

## UMATILLA COUNTY COVID-19 TREND

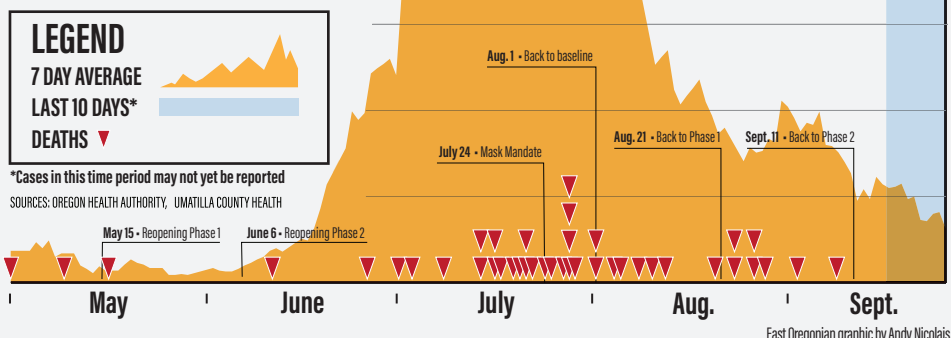
### TOTALS AS OF FRIDAY, SEPT. 25:

Umatilla County cases: **2,962** (58 new cases this week)

Umatilla County deaths: **41** (0 new deaths reported this week)

Oregon cases: **32,314** (1,972 new cases this week)

Oregon deaths: **542** (21 new deaths reported this week)



East Oregonian graphic by Andy Nicolais

## SCHOOL OPENING METRICS

For Umatilla County K-3 students, and for small rural and remote schools (≤ 250 students) to start in-person instruction:

- the county must have ≤ 30 cases per 100,000 population per week for three weeks in a row, AND
- the county must have a test positivity rate (measured weekly) of ≤ 5% for three weeks in a row AND
- they must have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 among school staff or students in the past 14 days.

For all schools in the county to open for in-person instruction:

- the county must have ≤ 10 cases per 100,000 population per week for three weeks in a row AND
- the county and state must have a test positivity rate (measured weekly) of ≤ 5% for three weeks in a row.

### TEST POSITIVITY RATE • Weekly goal is ≤ 5%

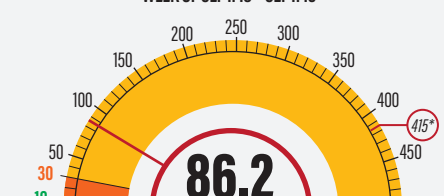
(Number of positive tests divided by number of people tested)

Week	Umatilla County	Oregon
Sept. 13-19	12.8%	6.2%
Sept. 6-12	20.4%	5.6%
Aug. 30-Sept. 5	16.3%	4.3%
Aug. 23-29	15.1%	4.4%

Source: Oregon Health Authority. Percentages may change week to week as data is updated.

### 7 DAY CASE RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION

WEEK OF SEPT. 13 - SEPT. 19



\*415 was the county's highest case rate, the week of July 24.

# City council to consider local improvement district

By JADE MCDOWELL  
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston City Council will consider forming a local improvement district for the South Hermiston Industrial Park during its Monday, Sept. 28, meeting.

The district, if formed by the ordinance up for a vote in the Sept. 28 meeting, would result in 18 property owners splitting \$500,000 in costs for a \$3 million project that

would add roads, water and sewer infrastructure to the industrial park. The remaining funding would come from a \$1.5 million federal Economic Development Administration grant, \$250,000 from the city of Hermiston, \$50,000 from Umatilla County and \$700,000 that the Port of Umatilla would be assessed under the district.

According to a staff report by Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan, the project would create new “shovel

### IF YOU GO

The Hermiston City Council meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 South Highway 395 and will be livestreamed on the city of Hermiston YouTube Channel. The full agenda packet can be found at [hermiston.or.us/meetings](http://hermiston.or.us/meetings).

ready” parcels of industrial land ranging from half-acre sites similar to those already filled along the nearby Kelli Avenue and Campbell Drive, and give access to larger parcels for big industrial projects.

If 60% of affected property owners oppose formation of a local improvement district it cannot go forward. Morgan stated in his staff report that five owners submitted official remonstrances in opposition,

but those five make up less than 60%, and the city also did not consider three of the remonstrances valid because the property owners had previously signed legal agreements not to oppose formation of an LID, in exchange for not having to pay for those improvements when they first developed their property.

The council will also consider a supplemental budget, which would authorize the expenditure of \$540,000 in CARES Act funds the city

has received, add \$159,890 to the reserve fund from the city’s insurance payout for fire damage to city hall, and increase the capital outlay for the city hall construction fund by \$9.6 million to pay for building a new city hall and remodeling the basement of the Hermiston Public Library.

