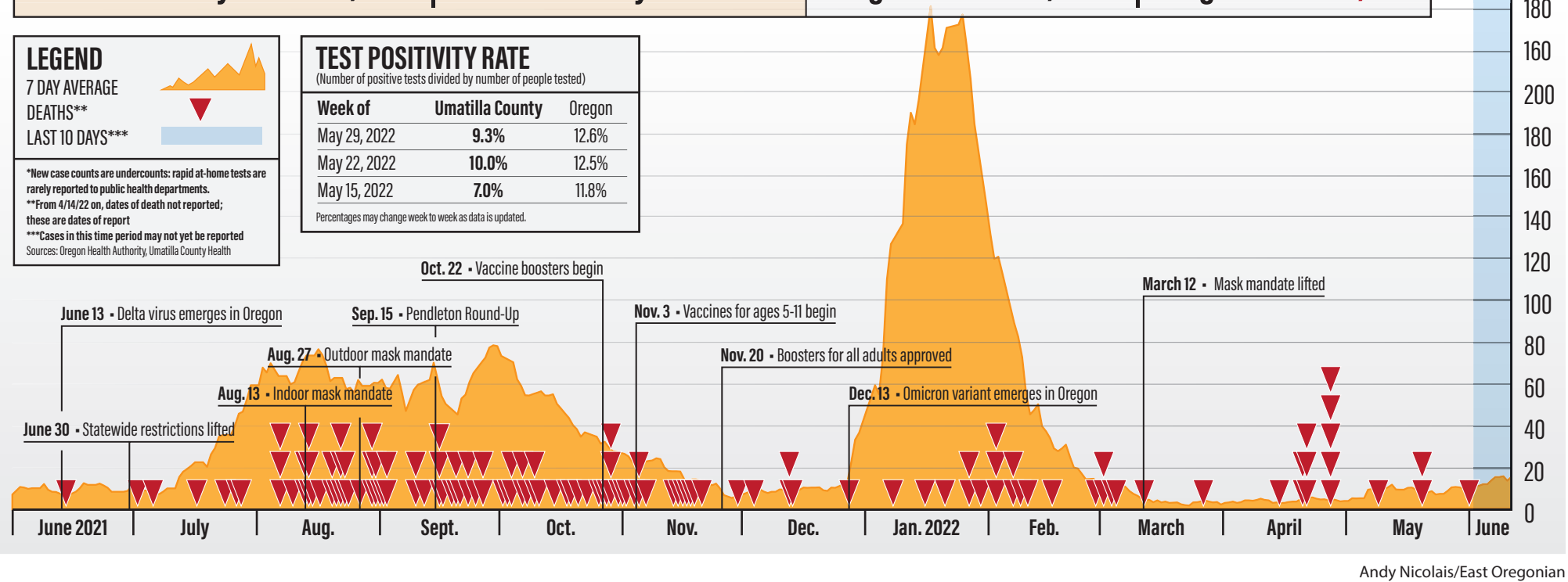


UMATILLA COUNTY COVID-19 TREND - AS OF JUNE 10, 2022

Umatilla County cases: 22,847* | Umatilla County deaths: 227 | Oregon cases: 779,984* | Oregon deaths: 7,687



Andy Nicolais/East Oregonian

Pilot makes emergency landing near Irrigon



Morrow County sheriff's deputy Jacob Stutzman, left, and Sgt. Gordon Adams take a photo Thursday, June 9, 2022, with pilot Terrance McCall of Alabama. The sheriff's office reported McCall had to land the yellow Carbon Cub FX on a gravel road outside Irrigon due to a high temperature warning. The landing was safe. After a technician completed an evaluation, McCall took off for the Hermiston Municipal Airport to have the plane undergo further evaluation.

Morrow County Sheriff's Office/Contributed Photo

LOCAL BRIEFING

Hermiston police arrest graffiti offender

HERMISTON — Hermiston police announced the arrest of the man it suspects of numerous acts of graffiti using the tag "ABAR."

"Many of you have most likely seen graffiti in town with the initials ABAR," police Capt. Travis Eynon posted on the department's Facebook page. "There has been quite a lot of it. There has also been quite a bit in surrounding communities."

Hermiston police Chief Jason Edmiston said the "ABAR" tagging may have been going on for 18 months and was on everything from utility poles to small apartment buildings.

"At times, you really couldn't go anywhere and not see it," he said.

Eynon reported Hermiston police detectives on Thursday, June 9, arrested Abraham M. Arellano, 25, of Umatilla, for the tagging. While this was a "criminal act of vandalism," Eynon reported, this graffiti is not gang related.

Police initially were looking for someone younger who might be in high school, Edmiston said, and worked with school resource officers.

"We were going a couple of different ways until we were able to glean a lot of information from a particular social media platform," he said.

That led to obtaining a search warrant for the platform, and while detectives were working on a second search warrant for a residence, they caught a break early in the week. Edmiston said video camera footage from the back of the Hermiston Public Library, confirmed to police the suspect they already were onto.

Hermiston detectives then partnered with the Umatilla Police Department to serve the warrant. Edmiston said Arellano was not there at the time, but police "collected a trove of evidence."

Applying graffiti usually is a misdemeanor crime. Eynon explained this case is different. The aggregate value of damage to the city of Hermiston alone amounts to several thousand dollars, so in this case the crime is first-degree criminal mischief, a Class C felony.

"Tagging or taggers are certainly an expensive nuisance, but in this case we passed the 'nuisance' threshold long ago," Eynon stated.

