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EAST OREGON

JUNE 5-6, 2021



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Brown announces plan for lifting restrictions

If state hits vaccination rate, Round-Up would be good to go

By GARY A. WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Nearly all COVID-19 restrictions could be lifted in as early as just over two weeks, Gov. Kate Brown said Friday, June 4. The state is about 127,000 adults

short of the goal of getting at least one shot of vaccine into 70% of eligible residents.

Once the state crosses the threshold, Brown said she would lift masking, business capacity, event size, social distance and other limits that Oregonians have dealt with for more than a year.

"We can fully reopen — we can all look forward to that," she said.

Local health officials would then take over the daily decision making and operations in counties from the Oregon Health Authority.

Brown said even very large

events, such as the Pendleton Round-Up in September, would be good to go once the state hits its target vaccination rate.

Oregon's statewide mark stood at 66.2% on June 2. OHA Director Pat Allen said that if the current pace continues, the mark would be hit about June 21.

"This is not a slam dunk," Allen said.

Allen said that the June 30 deadline set earlier in the year by the governor was well within reach.

"It will take a lot of work by a lot of people to get it done," Allen said.

Lifting restrictions would include:

- Ending the risk level system for counties of lower, moderate, high and extreme.
- Ending a state requirement for masks and face coverings in almost all settings. Exceptions would be airports, public transit, and health care settings that follow federal agency guidelines.
- Ending requirements for individuals to show vaccination verification in public venues and businesses.
- Allowing K-12 students to attend school in-person, full time, five days per week.

K-12 guidance is being revised to support schools in safely delivering in-person instruction throughout the school day.

Current health and safety standards, including indoor mask requirements, will remain in place in workplaces, schools and child care settings. Colleges and universities can make their own decisions on protocols after considering guidance from the Centers for Disease Control.

Brown said the move would not mean the pandemic was over in

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County creates vaccine incentive program

By BRYCE DOLE
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Umatilla County organizations have the opportunity to receive funding if they assist COVID-19 vaccination efforts as part of a new program to drive up the county's dismal vaccination rates.

The county health department created the "Community Rewards Program," which the county board of commissioners unanimously approved at its meeting Wednesday, June 2.

The program will work by ZIP code and will be available for not-for-profit organizations, including fraternal, civic and religious organizations, though specific criteria are in development, officials say. The county will be one of the first in the state to make such an effort using incentives, according to Commissioner John Shafer.

When 60% of residents over the age of 18 in a ZIP code are vaccinated, the county will divide \$10,000 worth of funds evenly between each organization that has assisted the county's vaccination efforts, with additional funds based on population.

The ZIP code encompassing the city of Hermiston, for example, has the opportunity to receive \$113,000 from the program, Fiumara said. The

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Graduates throw their caps Thursday, June 3, 2021, after the conclusion of speeches at the Hermiston High School commencement ceremony at the high school.

Remembering the good

Hermiston High School graduates take a moment to reflect on high school careers

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — As they walked out the door of Hermiston High School for the last time, there were mixed emotions from the Class of 2021.

Some were grinning as they left the graduation ceremony at the high school on Thursday, June 3. Others got a bit teary-eyed as they hugged friends and family. While many said they were glad to be leaving behind a difficult school year, most could find good memories of high school, too.

Angel Barron said his favorite memory was winning the state football championship his freshman year. "It was really cold, but otherwise really cool," he said.

The Bulldogs took home the Oregon 5A title in November 2017, going out on top as they headed to the Mid-Columbia Conference to



Ella Hagel gives a farewell address to graduates Thursday, June 3, 2021, before leading the turning of the tassels at Hermiston High School's commencement.

compete against Washington schools. Now, Barron heads to Blue Mountain Community College to study criminal justice.

William Kern's best memory also was from his first year of high school, when he and the rest of the cast took their bows at the end of the musical "Seussical."

Theater and choir were highlights for him the rest of his high school career, and after playing Horton he went on to play other lead roles,

including the Scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz."

Now, he plans to start out at BMCC before eventually transferring to a four-year university to finish up a bachelor's degree in business.

"I'll save some money at home," he said.

Graduation this year kicked off with a gathering of all the seniors in the high school gym, where they

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Pendleton Comes Alive goes live

Tourism initiative intended to rekindle visitor interest in city

By ANTONIO SIERRA
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The advertising for Pendleton Comes Alive is not subtle.

"Let's get wild in Pendleton" states a poster now circulating, which also encourages visitors to "Spend your Saturdays in the Wild West."

Bolstered by a two-year, \$400,000 contribution from the city government, Pendleton Comes Alive is a tourism initiative meant to restoke visitor interest in Pendleton as the COVID-19 pandemic begins to wind down. A collaboration between the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce, the Pendleton Downtown Association, the Round-Up and other tourism interests, the effort intends to make Pendleton a tourism destination by packing Saturdays from June 5 to Sept. 4 with events and attractions.

Among the new additions are horseback rides, Wild West shows, tours of the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds and live music on Main Street. The concert series will start on Saturday with country musician Cale Moon.

Members of the various groups involved in Pendleton Comes Alive gathered on the 400 block of South Main Street on Thursday, June 3, to spruce up the area and do some tree trimming with the help of Eastern Tree Service.

Once the work was done, they met at the Rainbow Cafe for a celebratory meal, where they spoke about their collective efforts.

Kristen Dollarhide, the manager of Travel Pendleton, said the idea behind Pendleton Comes Alive is to take advantage of

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**NEED 29.9% MORE
UMATILLA COUNTY RESIDENTS
TO GET VACCINATED**

www.sahpendleton.org

UMATILLA COUNTY

35.1% → 65%

**When reached
COUNTY
REOPENS!**

As of
6/3/2021

