

Coronavirus closures, changes

The list of events and facilities affected by coronavirus concerns has been changing rapidly. The Herald is maintaining a list on our website, www.bakercityherald.com/coronavirus/

Easter egg hunt canceled

Ken Krohn, president of the Baker City Rotary Club, announced that the annual Easter egg hunt, set for April 11 at Geiser-Pollman Park, has been canceled.

YMCA closes all locations

The Baker County YMCA has closed all YMCA locations and programs, including Sam-O Swim Center and the Y Fitness Center.

You can check the Y's website, www.bakerymca.org, and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BakerYMCA/> for updates and ways you can stay connected with the Y including ways to continue to meet your fitness and wellness goals.

First Lutheran Church

Pastor Ian Wolfe of First Lutheran Church at 1734 Valley Ave. has announced that all services, both midweek and Sunday Divine Liturgy, as well as all classes, have been suspended until further notice. The Friday afternoon Kids Club program, which follows the school schedule and usually closes at the end of April, also has been suspended with plans to resume next fall.

Saint Alphonsus Medical Center

Saint Alphonsus Medical System is now screening patients and visitors as they enter the system's hospitals, including the hospital at 3325 Pocahontas Road in Baker City.

Screeners will be asking patients and visitors a few brief questions to assess their individual risk of being infected with coronavirus. Those at higher risk will be precluded from visiting and

redirected to appropriate clinical care settings, which might include return to their home for self-isolation and communication with their healthcare provider.

Emergency departments will remain open around the clock, while main hospital entrances will be open during normal business hours. At these entrances, a brief screening for patients and visitors will be conducted prior to entering the hospital. Other hospital entrances will be locked and directional signage for visitors will be provided.

Baker County Library District

All library locations are closed to the public, but take-out services will be available through the drive-through window at the Baker City branch, 2400 Resort St. The closure will be in effect until at least April 13. For efficient drive-up window service, readers are asked to reserve items in advance by using the online catalog at baker.sage.eou.edu/eg/opac Reservations and requests can also be placed by calling 541-523-6419.

To sanitize materials, workers are using ultraviolet light radiation.

Beginning March 23 residents of Baker County will be able to sign up through the library website, www.bakerlib.org, for a digital eCard for access to downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, online databases, and more.

Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort closes for season

The ski area is closed for the season. The owners will continue to plow and sand the road leading to the area, however, and periodically groom the Nordic trails. The trails are open for no charge. Anthony Lakes will fully refund customers who had reservations for yurt rentals, sno-cat trips or spring break camp.

Although the ski area is closed, snowmobiles are not

allowed within the boundaries until April 6.

The Salvation Army delivering food boxes

The Salvation Army will deliver food boxes to people age 60 and older, as well as those who have an underlying medical condition that puts them at risk for the coronavirus. Please call 541-523-5853 one day in advance to order a food box.

Calvary Baptist Church community dinners pick up only

Thursday night community dinners will continue at Calvary Baptist Church, 2130 Fourth St., but due to coronavirus restrictions, people will have to pick up their dinner at the church between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Crossroads Carnegie Art Center

All classes are canceled for two weeks effective Tuesday, according to director Ginger Savage. This includes open studios where there is no instructor. If you have paid for a class it will be rescheduled if possible; if not you will receive a full refund.

Savage said Crossroads will try to be open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be closed for the next two Saturdays as business has been so slow.

Crossroads, at 2020 Auburn Ave., will not participate in First Friday and will not have the "Power of One" April Theme Show. Artists can share images of the work they were preparing for the show and Crossroads will create a virtual art show on Facebook, with online voting for People's Choice. The current show of James Dumble's work will stay up.

Crossroads will endeavor to stay open following all CDC guidelines limiting the building to only 10 people. Each day a sign will be placed on the door with that day's

information. This depends on the health of the staff.

Hewitt, Holcomb Parks closed until May 1

Baker County is delaying the opening of Hewitt and Holcomb Parks, on Brownlee Reservoir about 3 miles east of Richland, until May 1, barring any more federal or state restrictions. The closure expansions are contributing to the inability to get supplies and staffing to sanitize the showers and restrooms multiple times per day.

When Brownlee Reservoir rises enough, the dock will be open for boat launching. As of Wednesday the reservoir was about 5 feet below the level at which the park boat ramps are usable.

If you have questions or concerns, call Commissioner Bill Harvey at 541-523-8200.

Baker County Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office will be providing the following services by appointment only:

- Concealed handgun licenses (new, renewal, address change, lost and out of county transfers)
- Boat registrations
- Fingerprints
- Civil document service
- Records requests

To schedule an appointment, call 541-523-6415 or email abowers@bakersheriff.org.

