

All OTLD libraries closed until further notice

Effective immediately, all branches of Oregon Trail Library District are closed until further notice. Currently, public health best practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 include limiting access to public spaces. Additionally, due to staffing concerns, we have made the decision to follow public health guidance and close to the public.

As a public institution, this decision was not made lightly. OTLD recognizes closure means some of the people who need them the most will not have access to library buildings. They will be working with their partners on ways to work together to support the community.

During the building closures, staff will continue to work and be paid. They will be available to help via email or phone. To protect employee health, workplace guidelines from county health officials are being followed.

While the physical spaces are closed, a library card gives the holder access to a world of digital content and other services, including downloadable magazines, eBooks and

audiobooks; educational resources; and language tutorials. Visit oregontrail.ploud.net to access digital content. For assistance, please call the local branch. A staff person will be available to help.

Things people should also know:

-Holds and due dates will be extended. Materials that are due during this closure can be kept until libraries reopen or returned to the book drops.

-Library events and meeting room reservations are cancelled through Monday, April 13. Staff will continue to monitor how long these spaces and programs will remain unavailable.

-Visit the website at oregontrail.ploud.net for COVID-19 information and resources. Information will also be posted on the Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The public's health and safety, as well as that of the staff, volunteers, and Friends of the Library is the top concern. Your patience is appreciated as staff continues to modify operations during this unprecedented time.

Candidates' forum scheduled

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce will be holding a candidates' forum for Morrow County Commissioner, Position 1, Morrow County Treasurer and Morrow County Justice of the Peace. The forum will be held Thursday, April 2 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the regularly scheduled lunch meeting at the Heppner City Hall conference room.

Candidates for Morrow County Commissioner Position 1 are Joseph Armato, Jim Doherty, Michael Sweek and Joel Peterson. Morrow County Treasurer candidates are Sabrina Bailey Cave, Cody High, Jaylene Papineau and Erik Patton. Theresa Crawford, Glen Diehl and Kelly Doherty are the candidates

running for Morrow County Justice of the Peace.

The candidate's forum will be moderated by Bill Kuhn, with questions to be written and submitted to the moderator. He will ask the same question of all candidates for specific positions with the same time limit allowed to answer each question.

Lunch will be available at 11:45 a.m. for \$10 and will be catered by Bucknum's. The candidate's forum will begin at 12 noon and an RSVP is required to allow for enough lunches and seating.

This forum is open to the public. Please RSVP by calling 541-676-5536 and indicate whether you want lunch or just to attend the forum.

Spring break food boxes to be distributed

The annual spring break food boxes will be distributed Sunday, March 22, beginning at 2 p.m. and continuing while supplies last at All Saints Episcopal

church. This is a free gift to members of the community, no questions asked, sponsored by Hopeful Saints Ministry.

One box per household

Church services available online

Through the end of March, or until further notice, Sunday worship services at Hopeful Saints Ministry are being held at 10 a.m. through Facebook Live. Services can be viewed at that time or later at the All Saints Episcopal

& Hope Lutheran Facebook page.

Everyone is encouraged to stay connected to the faith community of their choice, and to be persistent in prayer for the health and safety of this nation and all of creation.

Catholics suspend services

In accordance with Governor Brown's order of March 16, Bishop Liam Cary of the Diocese of Baker has announced the following directives to Catholics of the Diocese, beginning immediately.

-All Sunday and weekday Masses are suspended.

-All religious education and sacramental preparation programs are suspended.

-All public devotions, such as "The Stations of the Cross" and communal Penance services are suspended.

-Funeral Masses will be celebrated with only the immediate family present and with no reception following.

No COVID-19 cases reported in Morrow County

According to a press release received from Morrow County Emergency Management dated March 17, Morrow County does not have any positive COVID-19 cases currently. Medical personnel continue to monitor and screen as appropriate, working with health care providers and Oregon Health Authority.

Per CDC guidelines all medical personnel are utilizing universal precautions with Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE).

