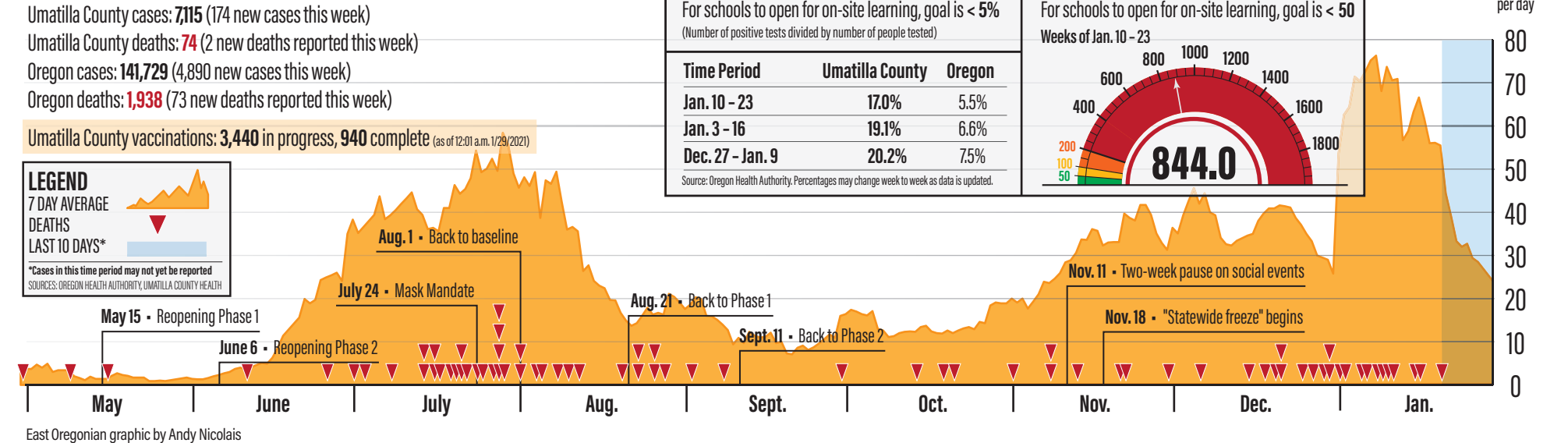


UMATILLA COUNTY COVID-19 TREND - AS OF JAN. 29



OSHA offers consultation services

Consultants will not issue citations, penalties found during process

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

SALEM — While people often associate Oregon’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration with fines and inspections, OSHA also offers services to help businesses avoid workplace hazards in the first place.

Oregon businesses can request a free consultation with the agency that includes services, such as risk assessment, safety trainings, sanitation advice and recommendations on eliminating hazards.

According to information provided by OSHA, the consultants will not issue citations or other penalties found through the consultation process, and will keep information confidential from other businesses.

“If you request a comprehensive consultation, the consultant will conduct an evaluation of the physical worksite, and then review your records, written programs, and your safety and health management plan,” the brochure states. “If you request a specific consultation, the consultant can focus on a specific operation, machine, or process at your worksite. You are in charge!”

Aaron Corvin, public information officer for Oregon OSHA, said in an email that the program

predates COVID-19, but can also be used for advice and problem solving specific to COVID-19 mitigation, and can now be conducted virtually. The agency conducted an average of 2,550 consultations a year from 2014-18, affecting an average of 95,969 employees a year.

If businesses don’t want a full consultation, they can also call OSHA with specific questions. Since the beginning of March 2020, Corvin said, OSHA’s consultation office has fielded 2,416 from Oregon businesses, lasting anywhere from a few minutes to an hour.

For more information on consultation services from OSHA, visit osha.osha.gov/consult/Pages/index.aspx or call the Pendleton office at 541-276-2353.

One city council candidate for Hermiston’s special election

Phillip Spicerkuhn sole candidate for city’s Ward IV

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Phillip Spicerkuhn will be the sole candidate on the ballot for a March 9 special election in Hermiston.

