THURSDAY CRITICS SAY CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS VIOLATE CITIZEN RIGHTS: PG. 5A

In STATE, 3A
Brown talks about reopening economy

Baker City Herald

April 16, 2020

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QUICK HITS

Good Day Wish To A Subscriber

A special good day to Herald subscriber Al McMillen of Baker City.

Local, 3A

PENDLETON — Stuck on who to vote for in the crowded Oregon 2nd Congressional District race?

EO Media Group soon will provide residents in Eastern and Central Oregon an opportunity to hear from Republican and Democratic candidates.

BRIEFING

Baker County commissioners plan telephone, computer town hall today to discuss virus

Baker County Commissioners will have a town hall meeting this evening, accessible by phone and computer, to discuss the local response to the coronavirus crisis.

Today's event will run from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Officials will be available to answer questions about issues such as business effects and recovery, law enforcement and public information. Residents can submit questions in advance by emailing them to pio@bakercounty.org, and questions will be answered as time allows.

To participate in the town hall by phone, call 1-408-418-9388 and enter this meeting ID: 964-049-937. To join the town hall on a computer, go to www.bakercounty.org/webexmeetings.html

WEATHER

Today
55 / 20
Sunny

Friday
66 / 30
Partly sunny

The space below is for a postage label for issues that are mailed.

Elkhorn Taxi Service's Start Coincides With Coronavirus Pandemic

Trying To Fare Well

Chris Collins/Baker City Herald

David Sanders sanitizes the minivan that serves as his taxi.

By Chris Collins
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Monday was just a really bad day for one of David Sanders' customers.

The woman who called his Elkhorn Taxi service needed her morning cup of coffee. But her coffee pot had given out on her, and she needed coffee filters and she was out of coffee. Oh, and she also needed a bottle of Excedrin Migraine pills.

So why call a taxi service?

Because during the coronavirus crisis, Sanders, 29, has adapted his business designed to pick up and deliver people to include the pickup and delivery of groceries.

So on Monday morning, Sanders not only picked up a cab fare at one of Baker City's motels and delivered him across town to where his car was parked, he also went shopping.

Sanders' coffee-loving customer told him not to shop around, but to fill the list as quickly as possible. Sanders said he wasted no time and arrived with the woman's order in about a half an hour, after first delivering his cab passenger, which is his first priority.

Cab fares, which are set by the Baker City Council, are $6 one way or $5 for seniors, veterans and people with disabilities. The charge for the Monday morning shopping trip and delivery was $8.

Sanders said his delivery charges vary, depending on the time it takes and the amount of shopping needed (the city doesn't regulate delivery fees). The three delivery classes include charges of $8, $10 and top out at $12 for the larger shopping sprees. Sanders said he is flexible depending on how easy it is to gather the products ordered by his customers. Tips are accepted, but there is no set or required tipping fee schedule, he said.

Sanders and his wife, Stephanie, 27, opened the new taxi service on March 15. The next day, Gov. Kate Brown began closing schools and businesses and putting social distancing requirements in place to control the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon.

"This was my answer to keeping my business afloat," Sanders said of the grocery delivery service.

But it wasn't all his and his wife's idea, he admits.

First there was the encouragement of a local customer, Jim Brotherton, 66, who was concerned for what he saw as a lackadaisical approach by some shoppers and store employees who Brotherton said didn't seem to appreciate the need for social distancing and respect for the special hours set aside for seniors to shop.

See **Delivery** / *Page 6A*

Baker City Residents Display Stuffed Animals In Their Yards

Zoos closed? No problem

By Lisa Britton
For the Baker City Herald

Lisa Britton /For the Baker City Herald

Debbie Bott included facts along with her extensive display of stuffed animals during the Zoo Parade on April 10.

Lisa Grigg's sons — ages 7, 5, and 2 — weren't too sure about leaving their stuffed animals outside for a Zoo Parade.

"But after I started setting up they got super excited and engaged in coming up with how to display them," Grigg said.

Her sons decided that Grippy Grabby the Octopus likes to play with other octopuses but always gets stuck, and that Bark the Dog loves to chase cats up trees. Roar the Dragon, on the other hand, loves to fly but is also lazy and loves to sleep.

"I loved watching my boys come up with ways to display and name their animals," Grigg said. "It gave us something to work on together and got us out of the house waving to friends."

Grigg and nearly 40 others in Baker City created a zoo display in their yards with stuffed animals on Friday, April 10.

The idea started with Karen Baxter, whose daughter-in-law was making a walk-by zoo on a Marine base in California.

See **Zoos** / *Page 2A*

Still no local virus cases

Baker County is in increasingly rare company among Oregon counties in having no confirmed cases of coronavirus.

As of Wednesday, just five of the state's 36 counties had yet to have a confirmed case, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

Last week there were eight such counties.

The four others with no cases are Gilliam, Harney, Lake and Wheeler. All have fewer residents than Baker.

See **Virus** / *Page 6A*

Council declares emergency

By Samantha O'Conner
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The Baker City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution declaring a local emergency due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Councilors Lynette Perry and Larry Morrison participated in Tuesday's meeting via Zoom, as did Public Works Director Michelle Owen and Finance Director Jeanie Dexter.

The other councilors attended the meeting at City Hall.

See **Council** / *Page 5A*

Pandemic puts most funerals on hold

By Jayson Jacoby
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Emails might seem indispensable, but they're a cold and impersonal substitute for the warmth and humanity of a simple hug.

The limitations of digital communication have been apparent to most of us during the coronavirus pandemic as we seek to slow the virus through social distancing and other precautions.

But the effects have been particularly acute for funeral directors, for whom the offering of comforting gestures is so integral.

See **Funerals** / *Page 3A*

TODAY
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Comics.....7B	Dear Abby 8B	News of Record.....2A	Senior Menus 2A	Weather 8B

SATURDAY — RESTAURANT HOPES DRIVE-THRU WILL BOOST BUSINESS

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