

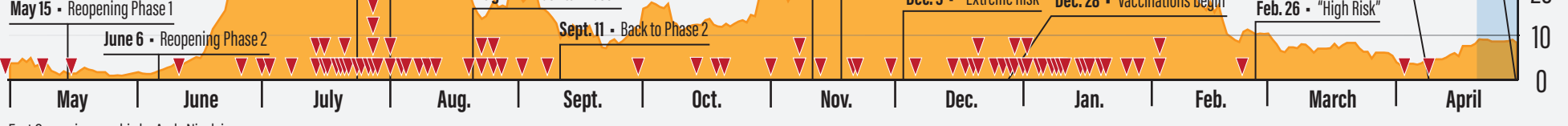
UMATILLA COUNTY COVID-19 TREND - AS OF APRIL 30

Umatilla County cases: **8,079** (59 new cases this week)
 Umatilla County deaths: **84** (0 new deaths reported this week)
 Oregon cases: **184,812** (5,692 new cases this week)
 Oregon deaths: **2,495** (19 new deaths reported this week)

Umatilla County vaccinations: **3,375** in progress, **15,830** complete (as of 12:01 a.m. 4/30/2021)

LEGEND
 7 DAY AVERAGE DEATHS LAST 10 DAYS*

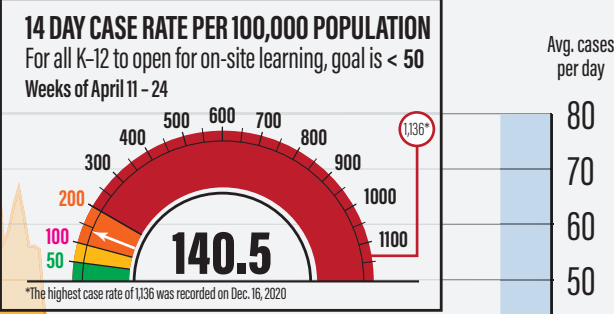
*Cases in this time period may not yet be reported
 SOURCES: OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY, UMATILLA COUNTY HEALTH



East Oregonian graphic by Andy Nicolais

Time Period	Umatilla County	Oregon
April 11 - 24	5.1%	5.7%
April 4 - 17	4.7%	5.1%
March 28 - April 10	3.0%	4.6%

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



Fate of Green Property back under consideration

Paradigm Compass declines to build \$4M assisted living, memory care, independent living complex

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — An idea to turn an undeveloped piece of city property into a senior living project in Hermiston has hit a significant bump after the developer the city had planned to partner with backed out.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

The city of Hermiston was interested in offering 7.18 acres of land, near the city's recycled water treatment plant, for a potential senior living development.

City Manager Byron Smith said during the Hermiston City Council's Monday, April 26, council meeting that Paradigm Compass LLC had decided not to build a \$4 million combination assisted living, memory care and independent living complex after all.

The city purchased a 20-acre parcel next to the Recycled Water Treatment Plant, known as the Green Property, in 2005 for \$420,000, but plans to use it for recycled water cooling did not pan out. In late 2020, Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan proposed giving a 7-acre piece of the property to a developer for free if they would build housing for seniors on it, which would provide what the city felt was a needed service, and generate revenue over time through property taxes and utilities. The city put out a request for proposals and selected the proposed project by Paradigm Compass.

When the company presented its plan to the city council during their April 12 meeting, however, representatives of Guardian Angel Homes and Sun Terrace

testified that they already had trouble filling their assisted living facilities and Hermiston did not need another such facility. City councilors voted at that meeting to take two weeks to consider the information presented by both sides.

On April 26, Smith said Paradigm Compass had pulled out after internal discussions and additional due diligence.

"It seemed like maybe they were able to verify at some level some of the information that was provided by the competitors, and that maybe they felt like they needed to relook at their market study," he said.

Mayor David Drotzmann and some other councilors expressed frustration that the project had fallen apart after coming so far. Drotzmann noted the many hours that Morgan and other staff, as well as councilors who served on the selection

committee for the proposals, spent on it, and told other councilors that "you are always going to have critics."

Councilor Nancy Peterson, who had been the one to initially propose postponing a decision until April 26, pushed back on the idea that the council's decision not to approve the next step in the plan was what caused Paradigm Compass's decision, stating if the company had been truly committed to going forward, an extra two weeks to consider the information shouldn't have been enough to derail it.

Morgan said there were developers who would still be interested in the property for other purposes. Councilors came to a consensus that they were still interested in offering up the property for a project that would serve the public good, and staff said they would regroup and come back with more information and ideas at a later date.



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Spencer commits to serving on Pendleton School Board if elected

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — On the day ballots started going out to Umatilla County

tribal leaders and elders. If elected, Spencer said she would "step away" from the Nixyaawii board.

"With this unanimous support, I will serve on the Pendleton School (Board) if elected," she said in a statement. "I am honored to have the support and trust of community members, tribal leaders, and the Nixyaawii Community School Board to be a voice for our community."

The press release also included statements from General Council Chair Lindsey Watchman and Board of Trustees Treasurer Sandra Sampson, two tribal officials who have endorsed her campaign.

"With the number of Tribal members in the district, Briana will be more effective serving on the Pendleton Board, to look out for our youth

within that structure," Sampson said.

Spencer had asked McBee, the Pendleton board chair, if she could serve on both boards. McBee didn't discourage her, but promised to research the issue.

McBee wouldn't be able to deliver a definitive answer until she eventually met with the district's legal counsel, who identified the law. By that time, Spencer had already won her seat with Nixyaawii and the dropout deadline for the Pendleton seat had already passed.

Election Day is May 18.



Spencer

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