

## MEALS

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Bain said that although he's not a professional cook, he has been among the winners of the Dutch-oven cooking contests at the Interpretive Center in past years and likes to grill up a good cut of meat on occasion.

Ericka Chavez was in charge of dicing the 15 large tomatoes needed to fill the crisp taco shells. The 44-year-old chopped quickly through the produce, claiming no expertise in the kitchen, but a love for Harvest Church and it's work in the community.

"This church has done a lot for me," she said. "It's the best church I've ever been to."

"They welcome everybody with open arms. It's amazing," said Chavez, who's been attending Harvest Church for about three years.

After finishing her kitchen duty, Chavez joined the production line, where volunteers topped the hamburger-filled taco shells with her chopped tomatoes and the shredded cheese and lettuce set up to distribute by volunteers Donald Cody, 67, and his 13-year-old nephew, Dominic Redmond.

Diaz's 9-year-old son, Cole, and his wife, Mandy, also joined the group as their school and work days ended. Mandy is assistant to Pastor Phillips.

Diaz busied himself with other chores that had to be accomplished before the drive-thru diners' scheduled arrival.

"I help where help is needed," he said as he poured salsa into a large serving bowl to be ladled into the travel containers.

"We're conscious of portion control," he said of dishing up the free meals. "Donations are made to this specific mission, so we want to be mindful of the cost."

Diaz said organizers work to keep the church's expense for each meal at \$3.

Other main dishes have included tater tot casserole, cheeseburgers with all the trimmings, and chicken



Chris Collins/Baker City Herald

Meals are assembled by Donald Cody, at right, and from near to far at left, Dominic Redmond, Cole Diaz and Ericka Chavez.

fettuccine Alfredo. Side dishes of fruits and vegetables are provided with those types of meals, he said.

A second team of volunteers devoted to delivering the meals curbside or to homes was scheduled to arrive in time for the 5:30 to 6 o'clock meal pickup. They greet cars as they pull up to the kitchen entry at the northwest end of the church. Two runners obtain the number of meals needed for each vehicle and then deliver them at the curb.

What could be a cold job in the middle of December isn't as bad as it might seem.

"They all come in the first 10 to 12 minutes," Diaz said.

Not only are the tasty meals tucked inside the containers, a sticker is affixed on the outside to carry the church's message to each diner. It reads: "Thank you for joining us for dinner tonight! We pray that as this meal satisfies your body, the bread of life, Jesus Christ will satisfy your soul! God Bless you!"

"Primarily we want to meet their physical need and if they have spiritual need we want to meet that also," Phillips said.

A holiday meal, delivered curbside,

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— Ericka Chavez, who has attended the Harvest Church for about three years

was provided for a little over 200 people on Thanksgiving Day, featuring the traditional foods including turkey, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, rolls, sweet potatoes and pie.

There will be no dinner next week, however, Diaz said. Church members are taking the week off for Christmas.

This week's sticker announced that news. And it informed meal recipients that a free New Year's Eve curbside dinner will be provided on Dec. 31.

To allow for planning, diners are asked to sign up in advance by noon each Thursday through the church's Facebook Page at facebook.com/HarvestChurchBC/ or by calling the church at 541-523-4233.

Diaz says the church is able to



Chris Collins/Baker City Herald

Ericka Chavez volunteers weekly for the Harvest Church free curbside meals program, helping out wherever she's needed.

provide the meals through the generosity of members of Harvest Church and the larger community.

"We rely on donations," Diaz said. "We put out the word that there's a need and people step up to fill the need."

Phillips said the church also received a \$5,000 grant through the city funded by the federal coronavirus relief bill.

In addition to the financial support church members give to the program, about 40 volunteers turn out regularly to put the meals together, provide the curbside service and to deliver meals to homes upon request.

Phillips said the curbside meal plan was developed strictly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whether the church will continue it as the situation changes will be determined over time.

"It was a way we thought we could serve people," he said. "It's been really enjoyable. They are grateful and it serves a need."

Phillips estimates that about 80% of the diners are from outside the Harvest congregation of about 200 people.

At this time members have a wide choice of how to attend services and comply with social distancing guidelines: in person at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays at the church at 3720 Birch St., video livestreaming on YouTube, and from their vehicles via radio broadcast from the church parking lot.

# Brown convenes Legislature for 1-day session Monday

By Gary A. Warner  
Oregon Capital Bureau

After weeks of negotiations with lawmakers, Gov. Kate Brown announced a one-day special session of the Legislature will be held Monday, Dec. 21, to deal with COVID-19-related issues.

The need for state action has grown in recent weeks as Congress has failed to come up with a bill extending several key programs on unemployment, an eviction moratorium and small-business subsidies.

Brown says she will ask for \$800 million to help Oregon residents who have battled a pandemic and one of the worst fire seasons in state history.

"Many Oregon families are struggling with unemployment, housing, food insecurity and paying their bills," Brown said. "We must protect Oregonians now, as we face some of our hardest days."

A possible third special session has been on the table since August as the likelihood of substantial federal aid such as the \$2 trillion relief bill passed in the spring



The (Bend) Bulletin file

The Oregon Capitol building in Salem.

were unrealized.

