

Local & State

Coronavirus restrictions affect events across Oregon

By Les Zaitz
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — From playgrounds to prisons, Oregon is facing ever-expanding steps to get ahead of the novel coronavirus that state officials estimate could infect 75,000 people in a matter of weeks.

The biggest jolt to the state came Thursday night as Gov. Kate Brown ordered every public school in Oregon closed effective Monday, March 16, sending home 583,000 students and their teachers and other school employees. Students aren't expected to return to classrooms until Wednesday, April 1, and even then they will be likely to face days without assemblies, field trips or concerts.

State officials were working up plans to sustain school-cooked meals for the thousands of children from low-income families who get breakfast and lunch at no or little cost from schools.

The decision to close schools came just five days after the state told schools to take steps to prevent the disease spread but otherwise maintain normal class operations.

"The guidance recommends against closing schools," the Oregon Health Authority said in its Sunday statement.

Brown contradicted that guidance as one school district after another on Thursday moved to shut down their own schools, a growing awareness that COVID-19 is a public health threat that government officials say justifies extraordinary measures and help from every citizen in the state. Brown said it was proving "impos-

sible" for schools to function normally.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said children are no more at risk than adults to get the disease and their symptoms are generally mild if they do.

The impacts of the increasing state restrictions were taking hold from one end of the state to the other as organizations complied with new state orders banning large gatherings of more than 250 people. That meant everything from concerts to weddings were to be scrubbed and churches were urged to find ways to replace traditional services.

In Vale, the annual crab feed scheduled for Saturday, March 21, to support local firefighters was converted from a sit-down dinner to a drive-by event, with diners grabbing orders to go. In Salem, the Oregon State Capitol ended tours and the Salem City Club, a local civic group, canceled its Friday gatherings, including one scheduled to update members on the coronavirus pandemic.

The governor has already commanded that visits be severely restricted to the 30,000 Oregonians living in nursing homes, assisted living and residential care facilities. In detailed guidance issued Thursday, the state is recommending that until at least early April those over 60 or with underlying medical conditions avoid gatherings of more than 10 people, a move that is likely to impact every senior citizen center in Oregon.

The Oregon Department of Corrections acknowledged the emerging health risks, taking the unprecedented step of stopping vis-

iting to the state's 14 prisons and their 14,435 inmates, now referred to as adults in custody.

"This decision was not made lightly and we understand the impact this necessary action will have on the people in our custody and their families," said Colette Peters, Corrections Department director.

She said there were no known cases within the prisons and the results were negative for one inmate who was tested for the virus. The agency has identified 1,250 inmates at the highest risk for getting the novel coronavirus.

The Health Authority on Thursday reported that six more residents at a Lebanon nursing home for veterans tested positive for COVID-19, bringing to eight so far infected. State officials said they didn't know the source of the disease at Edward Allworth Veterans' Home.

Pat Allen, Health Authority director, described the home as "state-of-the-art" and that residents had individual rooms.

The additional cases pushed to 30 the number of Oregonians that testing shows were infected with COVID-19. The Health Authority listed confirmed cases in 11 counties.

About eight out of 10 of those who are infected will have mild symptoms. The best step for those individuals is to stay home, health authorities said.

"The vast majority will recover without needing intervention," said Dr. Dean Sidelinger, state health officer.

State and federal health authorities say the elderly are most susceptible to the virus. There is no treatment

and no vaccine.

In her guidance Thursday, Brown encouraged but didn't mandate that employers take steps to protect workers, changing work sites so employees were three feet away from each other, staggering schedules and avoiding face-to-face meetings. She also said businesses should avoid all "non-essential work travel" and limit conferences and trade shows.

The Oregon Legislature readied to act as well, with House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, and Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, establishing a new Special Joint Committee on Coronavirus Response, which will hold virtual meetings.

Kotek and Courtney said in a statement Thursday that the committee would "identify actions to support short-term economic relief to low-income workers and small businesses." The committee also will make budget recommendations and suggest changes to Oregon law that might be needed "to assist with the public health emergency."

The committee will be co-chaired by Sen. Arnie Roblin, D-Coos Bay, and Rep. Paul Holvey of Eugene. Others appointed include Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas; Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend; Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Portland; Sen. Kathleen Taylor, D-Milwaukie. From the House, members include Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove; Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Happy Valley; Rep. Paul Evans, D-Monmouth; Rep. Raquel Moore-Green, R-Salem; Rep. Andrea Salinas, D-Lake Oswego; and Rep. Duane Stark, R-Grants Pass.

Coffee Corral to open second location

By Samantha 'Conner
soconner@bakercityherald.com

Baker City's Coffee Corral will be opening a second location in mid to late June.