Edmiston said his department is submitting its information to the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office, but the investigation continues as Hermiston police work with other local agencies on some of their ABAR cases.

M-F police arrest two for car theft

MILTON-FREEWATER — Milton-Freewater police arrested two people in connection to a break-in at a residence and theft of a vehicle.

Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer in a press release reported officers arrested Max Anagin Wilson, 22, and Sara Ann Miller, 30, for first-degree burglary, unauthorized entry into a vehicle and vehicle theft. Police also arrested Miller on multiple warrants.

Milton-Freewater police on Thursday, June 9, at approximately 12:31 a.m. took a report for the theft of a white Acura with Washington plates from residents on the 900 block of North Elizabeth Street. Police determined someone entered the residence, found keys and drove off with the car.

MFPD received a call at approximately 3:50 a.m. from someone who reported the car was at the Taj Foodmart, 84802 Highway 11. A Milton-Freewater officer responded and took Wilson and Miller into custody.

Police later booked the pair into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, and also returned the vehicle to its owner.

—EO Media Group

GROUND BREAKINGS

Fire & Rescue readies for new station

East Oregonian

WESTON — East Umatilla Fire & Rescue's new fire station is on the way to becoming reality.

Firefighters, local officials and members of the public came together Wednesday, June 8, at the corner of Bannister Road and Mill Street in Weston to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new station. Although the real work won't begin until 2023.

The previous fire department, the East Umatilla County Rural Fire Protection District, purchased the land in July 2011, according to a press release from Umatilla

Fire & Rescue. Six years later, the district made an intergovernmental agency agreement with Helix Fire Department to work as one department. In 2019 the communities voted to come together as one fire district.

The new joint effort in May 2020 asked the communities again to combine East Umatilla County Rural Fire Protection District, Helix Fire Department and Athena Fire Department as one entity called East Umatilla Fire & Rescue. The proposal passed, and East Umatilla Fire & Rescue entered into an agreement with East Umatilla County Ambu-

lance Area Health District at this time.

Fire Chief Dave Baty contacted Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer about a grant to loan the money for a new fire station. Shafer called state Sen Bill Hansell, R-Athena, who had the idea to use state lottery-supported capital construction funds to get on a list and maybe get some money. According to the press release, the project needed about \$5 million.

Then came the federal 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, which provided \$4 million to each state senator and \$2 million per state representative to fund proj-

ects in their districts. Hansell asked Rep. Bobby Levy, R-Echo, if she was willing to donate half of her ARPA funds to this fire district.

The pair toured the facility East Umatilla Fire & Rescue was using and saw firsthand the challenges it presented, including trying to get fire trucks in and out of a steep incline to respond to each call.

"East Umatilla Fire & Rescue's fire station has more to do before this building is started," according to the press release, including finalizing building plans. The real groundbreaking is not until February 2023 with McCormack Construction.

Apartment complex in Hermiston breaks ground

East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston city leaders joined representatives from Chrisman Development Inc., Oregon Housing and Community Services and other local and state partners to break ground June 2 on the Moorehouse Apartments.

The 60-unit income-restricted apartments at Northwest 11th Street and Madrona Avenue will be available for renters making up to 60% of the average median household income for the region,

according to a press release from the city. The project will receive \$4.15 million from OHCS as approved by the Oregon Legislature.

Hermiston has approved 111 new housing units for the year through June 1. The city has approved a total of 375 residential permits since the beginning of 2020, including 108 income restricted apartment units.

"We've made housing a top city priority for many years now, and it's so encouraging to see developments coming into town for

all income levels," Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann said, according to the press release. "Working with private and public partners to find the right location and right funding will ensure we can keep working to meet Hermiston's housing needs."

The Moorehouse Apartments will consist of four apartment buildings and a shared community building. The site will be accessible directly from Northwest 11th Street.

Chrisman Development is based in Enterprise

and has completed many projects around the state, including the rehabilitated Sagebrush Apartments in Hermiston, according to the city.

Additional housing developments are on the horizon in Hermiston at all price points and sale or rental arrangements, including the 200-home Santiago Estates Manufactured Home community, 300-unit Diamond Run duplex development and 1,300 home Prairie Meadows Planned Unit Development.

UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION

Feds charge Umatilla man with murder

East Oregonian

PORTLAND — A Umatilla man faces a federal charge of murder for the slaying of another man on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for Oregon announced in a press release Wednesday, June 8, it charged Kawlija Nicoah Scott, 25, on a federal criminal complaint with murder.

According to the complaint, on May 25, 2022, Umatilla Tribal Police Department officers responded to a stabbing at a residence on the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton. Officers and paramedics found a man on scene who suffered multiple stab wounds, including one to his chest.

"Life-saving efforts were made, but the victim later died at a nearby hospital," according to the press release.

Further investigation revealed that Scott had stabbed the victim in the victim's residence before fleeing. According to the press release, witnesses observed Scott running down a nearby road and waving two knives in the air. A short time later, tribal police officers found Scott and arrested him without incident.

Scott made his initial appearance in federal court June 8 before U.S. Magistrate

Judge Jeffrey Armistead. Scott remains in custody in the Multnomah County Jail, Portland, pending further court proceedings.

Acting U.S. Attorney Scott Erik Aspahug of the District of Oregon made the announcement.

The Umatilla Tribal Police handled the investigation with assistance from the FBI. Assistant U.S. Attorney Ashley R. Cadotte is prosecuting the case.

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