The session is expected to:

- Extend the state's residential eviction moratorium beyond its current expiration on Dec. 31 to as late as July 1.
- Provide liability protection covering COVID-19-related claims for schools.
- Spend \$600 million for aid to those affected by the COVID-19 crisis and those hit by late summer wildfires that burned over 1 million acres in Oregon.
- Allow restaurants and bars to sell cocktails to go as a way to make some money at a time when dining is

prohibited or limited.

For the third time this year, lawmakers will come to the Capitol in Salem amid an epidemic that has only grown more threatening in the intervening months.

Over the past week, the state has seen an average of 1,320 cases per day and will soon pass 100,000 cumulative cases of COVID-19. Deaths have risen 32% in the past two weeks and are now at 1,214 since the pandemic began, with a record-breaking 54 deaths reported Tuesday, Dec. 15. More than 300,000 have died in the U.S. and 1.63 million around the world.

Brown did not invoke a never-before-used constitutional clause that would have allowed the Legislature to convene a "catastrophic"

session. A move favored by many Democrats, it would have allowed lawmakers to avoid traveling to Salem and instead hold hearings and floor votes remotely.

The provision was created to enable the Legislature to meet in the event of a major disaster or event. Its genesis was in studies showing a 9.0 earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, just off the coast, which would kill thousands and make communications and travel impossible.

Since lawmakers could be among the casualties or unable to contact Salem, the Legislature would work under somewhat different rules, including a waiver on the normal two-thirds quorum of each chamber.

Using the catastrophic declaration was opposed by many Republicans because Democrats hold a supermajority in the House and Senate that allows them to pass tax and other revenue bills without support from Republicans.

In the past two sessions, walkouts were used by Republicans to halt consideration of bills they opposed, denying a quorum and bringing work to a halt.

Some lawmakers in both parties also worried a remote session would erode the dis-

cipline to do business quickly and adjourn. That could lead to the introduction of issues beyond those that have near-consensus as being able to pass both chambers and be signed by the governor.

A statement released by House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner, D-Portland, addressed the goals — but also some of the fissures — leading to the session.

"It is no secret that House Democrats have proposed a number of other urgently needed COVID relief bills," she said. "While I'm disappointed we won't be able to consider them all in this special session, we stand ready to pass these supports quickly during the 2021 legislative session."

Smith Warner also said that while House Democrats would have preferred avoiding infection by having a remote session, she and her caucus were ready to come to Salem despite the personal risk of exposure to COVID-19.

"Legislators have an essential duty to show up when our neighbors need it most," she said. "I am confident that robust safety protocols will be in place to ensure the health and well-being of everyone."

Oregon and other state legislatures around the nation have watched as the Republican-led U.S. Senate and the Democratic-led U.S. House have been unable to reach consensus on relief legislation that must also be signed by President Donald Trump.

## New At The Library

Patrons can reserve materials in advance online or by calling 541-523-6419. Drive-in hours at 2400 Resort St. are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

### FICTION

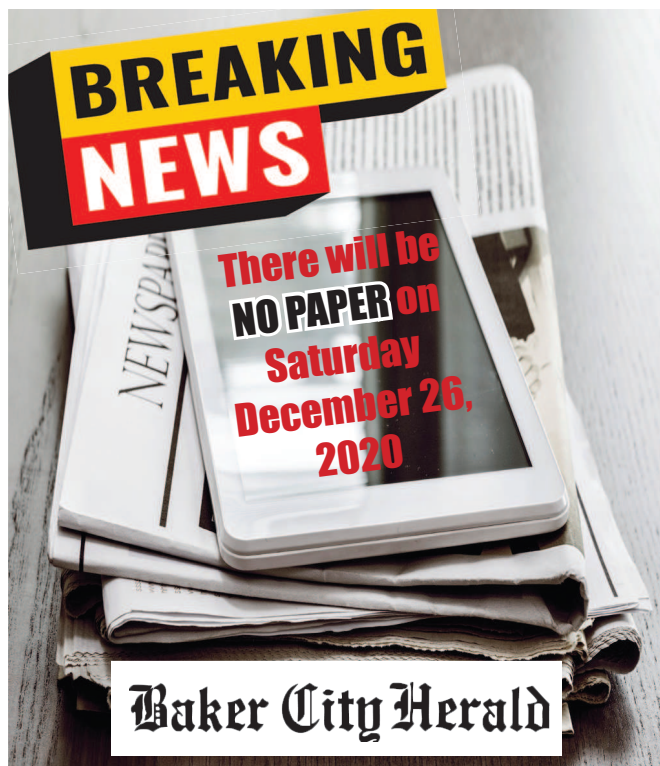
- "36 Righteous Men," Steven Pressfield
- "Steel Crow Saga," Paul Krueger
- "Ready Player Two," Ernest Cline
- "Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters," Jennifer Chiaverini
- "A House of Ghosts," W. C. Ryan

### NONFICTION

- "The Presidents Vs. the Press," Harold Holzer
- "Grounded," Jon Tester
- "The Gift," Edith Eger
- "The Good Fight," Jana Kramer
- "Dessert Person," Claire Saffitz

### DVDS

- "Allure" (Drama)
- "The Christ Quake" (Documentary)
- "Dancing on the Edge" (Drama)
- "Gringo" (Action)
- "Revolt" (Sci-Fi)





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