we are such a rural school and we don't have any cases here, do we have to close down the schools? The answer is yes, if the state says so," she said.

Pinkerton continues to meet with Oregon and county superintendents for updates and brainstorming on how schools can best navigate educational requirements in light of mandatory closings.

"At least we were able to supply lunches today for kids in need,"

she said." The schools will continue to provide sack breakfasts and lunches for those in those programs, but students will have to pick up their bagged breakfast or lunch at the school. Joseph and Wallowa have similar arrangements for food availability. The Enterprise School Board meeting was attended by nine actual people and another 10 via Go to Meeting or other apps.

School sporting events, including baseball, golf, track and field and softball are on hold, with no practices being held.

A number of churches have also halted services, including the Meth-

odist Church in Joseph. The Enterprise Christian Church has asked those who may be susceptible to coronavirus, including those over age 60, to consider avoiding Sunday services.

And some businesses, including art galleries and even the U.S. Forest Service in Joseph, are open or available by appointment only.

Relatively new rules on public gatherings imposed by Gov. Kate Brown as of Monday include:

- Gatherings of more than 25 people are prohibited and fewer than 10 are encouraged.
- Restaurants are closed to din-

ing in. Restaurants and bars are prohibited from serving food or beverages on-site. They may provide "to go" service. Food service at health care facilities, work places and other essential facilities will continue. (So we could go out to eat at Wallowa Memorial Hospital?)

- All schools are closed in Wallowa County (even Troy). They are anticipated to reopen on April 1.

- School sporting events and practices are postponed.

Cancellations, postponements, and temporary closings and general restrictions in Wallowa County as of Tuesday morning include:

- "Essential individual visitors only" at Wallowa Valley Senior Living. No resident there has been diagnosed or is showing signs of COVID-19, and staff intends to keep it that way, said Angie Train, assistant manager, on Monday afternoon. Similar restrictions are enforced in Joseph.

- Wallowa-Whitman National Forest offices in Oregon, Washington and Idaho are now open by appointment only.

- The Bank of Eastern Oregon anniversary celebration March 20 is canceled.

More details and updates online at Wallowa.com

# Students:

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Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE) to do a presentation to students and a separate workshop for teachers. Superintendent Erika Pinkerton was supportive and pledged financial support from the school district. That was augmented by a grant from Building Healthy Families. The funds covered travel and other expenses. Planning took about two months. Even as the two students planned their project, additional incidents plagued the school, including a video that circulated showing students drawing swastikas on their hands and notebooks.

To help with Duncan and Movich-Fields' FCCLA project, Principal Blake Carlsen arranged the space and changes in class schedules necessary for high school and middle school classes to participate in a session called "Is That Really What I Said?" led by OJMCHE Manager of Education Amanda Sol-

omon on Thursday, March 12. He also opened the high school library for an all-day Friday session for teachers.

These Thursday student sessions emphasized the impact and importance of words that can be unintentionally hurtful.

"You may not mean anything by using them," Solomon told students, "but the words may mean something different to the person you're speaking with than they do to you. People can interpret language differently. We all have different meanings for words."

Students gave examples of how older relatives miscommunicate when texting.

"LOL doesn't mean 'lots of love' and it's not appropriate to text when you lose a beloved pet," one student said.

Solomon cited examples included calling girls who excel in athletics, or wish to pursue a demanding and nontraditional career "crazy", referring to someone who doesn't look like the rest of the group "exotic" and using "micro-aggressions,"

including phrases like "That's so retarded."

"If someone tells you that the term you just used is offensive," Solomon said, "that's something you can apologize for and learn from."

Student reactions to the 45-minute sessions were mostly positive.

"I thought it was really helpful," and "I've never thought about any of this before," were common reactions. "I understand now that words may not mean to other people what you meant them to mean," one student wrote.

But some students took issue with the session, including comments "I think we should be careful about what we say, but I also believe if someone is offended it is something they have to deal with. ... It's just a fact of life."

On Friday, Amit Kobrowski from the Oregon Department of Education took the lead in presenting a daylong teachers' workshop that included suggestions about how educators could address racist and other derogatory student comments in the school. Teachers also learned

about the new K-12 requirements on the Holocaust, other genocides and Native American culture and history. Teachers from other districts, including Joseph and Pine Eagle, also attended.

Duncan and Movich-Fields were happy with the two day sessions.

"I think it really raised awareness of how words and symbols can be misused and misunderstood," Movich-Fields said.

Now, the two will begin preparing their project for presentation at the FCCLA state convention that was scheduled for April 2-4 in Clackamas, but may be delayed due to COVID-19, said FCCLA adviser Tamarah Duncan. The top two presentations will go to the FCCLA national project competition.

Principal Carlsen applauded the student's work.

"They did a great job," he said. "I'm looking forward to talking with them about how the project is turning out, and listening to their thoughts about continuing this kind of thing in the future." Carlsen said that teachers' comments about the

Friday session "... have all been very positive."

"This event was amazing for two 18-year-old girls to make it happen," FCCLA advisor Duncan said. "It was a great learning opportunity for everyone involved."

Superintendent Pinkerton would like to continue this type of educational event in the future.

"We were very enthusiastic about this FCCLA project, and thankful for everything that Tishrei and Deedee have done" she said. "After we have a chance to talk with the girls about how all this went, I can also talk with social studies teacher Tom Nordvedt about incorporating some of these subjects into his classes, and I'd also like to include some of this in my sixth-grade class."

For the moment, coronavirus shutdown of schools is making coordination and future planning difficult. However, Duncan's and Movich-Fields' FCCLA project won't be forgotten. It's opening a door to the future, not only for the two students, but for the Enterprise School District and Wallowa County as well.

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If you are feeling anxious, this FREE warmline is fully staffed to listen to your concerns

Call 1-800-698-2392  
Hours of Operation  
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