

West Umatilla Mosquito Control District starts control activities

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The West Umatilla Mosquito Control District has started implementing its 2021 mosquito control program, according to a press release.

The district serves a 525-square-mile area in western Umatilla County, including the towns of Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo, and will target areas of standing water where mosquito larvae thrive. Large water bodies will be sprayed with a helicopter, while smaller areas will be treated by hand. To control adult mosquitoes, the district plans to make treatments using truck-mounted, ultra-low volume sprayers, which will be done after sunset in areas of the district that have large populations of adult mosquitoes.

MORE INFORMATION

Residents are encouraged to:

- Vaccinate horses for West Nile virus.
- Wear repellents while outdoors at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito-infested areas.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, Picaridin or 2-undecanone, making sure to follow the label directions on the container.
- Use EPA-registered residual insect sprays on horses making sure to follow the label

directions on the container.

- Make sure all screen doors and windows are in good repair and fit tightly.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water, which act as a breeding ground for biting mosquitoes. This includes flooded fields, birdbaths, unused wading pools and swimming pools, clogged gutters and old tires. If it holds water for seven days, it can produce mosquitoes.
- Stock mosquito fish in water troughs and ornamental ponds. They are available for free at the district office.

In rural areas, the district will begin aerial spraying to control adult mosquitoes when mosquito trap collections indicate the need for large scale spraying. Aerial spraying for adult mosquitoes will be done in the early evening hours just after sunset, the release said.

Of the 45 species of mosquitoes found in Oregon, the district commonly sees 12 species of mosquitoes including two that are possible carriers of West Nile virus.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the district is continuing to take measures to keep the public

and its employees as safe as possible, while achieving its goal of protecting the public from mosquito-borne disease.

If residents do not wish to have their property sprayed, call the district at 541-567-5201 and ask to be placed on the no-spray list.

LOCAL BRIEFING

McKay to take over as Heppner District Ranger

PENDLETON — The Heppner District of the Umatilla National Forest will soon have a new ranger.

Doug McKay will take over the position, according to a press release, toward the end of June. McKay currently serves as a district ranger on the Winter Rim Zone, which includes both the Paisley and Silver Lake ranger districts, of the Fremont-Winema National Forest in Southern Oregon.



McKay

“I am extremely excited to be a part of the Umatilla National Forest and the local community,” he said. “I look forward to meeting the district and forest staff and working collaboratively with the public and our partners throughout the area in the very near future.”

McKay replaces Brandon Houck, who has taken a district ranger position on the Bighorn National Forest. McKay brings a variety of experience to the Umatilla National Forest, including a strong natural resources and fire management background and experience working with a variety of tribal governments, county commissioners, partners, public stakeholders and other federal agencies.

McKay has worked as the Winter Rim Zone district ranger on the Fremont-Winema National Forest since 2015. McKay is responsible for leading a large and geographically dispersed organization, managing a complex landscape, leading fire management efforts to protect communities, and working closely with a variety of external stakeholders.

Pendleton project set for final legislative vote

SALEM — Pendleton would join Bend and Redmond in an affordable housing pilot program under a bill now one step from legislative approval.

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery on Monday, May 10, voted 4-1 to send House Bill 2160 to the full Senate for final approval. It's expected to win overwhelming approval sometime in the next few weeks.

The legislation would add Pendleton to a state pilot program that allows cities to experiment with affordable housing projects beyond their Urban Growth Boundary. Advocates say the pilot projects could be a model for widespread use around the state in the future.

HB 2160, sponsored by Rep. Bobby Levy, R-Echo, would green light Land Conservation and Development Commission approval for an eventual plan to build on up to 50 acres outside of Pendleton's current development limits.

The bill passed the House unanimously last month.

Bend was the first city to receive approval for a project outside of the UGB, which usually requires a longer, more rigorous review process. Redmond joined the program as the second project and, if approved, Pendleton would become the third.

State and local planning officials have touted the program as a way to see if limited projects outside of city's normal development footprint can ease the high price of housing in the state.

Gov. Kate Brown has supported the projects and is expected to sign the bill if and when it gets to her desk.

