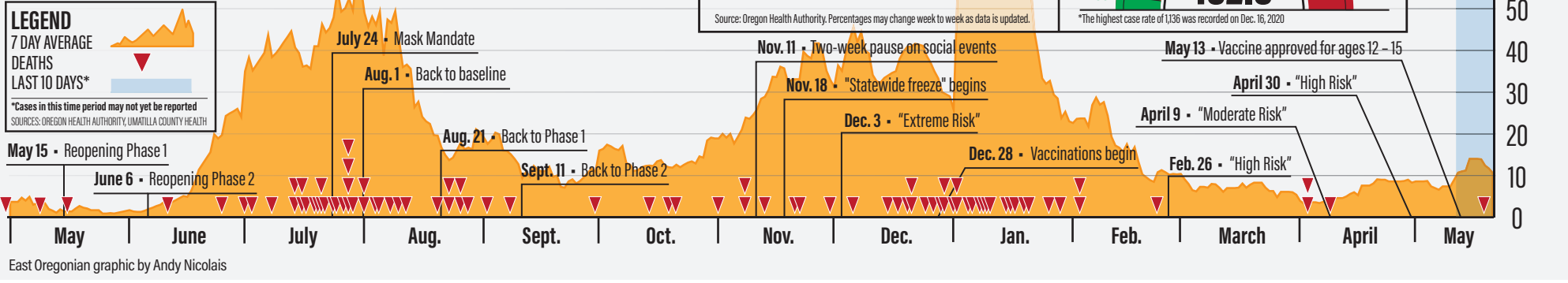


**UMATILLA COUNTY COVID-19 TREND - AS OF MAY 21**

Umatilla County cases: **8,316** (98 new cases this week)  
 Umatilla County deaths: **86** (2 new deaths reported this week)  
 Oregon cases: **197,851** (3,309 new cases this week)  
 Oregon deaths: **2,613** (31 new deaths reported this week)  
 Umatilla County vaccinations: **3,106** in progress, **18,366** complete (as of 12:01 a.m. 05/21/2021)



**Hermiston to award contract for industrial park project**

By **JADE MCDOWELL**  
*East Oregonian*

HERMISTON — The Hermiston City Council will meet on Monday, May 24, to discuss bids for a project adding roads, water and sewer lines to the South Hermiston Industrial Park. Tapani, Inc., of Richland, Washington, is the apparent

**IF YOU GO**

The Hermiston City Council meets on Monday, May 24, at 7 p.m. at the Hermiston Community Center, 415 S. Highway 395, and the meeting is also livestreamed on the city's YouTube channel. The full agenda packet can be found at [hermiston.or.us/meetings](http://hermiston.or.us/meetings).

low bidder out of four bids, at \$1.61 million. The project is designed to make a portion of the the industrial area off South Highway 395 "shovel ready"

for small, light industrial projects. The council will also vote on adopting a wayfinding sign program that the city's planning department has been working on. The program will place a coordinated, decorative system of signs around the city directing people to landmarks ranging from city parks to free public parking lots to the downtown shopping district. The council will also consider an update to the city's sidewalk policy, as part of its ongoing updates to all chapters of the code of ordinances. According to the agenda packet for the meeting, the updated chapter does not include any policy changes, just updated language.

**Walla Walla man pleads guilty in 2018 fatal shooting near Umapine**

It's the second time Vasquez-Vargas has been sentenced to prison for the killing of a person

By **BRYCE DOLE**  
*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — A Walla Walla man pleaded guilty on Tuesday, May 18, in the 2018 shooting death of his co-worker at a dairy outside of Umapine. Antonio Vasquez-Vargas, 55, was sentenced to 20 years in state prison for first-degree manslaughter and a consecutive two-and-a-half years for possessing a weapon as a convicted felon, court records show. He also will serve two-and-a-half years under post-prison supervision, documents show. He pleaded guilty in the fatal shooting of Renee Luiz-Antonio, of Milton-Freewater, who was Vasquez-Vargas' co-worker, according to news reports. "Ultimately I am really pleased with this case," said Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus. "You're talking about a victim's family that can move forward at this point." The guilty plea makes this the second time Vasquez-Vargas has killed a person, news reports show. In 1999, *Walla Walla Union-Bulletin* reports show Vasquez-Vargas was sentenced to two years, three months in prison after pleading guilty to vehicular homicide. The 2½ year case against Vasquez-Vargas was an especially long process because he was provided new counsel just before his trial date, and because of mental health evaluations that needed to be conducted, Primus said. "I would not say this was average," he said. "But every case is unique. Every case



