

SHOTS

Continued from Page A1

rector of the Hood River County Health Department, the county's current non-medical opt-out rate is at 5 percent. The number is important due to a key concept in disease control known as "herd immunity." Herd immunity is the idea that when enough people in a population are vaccinated against a disease, it prevents the disease from spreading as quickly, and helps ensure that a potential outbreak is contained.

Herd immunity is especially important for those who can't get vaccines for medical reasons, including pregnant women, children under the age of 1, people who have allergic reactions to vaccines, and those who have compromised immune systems, explained Larsen. Without others getting vaccinations, those who can't get vaccines due to medical reasons run the risk of getting sick — or worse.

Larsen said the percentage of immunizations must be 95 percent for successful herd immunity to be achieved. With an opt-out rate of 5 percent, the county is right on the cusp, with some schools — such as Horizon, May Street, and Hood River Middle School — falling below the threshold needed for herd immunity.

Ken Block, superintendent for Horizon Christian School, was asked if he knew why the rate for Horizon Christian School was higher compared to other grade schools in the county.

"No — anything I would say is a pure guess," he said. "I would be stretching it to guess."

Block said he had not seen the OHA numbers and was caught off-guard by the 13-percent rate of non-medical exemptions at Horizon.

"That seems really high to me," he said. "I'm surprised."

At Hood River County School District, the opt-out numbers were also alarming to Superintendent Dan Goldman, who like Block, had not seen the report.

"Yeah, I'm concerned about it," he said. "Wherever we have higher risk for major illness or safety issues, we take that very seriously."

Goldman, who said that his daughter had attended Bright Beginnings, hypothesized that May Street's district-high opt-out rate of 8.6 percent was at least partly due to the high opt-out numbers at Bright Beginnings, noting that "a big percentage of those kids continue on to May Street."

A call was placed to Bright Beginnings Thursday morning to answer questions about their opt-out rate, but



Photo by Kirby Neumann-Rea

STUDENTS study and play in close quarters in local schools, increasing the concern over high vaccination exemption numbers. This scene is at Westside Elementary, which enjoys one of the area's lowest exemption rates among school facilities.

was not returned as of press time.

Goldman was not certain as to why the schools had the opt-out rates that they did, but offered that "it looks like we have not done an effective job of promoting the effectiveness of vaccines." He did note, however, that in areas outside of Hood River, the non-medical exemption rates were up to two to three times lower. Parkdale Elementary (4.2 percent), Wyeast Middle (2.7 percent), and Mid Valley Elementary (under 2 percent) all had rates that fell within the herd immunity targets. However, Hood River Valley High School (4 percent) and Westside Elementary (under 2 percent) also fell below the 5 percent number.

Goldman hypothesized the decision to not vaccinate was a "first world problem," and that "it would seem the higher income bracket is making their own healthcare choices." He suggested that the higher poverty levels in the upper and mid valley may actually be contributing to greater vaccination rates.

"The families often receive Medicaid and OHP (Oregon Health Plan) and there's a lot of outreach into those communities from social services agencies and you generally get a lot of touch there," he explained.

Larsen was asked if the county health department actively conducted vaccination campaigns in the community.

"We are always here to provide information, but we don't go out and conduct campaigns," she replied.

According to the data from the OHA as presented by The Oregonian, there are some cases that demonstrate the relationship between economics and vaccination rates. At May Street and Hood River Middle, the percentage of "economically disadvantaged" students is listed at 47 percent. At the Hood River Valley High and at Wyeast Middle, the percentage is 56 and 71, respectively. Westside was at 49 percent, and no percentages were listed for Bright Beginnings or Horizon Christian.

Despite the increase in non-medical exemptions in the state — rising from a low of 2.1 percent during the 2001-02 school year — Larsen said the county's numbers have actually decreased, noting that the number of warning letters the health department has sent to parents who

had not turned in vaccination information this year was 138, as compared to last year's number, which Trish Elliott, the county's public health nurse supervisor, said was 200. The deadline for parents to supply information for their child's vaccine status is Feb. 18.

Despite the decreases, Larsen said she would still like to see the vaccination rate closer to 97 or 98 percent. When asked why she thought people weren't vaccinating, Larsen said that "there are just people who have fears for their children." She also suggested some of those fears may be attributed to "a very erroneous, negligent study that has been totally discredited" linking vaccines to autism.

Block also felt that concerns over vaccines could be on the minds of Horizon parents, although he did not indicate that the number was concerning to him.

"We'll evaluate that and consider whether we would encourage our families to get inoculated," he said. "I'm a little bit conflicted — I don't know, because I think some people think it's a risk to get vaccinations."

Goldman also planned to look into the numbers, and adamantly encouraged parents to have their children vaccinated. "I would say that we would urge all families to get their children vaccinated and that we support the best research to date which indicates that there are no discernible side effects and that the benefits far outweigh the risks," he said.

'Super' Bowl March 14

More than 250 "super heroes" from around the region will "Bowl for Kids' Sake" March 14 at Orchard Lanes in a fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Columbia Gorge. All teams are encouraged to wear their super hero clothing for a chance to win great prizes, and a "superhero" t-shirt (see logo). To learn about forming a team, go to nextdoorinc.org

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY

Pastor Terry Abbott
979 Tucker Rd.
Hood River, OR 97031
541-386-3656

www.river-of-life-assembly.org
For details check the current bulletin on our website
riveroflifeassembly@gmail.com

Service Schedule

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Early Worship Celebration

10:00 a.m. Coffee, Conversation & Refreshments

10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration & KidzChurch, K-6th*

6:00 p.m. Discipleship Classes (choose from three topics)*

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Royal Rangers & Mpat Girls Club (K-6th)*

Connect Groups for Adults (several groups to choose from)

Thursday

6:30 p.m. Youth Group 7-12th

7:00 p.m. Connect Group Upper Valley

*Childcare provided at the church for those attending

BAPTIST

1st BAPTIST CHURCH of ODELL

3081 Odell Hwy., 541-490-3171

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Morning Service 11 a.m.

