

Local & State

Person confirmed with measles visited Bend while infectious

By Markian Hawryluk
WesCom News Service

The Oregon Health Authority has confirmed that a visitor from Clark County, Washington, was infectious with the measles virus when visiting Bend on Jan. 19 and 20.

Public health officials had announced Monday a possible exposure but were waiting on tests to confirm the person actually had measles. The virus can be transmitted about four days before symptoms appear. Testing has now confirmed that person was in the region during the early contagious period of that person's illness.

People visiting the Mountain Air trampoline park from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 19, or the Juniper Swim & Fitness Center from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 20, could have been exposed to the virus. It is unlikely that people who are fully vaccinated or who have natural immunity from being exposed to the measles are at risk of contracting the virus.

Both facilities are now considered safe.

Mountain Air provided

Deschutes County Health Services with contact information for about 350 customers who visited the trampoline park that Saturday and provided that information on their liability waivers. Juniper officials provided a list of about 400 passholders who were at the fitness facility that Sunday. But another 300 people entered the fitness center on a day pass, and Juniper does not have names or contact information for them.

The health department is contacting those customers to determine their immunization status, starting with the children. Jill Johnson, Immunization Program Coordinator for Deschutes County Health Services, said staff has only identified a handful of unvaccinated children who were at those facilities at the time in question.

Because symptoms usually arise 10 to 14 days after exposure, health officials said this is the week when cases could arise.

"We're at day 11," Johnson said. "So we're kind of looking at Feb. 10. That will be the 21st day. Then we'll kind of be

in the clear if we don't see any cases."

Concerns are greater for those who are not vaccinated, including infants who are too young to be vaccinated. The Clark County health department has identified 38 confirmed cases and 13 suspected cases so far. All but one have occurred in children, and 34 of the people infected were unvaccinated. The immunization status of the remaining four has not been established.

Central Oregon Pediatric Associates in Bend has fielded a flood of calls from concerned parents, including Kayla Collins whose 8-month-old son, William, is too young to be vaccinated.

"I do have to take him to get his flu booster," she said. "That's what made me the most nervous, if he'd be OK."

The clinic said to bring her son in but to keep him on her lap just in case. She has decided to limit his exposure, leaving him with his father when she takes her fully vaccinated 2-year-old daughter, Gracelynn, with her to the grocery store.

"I pretty much just have

to keep him inside and make sure everybody around him is vaccinated," Collins said. "I have a cousin in Texas that's an anti-vaxxer. It just makes me nervous."

The pediatric clinic heard from many parents who had frequented the trampoline park or the swim center with their older, vaccinated children, but like Collins, had younger children at home. Measles is spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes, and those fluids come in contact with some who does not have an immunity to the disease. It's unlikely that a healthy person with immunity to measles could be a carrier for the virus.

Vaccination age guidelines

Current guidelines call for vaccinating for measles at age 1 and then again at 2 to 4. Most children will have strong immunity with just one dose. The second is intended to catch the small percentage of children who didn't have a good response to the first dose.

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PRESS

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Affected employees at The Observer include the general manager/operations manager, Frank Everidge, who has worked for The Observer since 1978. Everidge accepted a position at the East Oregonian. It is likely other individuals affected by the shuttering of the Observer press will also find employment at the East Oregonian due to the new workload there.

Karrine Brogoitti, regional publisher for The Observer

and the Baker City Herald, said the news industry as a whole is seeing its share of challenges.

"Our papers are going through hard times, as are many other newspapers right now. This isn't a unique challenge. It's industry-wide," she said.

What sets Northeast Oregon's papers apart, Brogoitti said, is their resilience.

"The Observer has been in operation for more than 120 years, and the Baker City Herald has been in production for nearly 150 years. We are nothing if not resilient," she

said. "Our newspapers have seen — and navigated our way through — hard times before, and we've made it. This situation is no different."

Western Communications previously filed for Chapter 11 protection in August 2011 following a three-year dispute with the Bank of America, the company's largest creditor at the time. The company emerged from Chapter 11 protection in April 2012. In addition to The Observer and Herald, Western Communications owns four newspapers in Oregon and two in California, including The Bulletin in

Bend.

As reported in a previous Observer article about the bankruptcy, John Costa, president of Western Communications, said this bankruptcy will allow the company to reduce debt and strengthen the newspapers it owns.

"This will give us time to further restructure our organization for a changing media world, a process we have been undergoing, as most newspapers have," he said. "That restructure is critical to continuing to serve our local communities in California and Oregon."

BAKER CITY HISTORY

Remembering merchants of the '30s

By Phyllis Badgley
For the Baker City Herald

Businessman "Dollar Bill" Ellis owned a transfer service on Court Avenue between Main and First. He was easily recognized by the large Western hat he wore. He gained the nickname of "Dollar Bill" when he gave money to participants in the July Children's Parade.

Maude Ellis, wife of Bill, worked as ticket agent at Union Pacific Railroad. When I purchased a ticket to Victoria, Canada, she suggested I visit Butchart Gardens there. That was good advice, as the flowers I viewed presented acres of beautiful scenery.

Baker resident Louis Heriza was employed in local railroad office. Heriza had keen knowledge of telegraphy and operated the machine at the station.

Lynn Vermillion was station master for many years at Union Pacific. Pas-

senger service ceased to be available. The depot was demolished overnight to the surprise of local residents.

