

# Third COVID-19 case reported in Grant County

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant County Health Department has confirmed a third resident has tested positive for COVID-19 in Grant County.

The health department has initiated contact tracing, according to a press release. The individual, who resides within the 97865 zip code, is working with health care providers to identify close contacts.

Grant County Health Department Administrator Kimberly Lindsay also confirmed that the second case was a positive case, despite recent rumors that the result may have been a false positive.

"While a third positive is unfortunate, in many ways it is not surprising given the increases in positive cases around Grant County and throughout Oregon and the United States," the press release states.

The percentage of positive COVID-19 tests statewide hit their highest levels in four months, state health officials reported Monday.

The Oregon Health Authority said the percentage of tests coming back positive was 6.1% for the week of July 26 to Aug. 1. That is the highest percentage since mid-March.

State health officials had expressed some guarded optimism when the positive test rate fell to 4.8% in the previous report, breaking a streak of eight weeks of rising percentages of positive tests. The positive rate had reached 5.8% during the two weeks following the July 4 holiday.

Also on Monday, OHA announced 272 new cases of COVID-19 bringing the state total to 19,366. There were two more deaths, bringing the state total to 328.

During the initial outbreak, the positive rate was 9% and 7% respectively for the first two weeks of March. Gov. Kate Brown declared a state of emergency on March 8, which began a shutdown of many offices, retail stores and restaurants.

The positive test rate fell to a low of 1.6% in mid-May, just before the phased "reopening" of businesses

## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

The health department encourages all residents to take the following precautions:

- Wear mask indoors and where a mask outdoors if 6 feet of distancing can not be maintained.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you feel ill.

in most of the state. The rate rose for eight straight weeks before the dip in the previous report.

The Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center reported Monday that, since the beginning of the year, there have been more than 4.1 million COVID-19 cases in the United States, with 155,379 deaths. Worldwide, the center reported just under

## COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

After someone contracts COVID-19, illness usually develops within 14 days. Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

The health department urges those who present with these symptoms to call 211 or the Grant County Health Department at 541-575-0429.

18.2 million positive cases and 691,352 deaths.

The Oregon Capital Bureau contributed to this report.

# Man dies in motorcycle crash Sunday in Harney County

Blue Mountain Eagle

A California man died in a motorcycle crash in Harney County Sunday.

At about 10 a.m. Oregon State Police troopers and emergency personnel responded to a report of a crash on Highway 395C near Lost Creek Timber Road.

Preliminary investigation revealed that a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, operated by Jon Meek, 63, of Riverside, California, was northbound when he attempted to pass a farm tractor pulling a bailer, operated by a male juvenile, that had just started a left turn. The motorcycle struck the left front of the farm tractor.

Meek was transported by air ambulance to Saint Lukes Hospital in Idaho where he was pronounced deceased.

The juvenile was not injured in the crash.

OSP was assisted by the Harney County Sheriff's Office, Harney District Ambulance and Oregon Department of Transportation.

# Firefighters respond to multiple starts

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Firefighters have been busy over the last week, responding to multiple wildfires.

Fire crews worked over the weekend to contain the 100-acre Buck Butte Fire north of Burns, according to a press release from the Malheur National Forest.

Resources on the scene included six fire engines with 60 wildland firefighters and a helicopter crew. Crews will continue to patrol the area.

With the Matlock Fire north of Ukiah 95% contained, firefight-

ing operations are winding down and the Northeast Oregon Interagency Type 3 Incident Management Team is preparing to hand the fire back to the Umatilla National Forest, according to a press release from the Umatilla National Forest.

Incident Commander Shane Severs and the North Fork John Day Ranger District took command of remaining resources Tuesday to complete containment and restore the landscape.

Firefighters focused Monday on thorough mop-up and patrol of remaining hot spots. Other crews and equipment worked to rehab-

itate and repair control lines that are no longer needed to contain the fire.

Firefighting resources assigned include one Interagency Hotshot Crew, one Type 21A handcrew, seven Type 6 engines, three water tenders, one log loader, and one processor.

Crews continued to battle the Day Basin Fire south of Dayville, last reported at 41 acres.

The John Day Interagency Dispatch Center reported Monday that resources contained a small fire, Elk Creek. The main source of fuel was the burning of a log, the dispatch center reported.



Contributed photo

Firefighters from a Umatilla National Forest Type 6 engine dig up and extinguish remaining hot spots along the line of the Matlock Fire.

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 July 29:

Concealed handgun licenses: 12  
Average inmates: 14  
Bookings: 13  
Releases: 11  
Arrests: 2  
Citations: 1  
Fingerprints: 3  
Civil papers: 11  
Warrants processed: 4  
Assistance/Welfare check: 0  
Search and Rescue: 1  
Dale Beshara, 42, of Bend was cited for violation of the basic rule, 56/40 zone.