The election will determine who will represent Ward IV on Hermiston’s city council through the end of 2022. The seat was vacated by Doug Smith in September 2020, and the election is being held because Smith had more than two years left on his term.

Spicerkuhn, an attorney with Kuhn Law Office in Hermiston, was appointed

by the city council to fill the seat in the interim between Smith’s resignation and the special election.

He said in an email that he decided to run in the

“ALL OF THIS GIVES ME EXPERIENCE AND A PERSPECTIVE, WHICH WILL BE USEFUL TO THE CITIZENS OF HERMISTON.”

— Phillip Spicerkuhn, Hermiston City Council candidate

special election because he was raised to believe that being an active participant in a community is important. In the 10 years since

he moved to Hermiston he has been involved in various civic organizations, including the Lions Club and Hermiston Chamber of Commerce, and he said his work as an attorney has also given him experience with municipal law and governance groups.

“All of this gives me experience and a perspective, which will be useful to the citizens of Hermiston,” he said. “I look forward to working with for the citizens of Hermiston for the betterment of this great community.”

Ballots will be mailed to Hermiston residents a few weeks before the March 9 deadline to turn them in, and there will be an option to write in a candidate not on the ballot. Hermiston’s ballot drop box has been moved from city hall to the Stafford Hansell Government Center at 915 S.E. Columbia Drive, Hermiston.

LOCAL BRIEFING



Sheila Hagar/Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

One of the two vehicles involved in a crash on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021, on Highway 11 near Milton-Freewater.

Highway 11 crash near M-F injures two

MILTON-FREEWATER — A two-vehicle collision on Highway 11 near West Ballou Road north of town on Tuesday, Jan. 26, sent the driver of each vehicle to Providence St. Mary Medical Center for treatment.

Milton-Freewater woman Tanya L. Ramirez, 33, stopped her Ford F250 pickup on the road with her hazard lights on at about 5:50 p.m., according to the Oregon State Police.

She stopped because a mattress had slipped from the bed of a truck in front of her, police said.

Taylor R. Hodgen, 27, of Milton-Freewater, drove a Chevy truck owned by Walla Walla Electric into the back of Ramirez’s truck.

Both Ramirez and Hodgen were transported to the Walla Walla hospital with unknown injuries.

Highway 11 remained closed for about two hours.

Bridge Creek Management Plan up for review

PENDLETON — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is accepting public comments on an updated management plan for the Bridge Creek Wildlife Area.

Bridge Creek is located in Northeast Oregon, approx-

imately 3 miles south of Ukiah along Forest Road 52, in the Blue Mountains. The area protects key historic winter range for Rocky Mountain elk and provides year-round habitat for mule deer and a variety of other birds and mammals.

The plan is due for an update after it was first adopted 10 years ago. ODFW staff are not recommending major changes to the plan, but members of the public are welcome to offer their suggestions and send any comments to Jack Vaughn, Jack.O.Vaughn@state.or.us. Comments will be accepted until March 1.

Umatilla County announces 33 new COVID-19 cases

UMATILLA COUNTY — Umatilla County Public

Health announced 33 new COVID-19 cases for Friday, Jan. 29, according to the Region 9 COVID-19 Dashboard.

The Jan. 29 total comes after the county announced 24 new cases on Thursday, Jan. 28.

The new cases put the county at 7,115 known cases since the pandemic began last year. Umatilla County has reported 74 deaths from COVID-19.

Morrow County reported two new cases on Jan. 29, according to the Region 9 COVID-19 Dashboard. Oregon Health Authority reported five new cases for Morrow County on Jan. 28. The new cases push Morrow County’s total to 979 since the pandemic began. The county has reported 11 deaths.

— EO Media Group

THANK YOU!

Kevin Hale you went above and beyond any real estate agent I have ever worked with. You are an asset to your profession and your service was extraordinary! I am so very grateful and want to thank you for selling my houses.

Patsy-

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