

# Grant County has 50 coronavirus antibody tests

Health administrator: 'More questions than there are answers' about test

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Court Commissioner Sam Palmer said the county has the capacity for 50 coronavirus antibody tests Thursday at the court's closed meeting that was live-streamed on the Eagle's Facebook page.

County Health Administrator Kimberly Lindsay said the county's medical group met Monday to discuss the potential of administering the antibody tests.

"There are more questions than there are answers," Lindsay said.

Lindsay said scientists still don't know whether coronavirus antibodies give a person immunity or reduce the risk of reinfection.

She said the test, which is not FDA approved, has an 85% accuracy rate.

"You want a higher efficacy rate in the medical profession," Lindsay said.

Lindsay said people who are showing COVID-19 antibodies are still getting sick with the virus again, which, for her, poses a problem.

"People make significant decisions around a positive or



County Commissioner Sam Palmer, left, and County Judge Scott Myers at Thursday's Grant County Court session that was live-streamed on the Eagle's Facebook page.

negative result," she said.

Lindsay said another concern the group has is that some insurance companies may not pay for the test.

Palmer said he would like to use the antibody test on the person who tested positive for COVID-19 in Grant County and their spouse. He said he

would then like to get a sample segment of people who tested negative and a segment of people who had COVID-19 symptoms earlier in the year but were not tested and see how they fall into line

"That would be a great control study group," Palmer said.

Meanwhile, health officials and corporations across America are pouring money into antibody testing, hoping it will give people confidence to return to work and reopen parts of the economy.

Palmer said these samples would go to Oregon Health & Science University to help

get the antibody tests licensed under the FDA.

**In other county court news:**

The court voted to leave the courthouse closed to the public through May 15. Grant County Judge Scott Myers said the county has been meeting the needs of the public so

far and that for the health of the public they should "leave it as it is."

The court voted unanimously to begin the process of seeking grant funding for communications equipment for the Grant County Emergency Communications Agency.

# Hospital to lift ban on elective nonemergency procedures May 1

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

With Gov. Kate Brown's announcement Thursday to lift the ban on nonemergency medical procedures beginning May 1, Blue Mountain Hospital will cautiously increase outpatient, clinic and ancillary services, according to a BMH press release.

Brown's plan, starting next month, will allow hospitals across the state to open back up for elective procedures as long as they reserve enough hospital beds and protective gear — gowns, masks, gloves — for a surge in coronavirus cases.

The cancellation of nonemergency elective procedures thrust hospitals into an awkward position: They were told to prepare for the COVID-19 pandemic, while at the same time see-

ing a dramatic drop in revenue waiting for the spike in patients.

Additionally, the hospital is still closed to visitors and non-patients, and the hospital adjusted its seating policy in the waiting room to accommodate appropriate social distancing. The hospital will continue to monitor its supply of personal protective equipment continuously.

According to the press release, the emergency room triage tent will be taken down, and patients seeking emergency services are to report to the emergency room entrance.

Patients with respiratory symptoms are still encouraged to continue to call 541-575-1311 before arriving to the hospital.

Should there be a surge in COVID-19 cases, the hospital would use the negative pressure tent that it received from the Oregon Health Authority.



The triage tent, erected for a spike in COVID-19 cases, will be taken down as the hospital begins to open up for non-emergency elective medical procedures on May 1.

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

### Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of April 22:

Concealed handgun licenses: 0

Average inmates: 11

Bookings: 3

Releases: 1

Arrests: 1

Citations: 0

Fingerprints: 1

Civil papers: 4

Warrants processed: 0

Assistance/Welfare check: 0

Search and Rescue: 0

### Grant County Justice Court

Violation of the basic rule: Raymond G. Starkey, 64, Aumsville, March 3, 70/55 zone, fined \$165; Ryan M. Stahl, 19, Pendleton, April 15, 76/55 zone, \$165; Dianna L. Ness, 48, Milton Freewater, March 26, 81/55 zone, fined \$265; Sylvester Mahone, 47, Spokane, Washington, March 6, 70/55 zone, fined \$165.

