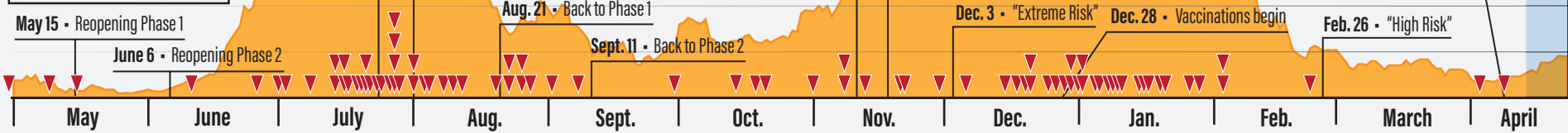


### UMATILLA COUNTY COVID-19 TREND - AS OF APRIL 23

Umatilla County cases: **8,020** (68 new cases this week)  
 Umatilla County deaths: **84** (1 new deaths reported this week)  
 Oregon cases: **179,120** (5,494 new cases this week)  
 Oregon deaths: **2,476** (19 new deaths reported this week)

Umatilla County vaccinations: **3,579** in progress, **15,097** complete (as of 12:01 a.m. 4/23/2021)

**LEGEND**  
 7 DAY AVERAGE DEATHS LAST 10 DAYS\*  
\*Cases in this time period may not yet be reported  
SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, UMATILLA COUNTY HEALTH



East Oregonian graphic by Andy Nicolais

#### TEST POSITIVITY RATE

For all K-12 to open for on-site learning, goal is < 5%  
 (Number of positive tests divided by number of people tested)

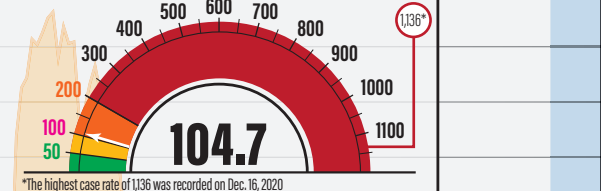
Time Period	Umatilla County	Oregon
April 4 - 17	4.7%	5.1%
March 28 - April 10	3.0%	4.6%
March 21 - April 3	3.8%	4.1%

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

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

For all K-12 to open for on-site learning, goal is < 50

Weeks of April 4 - 17



Avg. cases per day

## Community garden gets ready for planting season

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
*East Oregonian*



Jade McDowell/East Oregonian

**Uppa Shakya, left, and her husband Suva Shakya paint wood stain on the new raised beds at Lovin' Spadefuls Community Garden in Hermiston on Saturday, April 17, 2021.**

HERMISTON — The Lovin' Spadefuls Community Garden in Hermiston was abuzz with more than just the insects as volunteers recently held a work party to get the garden in shape.

Onsite registration for plots at the garden, available on a first-come-first-served basis for \$10 for the season, will be Friday, April 30, from 4-7 p.m. and Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to noon. The garden is located on the Elm Street side of the Good Shepherd Health Care System campus. Plots still available after the on-site registration days will be available for signup at the Umatilla Morrow Head Start/WIC offices.

As the garden celebrates its 10-year anniversary this summer, it boasts new amenities, including 10 raised plots. Garden director Chelle Hankinson said the raised beds, lifted up a few feet off the ground by wooden boxes, are geared toward elderly gardeners and those with disabilities that make it difficult for them to kneel in the dirt.

"We're helping every demographic we can," she said.

On April 17, volunteers were using wood stain to help protect the newly constructed raised beds, while others were putting together the irrigation systems for them. Other volunteers had already worked to lay out the painted bricks

that mark off each plot, and painted buckets with colorful inspirational messages.

Husband and wife Suva and Uppa Shakya were working together to spread wood stain over one of the raised beds.

"We've been with the garden since the beginning," Suva said. "Our daughter running around over there was in her belly when we started."

Uppa said they enjoy bringing their children to the garden each summer to teach them how to grow their own food. The family also enjoys the fresh produce they receive from it all summer, including tomatoes, beans, okra, garlic, onions and melons.

As the garden prepares to open for the season, Hankinson said the community continues to be incredibly generous.

The new raised beds were

paid for by a \$4,800 grant from the Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation plus other private donations, including lumber from Home Depot and irrigation parts from Elmer's Irrigation.

Hankinson said they plan to create a small oasis of grass, flowers and a bench in the center of the garden this year for people to rest from weeding or planting.

Over the years the garden has also added a security camera system, a shed with tools for garden members to use, an improved irrigation system, a greenhouse, new signs and other amenities. The Master Gardeners program has a plot with culinary herbs that this year will include additional signs about how to grow and use the herbs.

"I just keep reaching for the stars, and they just keep falling into my hands," Hankinson said.

### LOCAL BRIEFING

#### Helix resident honored at 'Ageless Awards'

HELIX — Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, of Helix, was one of four Oregonians honored at the ninth annual Ageless Awards, celebrating community service later in life, according to a press release from the Oregon-based nonprofit AGE+.

The event, held virtually on Thursday, April 22, recognized remarkable people 75 and older who redefine societal expectations; live with purpose; and serve their communities, the press release said.

"Every person, regardless of age, has the capacity to contribute to their community. This year's Ageless Award honorees make the best of the gift of long life and generously share it in service to others," said AGE+ founder and Chief Executive Officer Keren Brown Wilson.

Rees, a Vietnam veteran who received the Bronze Star for his service during a particularly dangerous

tour, was appointed as adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard in 1987 by then-Gov. Neil Goldschmidt. He would become one of the state's longest-serving adjutant generals over a period spanning 17 years.



Rees

create local programs to help residents.

Hermiston is slated to get \$3.6 million — half this summer, and the other half in 2022. The city could also receive additional funds through state and federal grants being created through the act.

According to the agenda packet for the meeting, some ideas staff have brainstormed include replenishing the city's general fund to make up for lost revenue during the pandemic, providing relief funds to local businesses affected by pandemic regulations, creating an assistance fund for utility customers who fell behind on their bills, or funding capital improvement projects to help boost the economy, such as road improvements or broadband connections.

The council will also discuss adoption of a master plan for the city's sewer collection system. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center and will be livestreamed on the city's YouTube page.

—EO Media Group

#### Hermiston City Council to discuss plan for stimulus

HERMISTON — The Hermiston City Council will discuss the city's plans for spending \$3.6 million coming to the city from the American Rescue Plan during its Monday, April 26, meeting.

The American Rescue Plan Act is the \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus package passed in March. One part of the act sends direct payments to cities and counties, to help them recover revenue lost during the pandemic and to

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## Stanfield celebrates Arbor Day



**Eldon Marcum flips hot dogs at a Trucks, Tractors and Trees event hosted by the Stanfield Parks and Recreation Department at Bard Park in Stanfield on Thursday, April 22, 2021. The event, an early Arbor Day celebration, featured free hotdogs and trees, as well as a variety of heavy machinery for kids to explore.**

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian



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