All jail visits have been suspended.

Baker County Circuit Court

All jury trials scheduled between March 19 and March 27 will be rescheduled except those requiring a statutory or constitutional right to a speedy trial. Many other court hearings and trials will still occur, including criminal arraignments. Civil com-

mitment hearings and most hearings related to juveniles will happen as scheduled.

Precautions will be in place during trials to protect jurors and others.

The Circuit Court will remain open Monday through Friday at its regular hours, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. A list of all changes is available online at www.courts.oregon.gov

Prospective jurors should continue to call the jury phone to get updates. Prospective jurors who are feeling sick or who are in higher risk categories should call the Circuit Court at 541-523-6303, extension 6 or 7 to reschedule their service. These include those 60 and older, who have underlying conditions such as heart disease, lung disease or diabetes, those with weakened immune systems or pregnant women.

Community Connection of Baker County/Senior Center

The main change is that senior meals at the Center, 2810 Cedar St., will by a carryout service, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Staff is asking people to bring their own bags. The menu will be the same as published on Page 2A of the Baker City Herald and on the Community Connection Facebook page.

The Meals on Wheels program will continue normally, Community Connection manager Joe Hayes said.

The Senior Center will remain open for recreational activities such as cards, exercise, Tai Chi, pool and bingo, but limited to the first 25 people to sign up, based on the governor's order prohibiting gatherings of more than 25 people.

There have been no changes to Community Connection buses or other transportation services, although there has been a decline in the number of riders. Hayes said Community Connection hopes to have noninvasive thermometers available to check passengers for fever prior to their boarding a bus.

Other programs, such as energy assistance, housing assistance and senior in-home care, will operate as usual.

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative

The cooperative on Tuesday closed its offices to the public, including its headquarters in Baker City. Appointments can be made by calling 541-523-3616.

OTEC has temporarily suspended late fees and disconnections. People having trouble paying their bill can call 541-523-3616.

The payment drop boxes outside each office will remain available. Members can also pay their bills online at <https://ebill.otec.coop/> or through the OTEC mobile app, available at the Google Play or Apple stores.

To report an outage you can call the 24-hour hotline at 1-866-430-4265.

Fireline safety refresher course

The course through Eastern Oregon Training Group, set for March 21, has been canceled.

Community Bank

Starting March 23, Community Bank will close the lobbies of all branches until further notice. Drive-throughs and ATMs will remain open. Customers who need access to a safe deposit box should inquire at the drive-through or call the branch.

COUNTY

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In addition to the emergency declaration, commissioners, who normally meet twice a month, decided to have meetings every Wednesday for the next two months.

Bennett proposed that the new meetings be set aside for updates on coronavirus and actions related to it if necessary.

Commissioners also approved speaking with the Blue Mountain Translator District about televising meetings to lessen the need for people to go to the Courthouse.

"Blue Mountain Translator District has offered to televise our sessions at no cost to the county," Bennett said.

The emergency declaration reads: "This prolonged event and the related actions by the State of Oregon and the federal government has compounded issues, creating shortages in medical supplies

and household goods, while severely impacting Baker County's businesses and overall economy."

In the declaration, Baker County requests the following:

- Fiscal and information resources be made available to support businesses as they experience closure orders, severely reduced visitors, limited supplies, disrupted supply chains and employee shortages/restrictions
- Resources be made available to assist impacted special districts, such as school districts that are forced to change logistics to provide free and reduced meals to youth in our communities.
- Testing kits are made available and prioritized for first responders if they are exposed to COVID-19 to determine if they will need to be quarantined or able to keep providing essential emergency services. Responders for emergency services are limited in the best of

times, and illness among the responder community has the potential to quickly disrupt essential community services provided to the residents and visitors of Baker County, as well as the traveling public along I-84.

- Periodically review the rules and regulations of the supply chain to determine if any restrictions need to be temporarily lifted or modified to aid in the restocking of essential goods and supplies, such as truck driver hours.

Commissioners welcome citizens to send emails or letters to Heidi Martin, the board of commissioners executive assistant, at hmartin@bakercounty.org or 1995 Third St., Baker City, OR 97814.

In other business Wednesday, commissioners directed the county's attorney to move ahead with an effort to declare a road in the Connor Creek area, near Lookout Mountain in eastern Baker County, a public right-of-way.

FLUSHING

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And although these products, including ostensibly flushable wipes, can potentially clog the city's sewer mainlines, Owen said by far

the biggest risk is to the lateral lines that connect homes to the mainlines. That's because the laterals are much smaller diameter pipes. And unlike the mainlines, which the city is responsible for unclogging, blockage on the laterals is the homeowner's responsibility.

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