Owner Kris Barr, 70, opened the Coffee Corral in 2003 at the northwest corner of Campbell and Grove streets, near Geiser-Pollman Park.

After 17 years of business she will have a second shop several blocks to the east, on the south side of Campbell Street just west of Oak Street.

"It's going to be a lot bigger than this one," Barr said of the new location.

She plans to operate both establishments.

In the beginning, Barr and a friend decided to open a coffee shop together and rented the former gas station at Campbell and Grove that had been empty for years.

"It was the most fun ever," Barr said.

For the first three years, she and her partner operated the coffee shop until her partner moved away and Barr bought her half of the business.

She operated it alone for 11 years until her son and daughter-in-law, Drew and Christa Barr, bought half of the business.

They will help manage both the current and the new Coffee Corral locations.

The second location will have a walk up window, a sit down area with a fireplace facing outside and another facing inside, and a drive through.

The property has been vacant for many years. Barr said she didn't bid on the lot initially because the Oregon Department of Transportation wasn't going to allow curb cuts for vehicle access to a drive through.

But after learning from state officials that curb cuts would be allowed, she decided to buy the property.

She sold parts of the parcel that she doesn't need for the new Coffee Corral.

"It's going to be nice," she said. "My favorite thing — it's going to have a view of the Elkhorn Mountains."

Salmon Creek Builders Inc. is doing construction and Barr said they will begin next week.

They will be hiring employees for the new location.

Barr sells coffee to other coffee shops in Pendleton, John Day, Prairie City, and other locations and will continue to do so.

Barr moved to Baker City when she was a teenager and graduated from Baker High School. She grew up in Iowa, moved to the East Coast in the New York and Long Island area, then to the West.

Her family — her maiden name is Thomas — owns the Thomas Angus Ranch in Baker Valley.

LOCAL BRIEFING

BAKER COUNTY DEMOCRATS MEET MARCH 19

The Baker County Democrats will have their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 19, at Roger's Fellowship Hall, 1995 Fourth St. in Baker City, between the Courthouse and the Middle School.

Conversation time begins at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION MONDAY

The Baker School Board will meet in a work session beginning at 5 p.m. Monday at South Baker Intermediate School, 1285 Third St.

The meeting was moved to the school to allow the Board to see firsthand the District's plans for installing a bus lane for loading students more safely.

Assistant Superintendent Betty Palmer also will discuss the District's grant application for Student Invest Account funding through the Oregon Department of Education.

The work session is expected to last for about an hour before the Board then moves into a special meeting to consider approving the Student Investment Grant application.

The work session and the special meeting are both open to the public.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY

- 2400 Resort St.

FICTION

- "A Forgotten Murder," Jude Deveraux
- "Journey of the Pharaohs," Clive Cussler
- "A Conspiracy of Bones," Kathy Reichs
- "A Reasonable Doubt," Phillip Margolin
- "Red at the Bone," Jacqueline Woodson

NONFICTION

- "UFOs, Chemtrails and Aliens," Donald Prothero
- "The Black Prince," Michael Jones
- "Playful Parenting," Lawrence Cohen
- "Raising Meat Goats," Maggie Sayer
- "The Handy Math Answer Book," Patricia Barnes-Svarney

DVDS

- "Doctor Sleep" (Horror)
- "The Fast Color" (Sci-Fi)
- "The Last Supper" (Comedy, 1995)
- "Playing with Fire" (Family)
- "Waves" (Drama)

PEO AWARDS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS

Two Vivian Crawford Scholarships have been awarded by PEO Chapter CJ to high school seniors Isabelle Wachtel and Dallas Hardesty.

Isabelle, a Baker High School student and member of the National Honor Society, has been admitted to the astronomy program of the University of Arizona's College of Sciences at Tucson, a press release announcing the scholarship awards stated.

A BHS STEM Club member, Isabelle plans to pursue a career in astrophysics. She was one of the first chief science officers in Baker City, serving as an ambassador for science in the community.

Dallas, a Baker Web Academy and Early College student, will graduate from high school with her associate degree well underway at Blue Mountain Community College. Dallas has been active in 4-H and FFA and has traveled to Honduras, Kenya and Uganda on service trips focused around health and agricultural development.

After her college education is completed, she plans to teach vocational agriculture at Christ Sanctuary International in Uganda.

The PEO Scholarship named for Vivian Crawford recognizes the former longtime Baker teacher for her interest in promoting higher education. The scholarship was established by her husband, Ken Crawford and by her PEO sisters and friends, to honor her memory. The

PEO Sisterhood is a philanthropic organization. Chapter CJ was organized in 1952 in Baker City.

