

NEWS RELEASE

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Rockpile Museum Temporarily Closes to the Public

Gillette, WY—March 17, 2020 The coronavirus situation has presented many challenges to communities, and the Campbell County community is not an exception. Rapidly changing recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Public Health are being assessed regularly by Campbell County and our diverse departments as we consider the potential closures of facilities.

First and foremost, we want to assure the public any decision we make, whether it be to close a facility or remain open, is done with profound consideration of both the impact to the health and safety of our community and our employees, as well as the economic impact our decisions will have throughout the entire county.

One of the most significant challenges we are all facing is a lack of information specific to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Globally, we have only had approximately three months to learn about the virus. As a result, many questions remain unclear, leaving us to navigate uncharted territory.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading easily from person-to-person. The evidence we have from other countries indicates that 80 percent of the population who contract the disease will have mild to moderate symptoms and will recover without any complications. The evidence is also indicating that older adults are more likely to have severe symptoms. The most affected groups are those aged 65 and older and individuals with underlying health conditions such as heart, respiratory, and renal disease, as well as diabetes.

When a decision is made to close a facility, it is done so out of an abundance of caution to protect the most vulnerable of our population. Campbell County departments are strongly encouraged to find ways to continue providing services while observing social distancing recommendations. However, there are certain services and programs the County offers that can only be delivered face-to-face.

After thoughtful consideration, the Rockpile Museum Board has decided to close to the public until April 2, 2020. This is being done to help protect volunteers, the public, and our employees. The museum employees will continue to work, just without the public in the facilities. The staff is exploring opportunities to engage the public using digital resources. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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