Evening Service 6 p.m.

Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

1280 W. Jewett • White Salmon

Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

Jr/Sr. High Youth • Small Groups (call for times & location)

Pastor Mark Hoeffner (509) 493-2597

www.gracews.org

BELMONT DRIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

4200 Belmont Road

541-386-4201

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Sunday evening Bible study 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening Bible study 6:00 p.m.

PARKDALE BAPTIST

6310 Dee Hwy., 541-352-6515

Bobby Joe Beauchamp, Pastor

Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship, 11 a.m.

Evening Worship, 6 p.m.

Wednesday Study, 6 p.m.

TUCKER ROAD BAPTIST

Pastor Dean E. Kelly, Jr.

1455 Tucker Road

Hood River, OR 97031

541-386-1049

— Sundays —

Bible Study, All Ages, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship 6 p.m.

— Wednesdays —

Prayer Meeting 6 p.m.

CATHOLIC

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1501 Belmont, Hood River

Saturday Sacrament of Reconciliation in English/Spanish 4-5 p.m.

Saturday Mass in English 5:30 p.m.

Mass in Spanish 7 p.m.

Sunday Mass in Spanish 8 a.m.

Mass in English 10 a.m.

Mass in Spanish 1 p.m.

Holiday Masses

7 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 7 p.m.

Daily Mass 7:30 a.m.

Father Ronald M. Maag, Pastor, 541-386-3373

CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

HOOD RIVER ALLIANCE

"You're Always Welcome!"

2650 W. Montello St. 541-386-2812

www.hoodriveralliance.org

Steve Grace, Senior Pastor

John Blosser, Associate Pastor

Tina Graves, Youth Pastor

Emily Blosser, Worship Pastor

Sunday Morning 2 Worship Services 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Monday Night Senior Youth Group

Tuesday Night Celebrate Recovery Group, 6:15 p.m. (Contact Person: John Blosser 507-820-0871)

Wednesday Night Junior Youth Group

Nightly Activities Small group Bible studies through the week.

La Iglesia Esperanza Y Vida Sabado 6 p.m.

Spanish Service Saturday at 6 p.m.

Tony Estey, Pastor

Llame para un orario completo 541-806-2691

CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY

701 Washington St. The Dalles, OR 97058

Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

HOOD RIVER CHURCH OF CHRIST

1512 Tucker Road

Cody Singleton - Minister

9:45 Bible Classes

10:45 Services

541-386-2782

Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

ODELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

3784 Summit Drive

Worship 10:30 a.m.

541-354-3127

COVENANT CHRISTIAN

COVENANT HOOD RIVER

Pastor Fritz Stranz

Temporary service location

8th and Pacific (Horizon School)

Sunday service at 5pm

Wednesday Youth and KIDZ- call 541.386.8805 for location

covenanthr.org

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

HOOD RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Interim Pastor Myrna Phillips

975 Indian Creek Road

541-386-2608

hoodrivervalleychristianchurch.com

— Sunday —

9:30 a.m. Classes for all ages

10:30 a.m. Worship & Children Worship & Wonder

5:00 p.m. Youth meetings

Call for information on other programs for children, youth and adults

Childcare provided for all activities

EPISCOPAL

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

11th & Eugene

Rev. Anna Carmichael

Sunday Holy Eucharist at 8 and 10 a.m.

Child Care at 10 a.m.

Wednesday Holy Eucharist at 11:30 a.m

Everyone is welcome.

For more information, call: St. Mark's Office

541-386-2077

LDS

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

18th & May, Hood River

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Hood River Ward

Sacrament Meeting 10 a.m.

Sunday School 11:20 a.m.

Priesthood/Relief Society 12:10 p.m.

Grupo en Español

Hora Sacramental (Traducida) 10 a.m.

Escuela Dominical (Clase en Español) 11:20 a.m.

Sacerdocio y Sociedad de Socorro (En Ingles) 12:10 p.m.

LUTHERAN

CONCORDIA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELS

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

11th & Pine • Hood River

541-386-4004 or 541-298-8385

Pastor Jesse Jacobsen

Sunday School & Bible Class 8:00 a.m.

Divine Service 9:00 a.m.

Office Hours: Wednesday

www.concordiahoodriver.org

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

305 9th St. 386-3046

Pastor Jeff Mueller

www.ImmanuelHR.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Adult Bible Class 8:45 a.m.

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Children's Church 10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care 9:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

Small Groups All Week

Check our web page above for all the details

Sr. High Youth Group

Saturdays @ 6:30 p.m.

Middle School Youth Group

Fridays @ 3:30 p.m.

"It's all about RELATIONSHIPS!"

Please join us!

METHODIST/LUTHERAN

ASBURY OUR REDEEMER PARTNERSHIP

Pastor David King

1140 Tucker Road

541-386-3993

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:10:30 a.m. Fellowship

Time 10:30 a.m. Celebration

Worship

10:30 a.m. Christian Education

Everyone is welcome!

NAZARENE

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Joel & Mindy Alsworth, pastors

2168 Belmont Drive

Church Office: 541-386-2604

Fax: 541-386-2064

9 a.m.-Noon

Church Web site: www.hrnaz.org

Sunday

Worship Service — 9:30 a.m.

Christian Education/Sunday School (for all ages) — 11 a.m.

Monday-Thursday Home Group Studies

Tuesday: 6:30 a.m.

Men's Prayer Time

8 a.m. Ladies Breakfast

Downtown