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RETAIL STORES IN GRANT COUNTY ADJUST TO

THE *NEW* NORMAL



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Jolene Moulton, manager of the Blue Mountain Mini Market in Mount Vernon, sells a lottery ticket Thursday.

Mt. Vernon man wins \$6.3 million Megabucks on free lotto ticket

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Robert McCauley of Mt. Vernon is Oregon's newest Megabucks jackpot winner after matching all six of his numbers on a free ticket from an earlier drawing — winning \$6.3 million on March 23.

Blue Mountain Mini Market manager Jolene Moulton said 80-year-old McCauley practiced proper social distancing and went to the Mini Mart's drive-up window to pick up his ticket.

Moulton said McCauley almost did not get the right ticket.

"I checked Bob's ticket and actually gave him the voucher slip that came with his free ticket," said Moulton. "As he was walking away, I saw the free play ticket sitting on the counter and realized Bob had the wrong ticket. I called him back to the window and gave him the free ticket."

Moulton said the next day, March 24, customers were asking who won the \$6.3 million jackpot, as a printout from the ticket machine said, "the winning \$6.3 million Megabucks ticket was sold in the city of Mount Vernon."

Moulton, who said she had only sold three Megabucks tickets the day before, sent someone over to McCauley's home to check the ticket.

Moulton said McCauley, after learning that he had purchased the winning ticket, called the Lottery office to make an appointment and with a small group of family and friends, traveled to Salem to claim his prize.

Chuck Baumann, Lottery spokesperson, said McCauley declined to speak to the media.

Baumann said McCauley chose to take the bulk-sum option, which splits the prize in half, and after taxes, he took home \$2.14 million.

Moulton said McCauley is a regular at the Blue Mountain Mini Market.

"It could not have happened to a nicer person," Moulton said.



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
A masked customer at Chester's Thriftway Friday.

Keeping shelves stocked difficult amid virus outbreak



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Blaine Huffman, owner of Huffman's Select Market.

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

As the number of COVID-19 cases continue to climb across the state, retail stores in Grant County are grappling with the new normal.

Owners and managers at Chester's Thriftway, Len's Drug and Huffman's Select Market are focused on keeping both their staff and customers safe and healthy while trying to keep their shelves stocked with items such as toilet paper, flour and eggs.

Blaine Huffman, the owner of Huffman's Market, said he has

never seen anything quite like this in his 31 years in Grant County.

"Maybe with the gas shortage in the 1970s, but that was just one product," said Huffman.

Huffman said his store is only allocated certain amounts of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, flour, sugar and bread.

Luckily, he said the city of Prairie City donated the toilet paper from its office after the closure.

The store is selling one roll, per family, per day.

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The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Charles Lawrence wipes down the shelves at Chester's Thriftway March 24.

Grant County feels the impact of PPE shortage

Hospital preparing for influx of COVID-19 cases

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

More COVID-19 tests have been administered in Grant County than are being reported by the Oregon Health Authority, but the county faces a lack of personal protective equipment required to administer future tests.

Lindsay said there have been a total of 21 COVID-19 tests administered in Grant County with one test coming back positive, 16 negative and four awaiting results as of Tuesday.

Lindsay said, although the Oregon Health Authority shows that only five tests have been administered in the county with one posi-

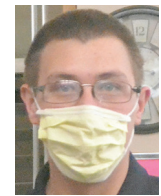


The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
A tent in the Blue Mountain Hospital Emergency Room parking lot will allow the hospital to triage patients during an influx.

tive result, the data is not up to date including private labs.

"Up until three weeks ago, the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory was the only lab processing COVID-19 tests in Oregon," Lindsay said. "The data that was

reported by the Oregon Health Authority came from the OSPHL. At that time, the data was an accurate reflection of the testing that was occurring in all counties in Oregon. In the last several weeks, private labs have begun testing for



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Quade Day

Health Department.

However, Lindsay said there is a considerable delay with private labs reporting negative results to OHA.

"It is best to assume COVID-19 is out there," Lindsay said. "We just don't have the testing capacity to be entirely sure."

At one point last week, Lindsay estimated the county had about 30 test kits but only about 10 sets of the personal protective equipment — gown, mask, face shield and gloves — that the OHA requires to test for infectious diseases.

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Health care workers prepare for 'marathon' fight against virus

By Dick Hughes
For the Oregon Capital Bureau

Health care and retail workers told harrowing tales Monday of working without adequate protections against sick patients and customers.

Meanwhile, the state's emergency manager warned that Oregon was only in the first mile of what could be a marathon to defeat the new coronavirus here. Andrew Phelps said that assessment was

based on the experiences in other states and countries.

During a video press conference on Monday hosted by SEIU 503, Gov. Kate Brown, members of Congress, union members and others blasted federal officials for not providing enough personal protective equipment to states. Hospitals, nursing homes, state and local governments, and others are having difficulty finding equipment available on the open market.

"I'm already anticipating I will

be infected because I lack personal protective equipment," said Casey Parr, a respiratory therapist at OHSU. A 35-year-old, he is considering for the first time whether to write a will.

OHSU President Dr. Danny Jacobs said 12 staff members have tested positive for COVID-19.

Nike is in the prototype stage of making and testing face shields for potential use at OHSU. Brown and others called on the Trump administration to provide the specifica-

tions — some of which are protected by patents — that would allow Oregon companies to start manufacturing personal protective equipment.

Some nurses in Central Oregon wear the same N95 protective mask for three weeks straight, according to Sarah Laslett, executive director of the Oregon Nurses Association. Portland nurses wear swim goggles as partial protection.

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