COVID-19 measures closing Mason County doors

Governor's decree sends many home for at least two weeks

By Gordon Weeks

Governor's decree sends many home for at least two weeks. For more information, call 360-426-3763.

The meals are cooked and assembled at the Mason County Senior Activities Center at The Pavilion in Shelton. The Pavilion is closed, and the senior lunches are not being served there.

"It's all we've been doing right now, delivering meals," said Debra Del-Bosque, the site manager for Meals on Wheels. "I've added, anyone who is 60 or older should not be going out at all."

The drivers make 20 stops and drop off 14 meals.

Meals on Wheels soon will need more volunteer drivers, Del-Bosque said.

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"Cash donations to buy more food would be amazing," she said.

For the Meals on Wheels patrons, Verle's in Shelton donated 100 packages of toilet paper, each containing four rolls.

Every client receives a four-pack. Verle's also donated Benec's Peanut Butter Cups.

"Chocolate is good for the soul," Del Busco said.

MASSON TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Massen Transit Authority advises riders to check the agency's website or call customer service at 360-426-9434 during business hours to ensure they have accurate schedule information. Additional service might be canceled on a day-by-day basis if MTA has a shortage of drivers, MTA states.

During this time, we ask that our riders keep trips to essential needs, stay home if not feeling well and practice proactive hygiene to help protect our drivers and other passengers. Make sure to cover mouth and nose if coughing or sneezing, wash hands regularly with soap and hot water or use hand sanitizer, do not touch your face with your hands, and keep distance from other passengers as much as possible. We also ask that you enter the bus from the rear door.

"MTA is cleaning buses regularly and wiping down surfaces as much as possible between routes. We have closed the atrium at the Transit-Community Center, but the TCC is still open for customer service at this time." Shipton

SHIPTON CINEMAS AND SKYLINE DRIVE-IN

Like other movie theaters around the state, Shelton Cinemas closed its doors about two weeks ago. The Skyline Drive-In in Shelton was set to open, but legally can't.

Dorothy Myers owns both businesses.

"It's a painful situation ... Every small business in the state is going to be hurting," she said.

Myers said she agonized over whether to open the drive-in, which would provide social distancing not available in a theater; she said she wants to be "socially responsible." Two weeks ago, Gov. Inslee told drive-in owners they could open, she said.

On Monday night, drive-in movie theaters were not listed as "essential services" among the businesses that could remain open.

"Now the choice is gone," she said.

Myers added, "I need the drive-in business, I need the summertime business to make it through the winter."

Myers said she hopes moviegoers will return to her theaters when the restrictions are lifted and they can open again.

BOHD CANAL COMMUNICATIONS

In a message to customers on Monday, Hood Canal Communications announced it is postponing its annual cable rate increase until further notice.

"In continuing with our customer relief efforts in response to the coronavirus outbreak, you may have received a notice that our rates are increasing on April 1," HCC wrote to customers. "This notice was scheduled to go out for our annual cable TV rate increase which takes place every year in April 1st and in the current climate, the notice was not suspended. "You will receive an updated notification soon indicating the annual rate increase has been postponed. We apologize for the confusion."

In a newsletter released Tuesday morning, HCC wrote that it is considered an "essential service" and will remain open.

"While our offices are closed to the public and many of our employees are working remotely, we are available by phone, email and social media to keep you connected, informed and safe. If you need assistance with your service, call or email us as usual. Thank you for being a loyal customer and please stay safe."

For more information, call 360-868-2681 or visit www.hccnet.net.

MASSON COUNTY GARBAGE & RECYCLING

Masson County Garbage & Recycling is asking customers to ensure garbage is not left unsecured for pickup.

"Bagging loose garbage helps ensure items do not litter the surrounding area when your garbage driver is servicing your cart or container, but more importantly, it will limit exposure to our employees," the company stated in a news release. "Effective immediately, garbage drivers will be instructed to not service any loose or unsecured garbage items outside of your cart or container."

"All extra units must be fully contained in a sealed disposable container or properly sealed bag. This is a precaution during the COVID-19 crisis and we ask for your assistance to help keep our employees and community members safe."

For more information, call 360-426-8729 or email cust2140@wasteconnection.com.