— EO Media Group

HERMISTON

Council wants to RAPP with local restaurants

Program will distribute \$10 gift cards to residents

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — A customer's next lunch tab could be paid for, courtesy of the city of Hermiston.

At a Monday, May 10, meeting, the Hermiston City Council unanimously voted 6-0 to direct city staff to work with the Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce on developing the Restaurant Assistance Pilot Program, or RAPP.

Inspired by a similar initiative the city did with Hermiston Cinema and the Desert Lanes bowling alley over the summer, the program would use \$50,000 from the

latest COVID-19 federal relief package to create gift certificates redeemable at Hermiston restaurants.

Assistant City Manager Mark Morgan said the city still needed to finalize the details with the chamber, but staff wanted to get the program funded before the end of the fiscal year in June.

According to a draft outline of the plan, Hermiston would distribute \$10 gift cards to city residents through their utility accounts, the chamber, Hermiston Parks and Recreation and the Hermiston Public Library. Participating restaurants would accept the gift cards as payment, and then turn in the cards to the chamber for reimbursement. The program is expected to run through the end of the year.

Councilor Nancy Peterson

asked if the city was planning on tracking purchases made by the gift card to determine whether the program was effective, while Mayor Dave Drotzmann asked if recipients could make some sort of cash match before acquiring the gift cards.

“They won't just get a free cheeseburger,” he said. “They have a little skin in the game.”

Chamber CEO Kristina Olivas said the goal was to keep the program as simple as possible to ensure wide participation from the city's restaurants, whether they were chamber members or not.

Olivas said the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local restaurant industry have been uneven — many of Hermiston's most popular restaurants were able to use increased revenue from

drive-thru and delivery to make up for the shutdown to indoor dining, while the smaller “mom and pop” restaurants were trying to figure out how to stay open.

Councilor Roy Barron was concerned about equity, saying a number of smaller restaurants, particularly Latino-owned restaurants, were neither members of the chamber or the Hermiston Latino Business Network and typically struggled with gaining access to assistance programs.

Olivas said she was aware of the issue and would work toward marketing the pilot program to the Latino business community. But she also added that the chamber and city wouldn't be able to dictate which participating restaurants consumers spent their gift cards at.

An Update for the Residents of Morrow County

We, as the Board of Directors of Morrow County Health District, wish to emphasize that every decision made as a governing board is with the understanding that our primary duty is to work diligently to safeguard the continued delivery of quality healthcare for every resident of our county. Though change can be perceived as an adverse event, we at Morrow County Health District are resilient, and we view change as an opportunity to make us stronger, better, and the place where the communities we serve can always rely on for their health and wellness needs.

With this in mind, the Board of Directors of Morrow County Health District has made a change to the executive leadership team overseeing operations of Pioneer Memorial Hospital, the county's primary care clinics, and EMS, as well as our Home Health and Hospices services. Effective May 7, 2021, Mr. Ryan Fowler is no longer employed by the District, and we have replaced him with Mr. Victor VanderDoes. For some, Victor's name may be familiar as he served as CEO for MCHD for over a decade before retiring in 2009. We are grateful that Victor has agreed to return to Heppner to serve as Interim CEO during our search for a permanent replacement for our outstanding organization.

The Board wishes to thank the MCHD executive team, including Dr. Dan Hambleton, Chief Medical Officer, Nicole Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, Kathleen Greenup, Chief Nursing Officer, Kris Jones, Chief Operating Officer, and Patti Allstott, Human Resources Director, for their continued service and leadership. Together, they will work with Victor to ensure MCHD continues to uphold the pillars of our Promise of Excellence, pursue the objectives of Healthier Morrow County, and keep the organization moving in the right and best direction.

During this National Hospital Week 2021, please join us in thanking every caregiver working at MCHD. They continue to do and be their best because of you.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to provide the residents of Morrow County with excellent care and service and strive to be your first choice today and always.

Sincerely,

Morrow County Health District Board of Directors

John Murray, Chairman Carri Grieb Aaron Palmquist Marie Shimer

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There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction.

- Winston Churchill