

Red Cross at work, B-1



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Salmon derby A-11



Wednesday, March 18, 2020

SEQUIM GAZETTE

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• **Schools suspended**
Through at least April 24

• **Facilities close**
Groups, events suspended

• **I-Fest on hold**
Civic celebration postponed



Sequim shuts down



Teachers and other staff at Helen Haller Elementary School wave goodbye to students on Monday, March 16. All Washington state schools are closed through April 24 by Gov. Jay Inslee's executive order. Sequim Gazette photo by Michael Dashiell

Coronavirus concerns cause event, meeting cancellations

SEQUIM GAZETTE STAFF

Sequim-area community groups and organizations continue to suspend, postpone or outright cancel events over the concerns over the COVID-19 coronavirus, the outbreak now listed as a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization.

Keep up with notices of cancellations, postponements and re-openings online at www.sequimgazette.com and facebook.com/sequimgazette.

ShIPLEY Center

Michael M. Smith, executive director at the Shipley Center, initially said on March 13 the center will be closed for the next three weeks, then extended the closure to match the Sequim School District's closure of six weeks.

The center, at 921 E. Hammond St., is projected to open Monday, April 27.

"We are creating resources and various ways to stay in touch with our members," executive director Michael Smith said.

"Our café (The Café at Shipley Center) may start offering take out meals as soon as Monday the 23. Will let you know of updates on that with menu, pricing, procedures to call orders in ahead of time, etc."

See www.shipleycenter.org or [www.facebook.com/ShipleyCenter](https://facebook.com/ShipleyCenter).

Clallam Mosaic

Looking to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Clallam Mosaic — a local nonprofit empowering people with special needs — is canceling the last two weeks of classes for the Winter Term.

All classes held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (301 E. Lopez Ave., Port Angeles) and Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church (925 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim) have been canceled.

The Snappy Players performances scheduled for April 3-4 have been canceled. The performances will be

Food Bank moves to drive-thru model

Community groups close, regroup due to coronavirus

BY MATTHEW NASH
Sequim Gazette

Like many businesses and agencies in the area, the Sequim Food Bank, 144 W. Alder St., has become a drive-thru experience.

Executive Director Andra Smith

said starting with Friday's hours 9 a.m.-noon, attendees will pull up for an "emergency food pickup system." "We've been buying up food in anticipation for something like this," she said.

On Monday, March 16 —prior to

new regulations limiting the number of people in gathering spaces — volunteers, staff and visitors of the food bank were encouraged to keep 6 feet apart and the number of people in buildings were limited.

Smith said the number of people

coming hasn't been too high, but she anticipates it's because many people are stocked up for now.

"Right now we haven't seen a crazy rush, but that could change soon," she said.

If you're unable to pickup food, the agency offers deliveries in the

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Locals look to stimulate businesses

BY MATTHEW NASH
Sequim Gazette

In a time of economic uncertainty, some business owners and community members look to bring some hope to Sequim's businesses.

For Sequim-native Lacey Lovell, the new owner of Sofie's Florist, 359 W. Washington St., she just wanted to share some good cheer by delivering free bouquets to various downtown Sequim businesses.

"I just felt it was important that the cheer and love doesn't go to waste," Lovell said.

Sofie's hasn't seen a huge hit from the impact of closures, cancellations and quarantines due to COVID-19, she said, but the flowers continue to come whether they sell or not.

Lovell, a 2007 Sequim High grad, took over the business on Feb. 1, just in time for Valentine's Day — the business'



Lacey Lovell, new owner Sofie's Florist, recently shared some cheer with free bouquets for some downtown businesses. "I make a point of shopping local," she said. "It's my way of life. I believe in small businesses. They are the ones who support your community, your sports and arts. They support the things you believe in." Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash

second busiest day of the year, after ground running," she said.

Mother's Day.

"There's nothing like hitting the

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