Virtual guided tours available

> By Rudy Diaz Blue Mountain Eagle

The Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site visitor center is open with limited services.

The 2021 season will go through Oct. 31, and the center will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays in May to start the season, and will expand to seven days a week as staffing becomes available.

Museum curator Don Merritt said only virtual guided tours of the Kam Wah Chung building will be available onsite, outside the interpretive center. The Kam Wah Chung building will be closed to visitors for 2021.

Virtual tours are contingent on weather and safety and are 45 minutes long. The tours start at the top of the hour and are closed at noon for lunch.

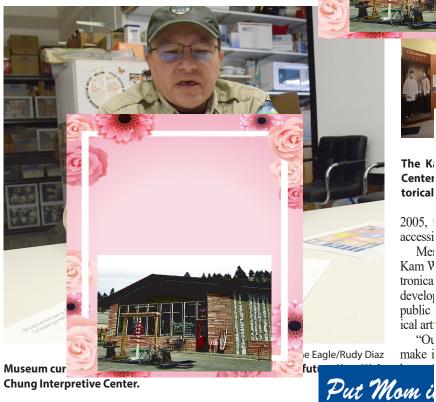
"Kam Wah Chung SHS will follow all COVID-19 protocols set forth by Oregon Parks and Recreation, including sanitizing procedures, social distancing and wearing of proper face masks," Merritt said in a press release.

The Kam Wah Chung building and interpretive site were closed last year due to COVID-19, but work continued behind doors with studies and designs in the works.

Merritt said no one was on site in 2020 until November, which was a good thing for the Kam Wah Chung building

e the building some time to breath,' Merritt said. "With all visitors that were coming throu our biggest concern was the build being loved to death."

Merritt said, during the shutdo the team was able to get inform tion and lata that showed how temperature and humidity would in the building without visitors.



extended break helped provide consistent data.

"It turned out to be a silver lining for us and future management and preservation of the resources here," Merritt said

In spring this year, Oregon State Parks provided \$20,000 to start a feasibility study on a new visitor center with Pinnacle Architecture helping with the preliminary design.

"At this point we're still laying out the design for the building for sometime in the future," Merritt said. "There are no hard set dates for any completion. This is something that has been in the works for a while, and this year, we've been authorized to go

building house both the center and the collection currently in separate bui

NEW

"It's likely going to pool is right now, but th decided," Merritt said.

inary idea of how he v Kam Wah Chung visit be: have the building's the historic feel of a John Day and have a pa architectural style.

The layout map is als incorporate the existing center to be compleme extra space provided in

Put Mom in the drivers

seat for Mother's Day

"We're thinking ah

Merritt created his

seat for M

Me



**Territt** 

rks to

visi-

s are

anx-

Mother's Day

May 12th

Wednesda

Mo

**Uptm** 

contir

as Gr

super

to meet with Uptmor this week to work on the new contract.

"I don't think either of us has any set numbers of years that we would put into the contract, but that's why we're going to get together to talk and make a good plan," Uptmor said.

Uptmor said his goal is that, when does officially leave the district at the end of his new tenure, he and the school board can have a good succession in the transition to a new superintendent so the work can continue without a gap.

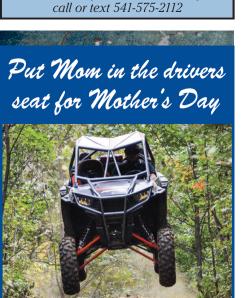


HANGING **BASKETS** 10" & 12" Our **GARDEN** CENTER is sure to have what **MOM DESIRES!** PONY PACKS



Women's jeans, dresses tops, shoes & gift cards. 234 NW Front. St. **Prairie City** 541-820-3675





139 S Canyon Blvd. • John Day





Mother's Day

Mau 12th

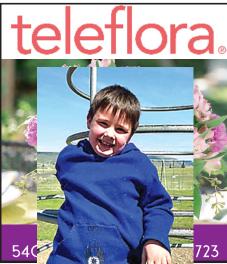
Something for Every Mom

"The Best Antiques Are Old Friends"

The Dark

Horse

**Rentals LLC** 



Floral & Gifts

Beautiful flowers for all occasions

Cindy Wimer, **Professional Florist** 

Phone: 541-820-3600 Mon-Fri 10-6 pm/Sat by appt. www.heritagehillfarmflowers.com