The council will also hear several reports, including the August financial report and an update on the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

# EOC3 highlights threats of climate change on native bees

By ALEX CASTLE  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Roughly 75% of flowering plants and 35% of crops, amounting to \$3 billion worth of production, are believed to rely on the presence of bees to pollinate them each year.

In Oregon, much of that work is done by more than 625 native bee species that equally rely on the surrounding ecosystem and their interactions with it to survive. Those bee species, including those native to Eastern Oregon, could face a litany of challenges brought by a changing climate.

Those challenges were the topic of a virtual presentation delivered by Sandy DeBano, an associate professor in Oregon State University’s Department of Fish and Wildlife, during the Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition’s monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

DeBano, who is stationed at the OSU Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Hermiston, highlighted the potential danger of warming temperatures in the region resulting in “range compression” for bee species in Eastern Oregon.

“The hypothesis is that species that are adjusted to cooler conditions are going to move from lower latitudes and elevations to higher ones as the climate warms,” DeBano said.

While a lack of regional data doesn’t allow for definitive conclusions on how increased temperatures will impact regional bee populations, DeBano said, preliminary data alludes to the dangers they face.

At three separate locations — the Boardman Grasslands, Zumwalt Prairie in Wal-lowa County and the Starkey Experimental Forest — student researchers documented a variance of native bumble bee species that aligns with

the difference in the average temperatures in July at each location.

This data suggests that as temperatures rise in the region, the variance and quantity of bumble bee species may decline.

“Certainly other factors are contributing to bumble bee species richness, but a lot of these papers are consistently finding that some aspect of temperature is consistently playing a major role in determining or influencing bumble species richness,” DeBano said.

The potential for earlier summers may also disrupt the phenology of bees and plants in Eastern Oregon, DeBano said, which refers to the cycles of plants’ flowering times and bee activity to pollinate them.

“The result might be less food for bees and fewer plants being pollinated,” she said.

DeBano also noted concerns that perennial streams in the region, which flow throughout the year, will become more intermittent and negatively impact resources that bees need for food.

Other risks brought by climate change include exacerbated wildfires, which can kill native bees and disrupt their habitats in Eastern Oregon. These impacts and influences are still being researched and evaluated, DeBano said.

“The long-term effects are difficult to predict and are really dependent on the system,” she said.

But DeBano also highlighted some actions that individuals can take to address the potential dangers of climate change on bee populations, particularly by using pesticides responsibly.

“We can conserve habitat where native bees are, we can enhance existing habitat, we can increase habitat, and I think really important is that we can reduce stressors,” she said.

## Cultural organizations get grant relief

UMATILLA COUNTY — More than a dozen cultural organizations in Umatilla County are set to receive more than \$500,000 for relief from the coronavirus pandemic, according to a press release.

A total of \$25.7 million in grants is being distributed to 621 organizations throughout the state by the Oregon Cultural Trust, which is working with local cultural coalitions to provide relief for organizations that have suffered economic losses due to the pandemic.

“The funds were made available through a \$50 million relief package for Oregon culture approved by the Emergency Board of the Oregon Legislature in July,” the press release stated.

Organizations receiving funding across the state include cultural institutions, county fairgrounds, cultural entities within federally recognized Indian Tribes based in Oregon, festivals and community event orga-

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Oct. 6 candidate forum scheduled

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce is planning a forum for Hermiston City Council and Umatilla County Board of Commissioners candidates on Oct. 6.

The forum will begin at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 South Highway 395. Limited seating,

spaced 6 feet apart, will be available and masks will be required. The event will be livestreamed by Hermiston School District online.

Dan Dorran and HollyJo Beers are running to replace Bill Elfering on the Umatilla County Board of Commissioners. David McCarthy, Rod Hardin, Doug Primmer, Nancy Peterson and Maria Duron are running for the four, at-large seats on the Hermiston City Council.

— EO Media Group



## DEQ Public Notice

Woodgrain Millwork, Inc.  
Pilot Rock Lumber  
Pilot Rock, Oregon

Has applied for an Oregon Title V  
Operating Permit Renewal

The Department of Environmental Quality is providing an opportunity for public comment. For a copy of the draft permit and review report call Nancy Swofford at 541-633-2021 or call toll free in Oregon at 866-863-6668. You can also access the draft documents from DEQ’s “Public Notices” page at [www.oregon.gov/deq/Get-Involved/Pages/Public-Notices.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/deq/Get-Involved/Pages/Public-Notices.aspx)



# Flu Season is Coming

# Drive Through Adult Flu Shot Clinic

Tuesday, September 29  
Wednesday, September 30  
10AM to 2PM

Pendleton Convention Center  
Parking Lot  
1601 Westgate - Pendleton

PLEASE WEAR A MASK IN YOUR VEHICLE WHEN YOU ARRIVE

FREE  
No Insurance Needed

For More Information: 541-278-3262

[sahpendleton.org](http://sahpendleton.org)

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[pendletonarts.org/online-resources](http://pendletonarts.org/online-resources)