FIRELINE SAFETY REFRESHER CLASS MARCH 21

Eastern Oregon Training Group will have an RT-130 Annual Fireline Safety Refresher class on March 21. The class will start at 8 a.m. at the Baker School District office, 2090 Fourth St. in Baker City. A practice fire shelter deployment will take place. This is a required class for all federal and state contractors that will be on the fire line. A certified National Wild-fire Suppression Association (NWSA) instructor will teach the class. Cost is \$100 for NWSA members and \$130 for nonmembers. Registration can be done at oregonfiretraining.com. Pre-registration is requested. More information is available by calling Laurel Goodrich at 541-403-0907 or Jeff Sherman at 541-519-6213.

MARCH 13-19

ELTRYM HISTORIC THEATER

1809 1st Street, Baker City
www.eltrym.com

I STILL BELIEVE PG

FRI: (4:00) 7:00
SAT & SUN: (1:00) (4:00) 7:00
MON-THURS: 7:00

ONWARD PG

FRI: (4:20) 7:20
SAT & SUN: (1:20) (4:20) 7:20
MON-THURS: 7:20

THE CALL OF THE WILD PG

FRI: (4:10) 7:10
SAT & SUN: (1:10) (4:10) 7:10
MON-THURS: 7:10

(Bargain Matinee)
Show Times: 541-523-2522
Office: 541-523-5439

Cruise ship visits canceled in Astoria over virus

By Edward Stratton
The Astorian

ASTORIA — The number of cruise ships visiting the Port of Astoria this spring continued its precipitous drop after global cancellations by Princess Cruises and an order

by Gov. Kate Brown banning public gatherings of more than 250 people in Oregon for the next four weeks.

Local officials had confirmed the Grand Princess would not dock March 31. The ship was quarantined off the coast of California

and later in Oakland after a former passenger became the state's first confirmed death from coronavirus.

Astoria, Clatsop County and the Port announced Thursday that no cruise ship visits will be allowed through April 10.

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Animal Clinic

Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort

Avon

Baker City Bull and Bronc Riding (Coastal Farm & Ranch Challenge of Champions)

Baker City Chiropractic

Baker City Christian Church

Quilting Club

Baker City Fire Department

Baker City Police Department

Baker City Herald

Baker County Chamber of Commerce

Baker County Custom Meats

Baker County YMCA

Baker Dental Group

Baker Electric

Baker Heritage Museum

Baker High School

Baker Middle School leadership

Baker Sanitary Service

Baker Valley Physical Therapy

Baker Vision Clinic

Barley Brown's Brewpub

Bearded Dog

Behlen Country

Betty Spooner

BHS print shop

Big River Recreation

Birds of Prey

Bisnett Insurance

Black's Distributing

Boise Zoo

Bogus Basin

Brooklyn kindergarten classes

Burger Bob's

Charley's Ice Cream

Cody's General Store

Coffee Corral

Copper Belt and The Cheese

Fairy

Corner Brick Cafe

Country Financial

Danielle Collard

D&B Supply

Eastern Oregon Dental

Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre

Elkhorn Embroidery

Elkhorn Media Group

Eltrym Theatre

Glacier 45

Grocery Outlet

Grove Team

Guyer & Associates

Hearts & Petals

J. Tabor Jewelers

Jackie's Savory Sweets

K&C Honey

Karen Tannehill

Kicks Sports

Kids Closet

Kiwanis of Baker City

Lefty's Taphouse

Low Bros. Les Schwab

Little Bagel Shop

Little Pig

Mad Habit Boutique

Marvin Wood Products

The Main Event

Morgans, Riley and Natalie

No. 1911

Oregon Trail Electric

Cooperative

Oregon Trail Restaurant

Paizano's Pizza

Papa Murphy's

Peterson's Chocolates

Portland Trail Blazers

Powder River Correctional Facility

Premier Auto Body

Quail Ridge Golf Course

Roaring Springs Water Park

Ryder Bros.

Saint Alphonsus Medical Center - Baker City

Sarah Johnson - Lularoe

Seattle Mariners

Seattle Seahawks

Serene Massage

Skidgels, Mike and Jayne

Shiela Dolby

State Farm - Gregg Hinrichsen

State Farm - Nick Conklin

Succulent Hub

Sumpter Junction

Sunkissed Salon

Superior Towing

Sweet Wife Baking

Sycamore Tree

T2 Custom Engraving

Thatcher's Ace Hardware

The Trailhead

Triple C Redi-Mix

Umpqua Bank

Wahooz Family Fun

Wildhorse Resort

Wilson Cattle Company

YMCA

Yorks