Exceeding speed limit: Katherine F. Sanders, 39, Portland, March 22, 79/65 zone, fined \$265; Peter Podovnikoff, 83, Surrey, British Columbia, March 1, 47/30 zone, fined \$140.

## COPS AND COURTS

### Oregon State Police

April 22: OSP arrested Raymond S. Martin, 42, of Seneca for an outstanding felony warrant out of Missouri.

April 23: OSP stopped a white Dodge pickup for violation of the posted speed, 79/65 zone. Britt M. Wilcox, 25, of John Day was issued a citation and released on a misdemeanor arrest warrant for failure to appear out of the Grant County Circuit Court. He was also issued a citation for violation of the posted speed.

April 24: OSP responded to milepost 128 on Highway 26 for a vehicle versus deer crash. The vehicle was traveling eastbound at 45 mph when a deer ran into the road from

the north shoulder. The driver was unable to avoid the deer. The deer struck the side of vehicle and rolled down the side, taking off the mirror and damaging the driver side. The vehicle sustained significant damage, but was driveable. The driver drove the vehicle away from the scene. No citations issued.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 90 calls during the week of April 20-26, including:

### John Day Police Department

April 20: Received a report of a fight on West Main Street.

April 23: Received a report of a driver that was high. Tina Hand, 52, of John

Day was booked and released for DUII.

April 25: Along with OSP and Grant County Sheriff's Office, responded to a dispute on East Main Street.

### Oregon State Police

April 23: Received a report of a reckless driver between John Day and Prairie City.

### Grant County Sheriff's Office

April 23: Received an animal complaint on Shirttail Creek Road.

### John Day ambulance

April 20: Received a report of a person with a headache, neck ache, fever and chills on Violet Street.

April 20: Responded for a 65-year-old man with chest

pain on West Main Street.

April 21: Dispatched for a man with a possible broken back on Cottonwood Street.

April 21: Dispatched to Mt. Vernon for a man with a seizure who fell and hit his head.

April 22: Responded for a 25-year-old man with a possible allergic reaction.

April 22: Dispatched for a woman with flu-like symptoms on Southwest Violet Street.

April 23: Responded for a woman with heart attack symptoms on Highway 26.

April 24: Responded for an infant who had stopped breathing.

April 26: Responded to a 78-year-old woman with chest pains on Valley View Drive.

Happy Mother's Day!

# SALE

**MOTHER'S DAY**

Greenhouse OPEN  
Pony Packs  
Hanging Baskets - 10" & 12"

Large Kitchen Center  
Amy Howard at Home  
Huge Hardware Selection  
Gifts of All Kinds

**ACE Hardware**  
652 W Main St. | John Day  
541-575-0549

Open Monday-Saturday 8-6, Sunday 10-3

*A Flower Shop N More*  
139 S Canyon Blvd. • John Day  
541-575-2112 • Call/Text/PM Me

In order to be open during the Covid 19 quarantine, a lot of things have to be done to keep everyone safe. Mother's Day orders for flowers & candy must be done through the drive up or walk up window or by calling in advance - which is highly recommended due to the high demand.

- We will be doing limited deliveries and they will be knock and drop.
- Flowers will range: \$25-\$40-\$60
- Gourmet chocolates available in 1, 4, 6, or 12 piece boxes.
- Other arrangements can be purchased but you can not go in to view. We will show you a couple of different options.
- No call out orders, which means we cannot call other floral shops in other areas for delivery.

## Mother's Day Specials

SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO  
((XM))  
acer  
NET10 WIRELESS  
TRACFONE  
Tablets  
Computers  
Verizon & Dish  
Digital Frame Starting @ \$99.99 (limited supply)

**RadioShack**  
DP HOME ENTERTAINMENT  
139 E. Main Street, John Day  
541.575.1637