Following the announcement by Governor Brown that all Oregon K-12 public schools are to be closed until April 1, Morrow County Emergency Management, Public Health, Morrow County and Ione School Districts all came together to make sure they have a united message:

-Parents are asked to

check your school's website and Facebook page for particulars and updates.

--Check back often; several times daily, this situation is rapidly changing.

--There will also be Robo calls, from the schools, with updated information.

--All public K-12 schools in Morrow County will be providing meals next week.

Everyone is asked to please practice "Social Distancing." This is something that Public Health Officials use to stop or slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease or virus. Social Distancing means to limit unnecessary contact. Limit trips in public and try to avoid close proximity to others.

In addition to school closures, Governor Brown announced that all restaurants will no longer provide

Local scholarships available

The South Morrow County Scholarship Committee will accept scholarship applications until April 2 at 4 p.m. In Heppner, they can be turned into Mrs. Ginger Bowman and in Ione, Mrs. Stephanie McElligott.

South Morrow County Scholarship Criteria

The Committee will award scholarships to a college-bound Heppner High School or Ione High School Senior based on academic achievement, community involvement and financial need. Students must be continuing their education at a community college, trade school, or four-year college or university. Applications will be accepted and awarded by the South Morrow County Scholarship Inc Board of Directors using their Common Local Scholarship Application and must include a transcript and principal/counselor evaluation form.

The South Morrow County Scholarship Trust Committee, on behalf of the LaRue Family, will accept scholarship applications until April 2 at 4 p.m. Completed applications may be

turned into Mrs. Stephanie McElligott.

Coach Del LaRue Scholarship Criteria

The Coach Del LaRue Scholarship was developed in memory of Del LaRue, a long-time teacher and coach at Ione High School. Del had a passion for coaching basketball and track and loved seeing students set and achieve their goals. After retiring from teaching, Del continued to coach track for twelve additional years. During this time he helped many student athletes achieve their goals and was honored as national Track Coach of the Year.

This fund awards one \$1,000 scholarship to a college-bound Ione High School Senior based on demonstrated academic achievement and community involvement, with preference given to students who have participated in the Ione High School Track Program.

Students must be continuing their education at a community college, trade school, or four-year college or university. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 accumulated GPA, attended Ione High School all four years of high school and shown involvement in community activities.

Applications will be accepted and awarded by the South Morrow County Scholarship Inc Board of Directors using their Common Local Scholarship Application and must include a transcript.

Tax-Aide sites all closed

Due to the spread of the Coronavirus, all AARP Tax-Aide tax preparation sites have suspended services for the 2019 tax year. Tax sites in Lexington, Hermiston, Boardman and Pendleton all were closed effective Monday, March 16. Tax-Aide looks forward to seeing everyone next year.

dine-in service. All service is to be take-out or delivery. All events with greater than 25 persons have been cancelled and people are asked to avoid groups of 10 or more.

Healthcare facilities, workplaces and other essential businesses such as grocery, pharmacy and retail locations are exempt from the closures according to the press release. People are still being encouraged to wash their hands often and follow social distancing guidelines.

Many do not realize that a healthy appearing person can be a carrier, with no symptoms, and unwittingly pass the virus on to someone at higher risk. Morrow County Medical Professionals are continuing to actively screen and assess individuals at risk for the COVID-19 virus.

Road Bowling buttons available

The 38th annual Road Bowling buttons are still available for purchase for \$3 until March 24. Buttons may be purchased at the city of Heppner office, the Heppner Chamber and Murray's Drug.

Drawings for four lucky winners of \$50 each will be held Wednesday, March 25.

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NEW LISTING

\$154,000

Four bedroom 2 bath home on the hill overlooking Heppner. Walking distance to the high school. Nice living room upstairs and a big family room down. Large laundry room. One car garage will also make nice attached shop space. Garden area and trees. Quiet neighborhood.

210 SUMMIT DRIVE, HEPPNER

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Owner/Broker
David Sykes
541-980-6674

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