Vasquez-Vargas

**Man pleads guilty in Pendleton murder**

William Harvey Butcher III will serve 25 years to life in prison

*East Oregonian*

PENDLETON — A man was sentenced to life in prison on Wednesday, May 19, with the possibility of parole in the beating death of a man in Pendleton in June 2020. William Harvey Butcher III, 29, of Hollywood, Maryland, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the Umatilla County Circuit Court. He will serve 25 years to life in prison with 100 years of post-prison supervision, and is ordered to pay a \$2,535.66 restitution, court documents show. "I am more than pleased with the outcome of this case," said Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus. "But for the victim's family, this will be with them for the rest of their life." Last June, police found Daniel Self, 47, who was experiencing homelessness while living in Pendleton, badly beaten on Pendleton's Westgate Place Bridge near Trailhead Park, according to news reports and court documents. Butcher, who was also experiencing homelessness, was found and arrested at the scene covered in blood. He confessed in an interview with police that same day to beating Self with the backside of an ax and strangling him, according to court documents. Self was transported to St. Anthony Hospital, where he died from his injuries, documents show. Butcher can apply for parole after 25 years in prison, according to court documents.



Butcher

**LOCAL BRIEFING**

**Voters elect three Library District members**

PENDLETON — Incumbent John Thomas will be returning to the Umatilla County Library District board, along with newcomers Jubilee Barron and Sharone Pettus McCann, according to unofficial results for the May 19 election. Thomas, McCann and Caleb Barron were all running for a pair of at-large seats, with the top two vote-getters of the group taking the two seats. Thomas had the most votes at 38.8%, followed by McCann at 36%. Thomas is at the end of his first four-year term on the board and served as president of the board from 2019 to 2020. He lives in Pendleton and is a licensed clinical social worker for the Oregon Health Authority. McCann is from Stanfield and is retiring this year after 36 years teaching at Blue Mountain Community College. Three candidates were also running for a single seat, representing the remaining two years of a term previously held by Kara Davis, who resigned after moving out of the area. Jubilee Barron beat Fatima Machado and Gaby Gonzalez,

with 45.4% of the vote. Barron lives in Umatilla and currently earns a living doing odd jobs.

COVID-19 cases on Friday, May 21, raising the total number of cases to 8,316 since the pandemic began. — *EO Media Group*

**Umatilla County reports two COVID-19 deaths**

PENDLETON — Umatilla County Public Health announced two COVID-19 deaths this week, raising the death toll in the county to 86 since the pandemic began. The first death was announced on Thursday, May 20, and the second came the following day. They are the first COVID-related deaths reported by the county since April 23, according to county health data. The first victim is a 80-year-old man who tested positive on March 26 and died on April 3 at Trios Health Hospital in Kennewick, Washington, according to county health. The second victim is an 82-year-old man who tested positive on May 4 and died on May 19 at Pacific Health and Rehabilitation in Tigard, according to county health. Both men had undisclosed underlying health conditions, according to the county. The disclosures come as the county reported 23 new

**"Scramble for Scholarships" Friday, June 11th**  
 1pm Shotgun Start

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

**Big River Golf Course - Umatilla**

Golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate in the 28th annual "Scramble for Scholarships" golf tournament. Four person teams can sign up together or individual pairings can be made by the tournament committee. Your \$70 entry fee covers green fees, a box lunch, and makes a charitable donation to the foundation to use in awarding scholarships to local medical students.

Register at [gscfscramble.eventbrite.com](https://gscfscramble.eventbrite.com) or call 541-667-3405. Entry deadline is June 9th.

Great prize holes and Hole-in-one on #1 & #9  
**WINS \$25,000 towards a new car sponsored by ROGERS TOYOTA OF HERMISTON**

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**CHI St. Anthony Hospital**  
 541-276-5121  
 3807 ST. ANTHONY WAY • PENDLETON

**Use BE FAST to remember warning signs of stroke:**

- BALANCE:** Sudden loss of balance
- EYES:** Sudden loss of vision in one or both eyes.
- FACE:** Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
- ARMS:** Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- SPEECH:** Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?
- TIME:** If you observe any of these signs, **CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY**

For more information, visit [stroke.org](http://stroke.org)