Among Main Street eateries, in the late 1930s Jack Eng opened the Royal Café, on the east side of the 1900 block. The 1937 octagonal-shaped windows were designed with slate tile. Eng is remembered as an expert photographer. Annie Wong was cashier, Henry Wong managed the kitchen. I recall employees Marjorie Fong, Gladys Johnson and Norma Jensen. The Royal Café was one of a few restaurants in Baker that stayed open all night. It accommodated customers who chose to go there after attending late night movies at Eltrym Theater.

Tom Speros operated the Trail Inn cafe, corner of Main and Court. He was of Greek heritage and served menus that featured spices of that country.

Glenn Miller owned Miller's Café, corner of Main and Washington. The interior of this confectionery was painted bright orange. Miller was well known for creating hand-turned chocolate candy. A glassed display case near the front door drew customer attention. The candy was sold by the pound. Readers recall earlier when I wrote of Harvey Harrison's Bakery, on Main Street, which also featured quality candy. Moviegoers bought candy treats from Harrisons to eat while

attending the Orpheum Theater, several doors south of the bakery.

Etta Cunning operated the Book Nook, where she sold books and stationery products. The business first located on Broadway then moved to west side of Main Street in the 2000 block. Cunning is remembered as active member of Baker Soroptimist Club.

A popular grocery store of the 1930s was owned by Joe Geddes and Donn Smithpeter. It was located on Main Street in the 2100 block (most recent site of Sycamore Tree.) My dad, operating as Red's Delivery, delivered Saturday grocery orders from the Geddes/Smithpeter business.

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Questions? Call 541-403-2232

Betty's Books is taking a winter break starting Thursday, January 31st!

We will reopen February 16th at 9:30 a.m.

Phone messages can be left at 541-523-7551

To our loyal customers, we apologize for any inconvenience.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Soil-water districts plan meetings

Baker County's soil and water conservation districts have scheduled meetings for February. All meetings are open to the public, and meals are available for those who RSVP by calling Tara at 541-523-7121, extension 100.

- Baker Valley — Feb. 5 at noon at the USDA Service Center, 3990 Midway Drive in Baker City.
- Burnt River — Feb. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the USDA Service Center, 3990 Midway Drive in Baker City.
- Eagle Valley — Feb. 11 at noon, location to be announced (call the above phone number for details).
- Keating — Feb. 12 at noon at the USDA Service Center, 3990 Midway Drive in Baker City.

Super Bowl party Sunday at VFW

There will be a chili cookoff with cash prizes during a Super Bowl party Sunday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 2005 Valley Ave. The Hall opens at noon.

Other upcoming events:

- Friday, Feb. 8, adult karaoke, 8 p.m. to midnight
- Friday, Feb. 15, sweethearts tri-tip steak dinner, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., \$10, with music by the Blue Yesterdays at 8 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 23, kids karaoke, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.; adult karaoke, 8 p.m. to midnight

Bunco night fundraiser for MOPS

A Valentine-themed Bunco night for women that's also a fundraiser for a local mothers' group is set for Feb. 7 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Baker City Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane.

Cost is \$5. Snacks will be provided. Proceeds benefit the local MOPS group — Mothers of Preschoolers.

BTI offers wilderness first aid course

A wilderness first aid course is scheduled for Feb. 4 and 5 at the Baker Technical Institute, 2500 E St. (enter from 9th and G streets). The two-day class will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Cost is \$225 per person.

The course will cover first aid treatments for injuries and illnesses common in the outdoors. Each person who completes the course will receive a certification in wilderness first aid and adult CPR.

To register, call 541-524-2651.

County planners to hear cell tower plan

The Baker County Planning Commission will have a public hearing Feb. 12 to consider a request for a conditional-use permit to build a cellphone tower on private land near Unity.

The applicant is New Cingular Wireless. The company wants to build a 199-foot-high tower on land owned by Bill and Nancy Moore. The tower would fill a gap in cellular service coverage for AT&T customers in the Unity area, according to the Baker City-County Planning Department.

The public hearing will start at 5 p.m. at the Courthouse, 1995 Third St.

Copies of the application and other documents are available by email for no cost. More information is available by calling Eva Henes at 541-523-8219, by email at ehenes@bakercounty.org or by visiting the Planning Department in the basement of the Courthouse.

Social media for businesses classes set

Two seminars focusing on helping businesses use social media and digital media are set for Feb. 13 and 20 at the Blue Mountain Community College Baker City campus, 3275 Baker St.

The courses through the Small Business Development Center will be led by Michael Mettler, founder and director of possibilities at MCM Strategic + Communications in Walla Walla, Washington.

- Feb. 13, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. — "Next Level Digital Advertising: Cost Effective Marketing Strategies In Rural Markets"
- Feb. 20, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. — "Content is King: Building a Two-Way Conversation Online"

Each seminar costs \$59, payable to the Small Business Development Center. More information is available by calling Andrea Fowler at 541-278-5833 or at the Small Business Development Center's Facebook page.

Wildland fire refresher course set

Eastern Oregon Training Group will have the RT-130 Wildland Fire Refresher course on April 13 in Baker City. The course will start at 8 a.m. at the 5J School District Building, 2090 Fourth St. Cost is \$100. All participants should bring gloves for the practice fire shelter deployment.

Registration can be done at oregonfiretraining.com. Pre-registration is requested; the cost will be \$120 at the door.

This is a required class for all federal and state contractors. More information is available by calling Laurel Goodrich at 541-403-0907 or Jeff Sherman at 541-519-6213.

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