

State reports 14 workplace outbreaks in Umatilla, Morrow counties

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Fourteen workplaces in Umatilla and Morrow counties reported outbreaks in the Oregon Health Authority's most recent weekly report.

It was the second straight week where workplace outbreaks declined in the county as infection is slowing slightly across the region and state. Most of the facilities reported a few extra cases, and

several reported no changes since last week's report.

The state publishes an active outbreak in nursing homes if the facility reports more than three cases. The outbreak is considered resolved if no new cases are reported within 28 days of the last case. The local assisted living facilities with COVID-19 outbreaks are:

- Regency Hermiston Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Hermiston, 33 cases and one death since July 15.

- Willowbrooke Terrace, Pendleton, 21 cases and one death since July 30.

- Cascade Valley Assisted Living & Memory Care, Milton-Freewater, nine cases since Sept. 2.

- Ashley Manor — Sage, Umatilla, 12 cases since Sept. 27.

- Juniper House, Pendleton, eight cases since Oct. 1.

The state publishes a workplace outbreak when five or more cases are reported at a facility with 30

or more workers. An outbreak is considered resolved if no new cases are reported within 28 days of the last case.

- Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, 62 cases since July 21.

- Walmart Distribution Center, Hermiston, 51 cases since April 26.

- Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton, 28 cases since July 12.

- Two Rivers Correctional Insti-

tion, Umatilla, 23 cases since July 15.

- CHI St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton, 15 cases since Aug. 19.

- First Coast Security, Hermiston, 11 cases since Sept. 16.

- Lamb Weston Packing Center, Boardman, 11 cases since Aug. 18.

- Union Pacific Railroad, Stanfield, ten cases since Sept. 20.

- JVB Dairy, Ione, eight cases since Sept. 18.



Kylie Temple/Contributed Photo

From left, Hector Leal, Alexis Leathers, Cidney Estes, Grant Hills, Kylie Temple, Gretchen Barton, Abigail Conner and Elizabeth Doherty, members of Hermiston High School's FFA group, pose for a photo ahead of next week's National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis.

Hermiston FFA plans trip to national event

18 students in all head to big show in Indianapolis

By ERICK PETERSON
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Three teams of Hermiston High School FFA students are leaving next week to compete in the 94th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis.

Sandy McKay, Hermiston High School agricultural science teacher and FFA advisor, is in his second year with FFA. He said the school's FFA is able to send youths to national competition every two or three years. "It's no small feat," he said.

To qualify for Nationals, students must get through district competition, state competition and regional competition. For Hermiston students, reaching nationals meant going head to head with students from states throughout the American west.

Hermiston is sending three teams. Two of those teams won in regionals and will advance in Indianapolis. In all, 18 students will travel to Naptown.

The Hermiston teams are "advanced" teams — sophomores, juniors and seniors. Of the 29 categories in FFA, these students are competing in "career and leadership events." There are different rules and goals for these events, helping students with job skills.

The first team is the "nursery/landscape team," and students in this team placed fifth in regionals.

"It's still a great accomplishment," McKay said, though the team will not advance. They were, technically, in a national round by virtue of this year's unusual situation.

Another team is "agricultural issues," a seven-person team that puts on a skit on an

ag issue. The topic is an issue at the forefront of technology — vertical farming.

In traditional farming, people grow crops outdoors in fields, but vertical farming is growing crops indoors, often in unused factory buildings. Farmers use hydroponics to grow crops indoors. Grow lights and artificial irrigation are needed in vertical farming.

Another Hermiston team will take the stage at nationals to debate the pros and cons of switching to vertical farming.

The third team, in the "agricultural communications" category is a four-person finals-qualified team. Students in this competition put themselves into the role of consultants and develop a written media plan in front of a panel of judges. They will have to convince judges to hire them for their services.

Kylie Temple, a 16-year-old junior, is one of the students planning on going to nationals.

"I'm beyond excited," she said.

Though she has been in the FFA since her freshman year, 2021 is her first year travelling to the big competition. COVID-19 ended her dreams of this competition previously, as she had qualified but was not able to go.

She has heard many stories of the competition and said she would like to talk to people from all over the U.S.

She is a little nervous, she said, but she is confident she will do well at nationals and even gain useful experience. Temple said she wants to have a career in agriculture business and marketing.

"I cannot ever see myself leaving the agricultural industry," she said. Her trip to nationals is one step toward further work in that industry.

Wrong-way driver suffers injuries in head-on crash

STANFIELD — A wrong-way driver ended up in a crash Friday, Oct. 15, and required an emergency flight to a hospital.

Oregon State Police reported the crash occurred Friday, Oct. 15, at about milepost 193 on the eastbound side of Interstate 84. Paul Lawrence Comrie, 67, of Pendleton, was driving a Chevrolet Silverado east on the freeway when a westbound Nissan Altima crossed the median and entered the eastbound lanes and collided with the Silverado.

State police reported Ryan Nelson Yazzie, 39, was the driver of the Nissan. A Life Flight helicopter flew him to Kadlec Regional Medical Center, Richland, Washington. State police did not have information about his condition.

Comrie was not injured, according to state police, but police gave him a ride to St. Anthony Hospital, Pendleton.

Multiple agencies responded to the crash, including Stanfield police, the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office and Umatilla County Fire District No. 1.

OSP also reported it received complaints about Yazzie's driving approximately 3 miles before the crash, and police observed evidence of alcohol consumption in Yazzie's vehicle.

CTUIR declares end to COVID-19 health emergency

MISSION — The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Board of Trustees passed a resolution declaring an end to the COVID-19 public health emergency on the reservation.

According to a CTUIR press release, the emergency expired at 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 15. The main result of the move is the tribes will dissolve its incident command team and lift capacity limits on social gatherings and tribal facilities.

The press release stated the emergency was declared on Sept. 24, the day after Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center documented 26 new cases, the largest one-day total since the pandemic began. On Sept. 28, Yellowhawk recorded 98 active cases, another record for the tribes.

Yellowhawk got support

LOCAL BRIEFING

from the Oregon Health Authority and the board of trustees to increase testing, and the tribes soon saw a significant decrease in new cases. On Oct. 14, Yellowhawk reported only one new case while active cases are down to 26.

Restrictions now are lifted on social gatherings and tribal enterprises, such as the Wildhorse Resort & Casino and Cayuse Holdings, can issue their own safety standards. The board did retain its mask mandate, which applies to all public indoor facilities on the reservation.

Trial dates set for Mattila case

PENDLETON — Manslaughter defendant John McKenzie Mattila of Weston has new trial dates.

Court records show the Umatilla County Circuit Court set a trial readiness hearing in the case for Oct. 12 and then a 12-person jury trial for six days, Nov. 15-19 and 22.

A jury in March 2020 convicted Mattila, 26, of driving drunk and causing the death of Adelaida Solis Torres on the night of Feb. 22, 2019. The jury reached a unanimous verdict on a charge of hit-and-run. But the jury voted 11-1 to convict Mattila of first-degree and second-degree manslaughter and voted 10-2 on driving under the influence of intoxicants.

The 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling requiring unanimous guilty verdicts for criminal trials sent the case back for a retrial. Umatilla County District Attorney Dan Primus has said his office has handled a handful of these cases already.

Helix School District seeks to fill board vacancy

HELIX — The Helix School District announced it is seeking a board member to fill Position 3 of the Helix School Board.

Position 3 is at large. The

appointee will serve until June 30, 2023.

Candidates must be a registered voter living in the district and must have lived within the school district boundaries for one year preceding the appointment. Helix School District employees are not eligible to serve as board members.

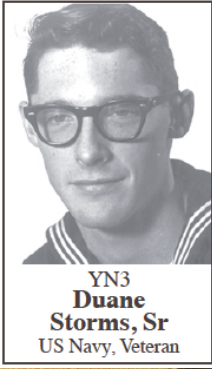
Those interested in serving need to complete and submit an application to the Helix School District Office, 106 Main St., P.O. Box 398, Helix, by 5 p.m. on Nov. 4. Applications are available on the Helix School District website, www.helix.k12.or.us, or at <https://5il.co/10h7a>, or at the Helix School District Office, 106 Main St., Helix.

The school board will review applications at its Nov. 10 meeting and determine next steps to fill the position. Submit the application or questions about the application and process to Cindy Wood, administrative assistant and board secretary.

—EO Media Group

Celebrating Our Veterans

Honor your loved one by putting their photo, name, military branch & rank in our special section for **FREE** this year!



YN3 Duane Storms, Sr
US Navy, Veteran

Sample of FREE ad

PUBLISHES: November 9th
In the East Oregonian

DEADLINE: Monday, November 2nd

Please fill out this information and mail or drop off along with a photo to 333 E. Main Street, Hermiston, OR 97838 or 211 SE Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801 or email to classifieds@eastoregonian.com
*If you would like to re-publish the same info from 2020, please call 541-564-4538

Service Person's Name: _____

Military Branch: _____ Military Rank: _____

Your Name: _____


Your Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Check one:
Currently Serving
Veteran

sample of 1x4 ad
*artwork will vary

Thank you for your service!
We are so proud of you!




Dana Storms Tassie
US Navy Veteran

PAID MESSAGE ADS ARE AVAILABLE

these include a message to your loved one, their photo and name

1x4 ad - \$40
2x3 ad - \$60
private party only



Thank you for your service!

Dana Storms Tassie
US Navy Veteran

sample of 2x3 ad *artwork will vary

EAST OREGONIAN
Hermiston Herald





ESTABLISHED 1913



CONTACT US TODAY ABOUT OUR FALL SPECIALS!!



1740-80 Washington
Baker City, OR 97814

1-800-399-3912

www.bakercitygmsales.com