## Grant County Justice Court

Violation of the basic rule: Juvenile, 17, Madras, May 17, 67/55 zone, fined \$165; Alexander A. Toschakov, 24, Camas, Washington, May 25, 84/55 zone, fined \$265; Ted Christopherson F. Tipton, 49, Sisters, July 6, 70/55 zone, fined \$165; Apolo Sevilla, 40, Denver, Colorado, July 5, 80/55 zone, fined \$265; Jeffrey H. Brink, 28, Pleasant Hill, May 25, 74/55 zone, fined \$165; Stephanie Kayla S. Mailman, 28, La Grande, May 12, 83/55 zone, fined \$265; Amber N. Stewart, Lakeview, June 12, 65/55 zone, fined \$165; January R. Kolar, 50, Burns, June 11, 81/55 zone, fined \$265; Juvenile, 17,

Redmond, May 23, 78/55 zone, fined \$265; Andrew S. Ballou, 26, Mt. Vernon, April 28, 70/55 zone, fined \$165; Zachary M. Jolliffe, 23, La Grande, March 20, 79/55 zone, fined \$265.

Exceeding speed limit: Randall C. Ginn, 63, Brownsville, July 9, 63/45 zone, fined \$165; Brian D. Smucker, 57, Bonners Ferry, Idaho, July 5, 53/35 zone, fined \$165; Andrea Marie D. McGinty, 41, Sonoma, 58/35 zone, fined \$265; Shelby A. Brinson, 23, Hines, June 8, 80/65 zone, fined \$265; Cindy M. Chappel, 39, John Day, April 18, 52/35 zone, fined \$140; Chase A. Wescott, 25, Madras, May 25, 74/65 zone, fined \$165; Ethan O. Holdern, 19, Florence, July 4, 50/35 zone, fined \$165; Darren G. Schmidt, 53, Salem, June 18, 36/25 zone, fined \$165; Daniel B. Dickson, 67, Pahrump, Nevada, June 9, 81/65 zone, fined \$265; Jonathan I. Fryer, 31, Eugene, July 11, 40/25 zone, fined \$165; Jeffery S. Hayes, 57, Stevenson, Washington, May 27, 78/65 zone, fined \$265; Jamill T. Thomas, 24, Stockton, California, April 6, 48/30 zone, fined \$165; Logan J. McGhan, 39, Cottage Grove, May 20, 75/65 zone, fined \$165.

Driving while suspended: Steven M. Warrington, 30, John Day, April 29, fined \$440, May 18, fined \$440, May 22, fined \$440, May 31, fined \$440, June 8, fined \$440, June 15, fined \$440, June 18, fined \$440; Justin W. Wells, 36, John Day, June 15, fined \$440; Caleb J. Vielma, 31, Canyon City, June 30, fined \$440.

Driving uninsured: Steven M. Warrington, 30, John Day, April 29, fined \$265, May, 18, fined \$440, May 22,

## COPS AND COURTS

fined \$265, May 31, fined \$265, June 8, fined \$265, June 15, fined \$265, June 18, fined \$265; Caleb J. Vielma, 31, Canyon City, June 30, fined \$265.

Open container of alcohol: Brent L. Sawin, 54, Seneca, June 18, fined \$265, June 18, fined \$265.

Operating without proper fenders: Sawyer R. Watterson, 30, March 11, fined \$165.

Careless driving-accident: John W. Voigt Jr., 31, May 14, fined \$440.

## Oregon State Police

July 26: OSP responded to the Grant County Jail to assist a deputy with a driving under the influence of intoxicants investigation. The deputy had arrested Matthew S. Brown, 27, of Portland for DUII after a crash. OSP administered the breath test. The Intoxilyzer indicated a blood alcohol concentration result of 0.12%. Brown was lodged by the deputy for DUII.

July 27: OSP assisted the John Day Police Department with recovering a stolen 1995 Ford van belonging to Blue Mountain Hospital. The van had been stolen by Charles E. Carter, 32, Montpelier, Idaho, after he was released from the hospital around 5 a.m. OSP located Carter at about 8 a.m., sleeping in a tent beside the van near a business in John Day. The subject was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Grant County Jail and lodged.

July 30: OSP stopped a vehicle on Highway 26 near milepost 166 for a traffic violation. The driver, Michael S. Thomas, 29, was misdemeanor suspended for a DUII conviction. OSP

arrested Thomas and transported him to the Grant County Jail. His vehicle was secured at the scene. OSP issued Thomas a citation for driving while suspended and lodged him in jail.

## Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 140 calls during the week of July 27 to Aug. 2, including:

• **John Day Police Department**  
July 28: Received a report of criminal mischief at a business on East Main Street.

July 29: Received a report of a dead deer on the Highway 26.

July 30: Donald Hildreth, 54, of John Day was arrested for contempt of court.

July 30: Dispatched for a 55-year-old man who had fallen.

July 31: Cited Matthew P. Walker, 37, of John Day for driving while suspended and uninsured on Northwest Third Avenue.

Aug. 1: Located and had the resident extinguish an open campfire in the city limits on West Main Street.

Aug. 2: Cited Elmer R. Ahrendsen, 46, of John Day for no Oregon driver's license and driving uninsured on Canton Street.

Aug. 2: Cited Matthew P. Walker, 37, of Pendleton for driving while suspended and uninsured on West Main Street.

• **Oregon State Police**  
July 27: Advised of a bear that had been hit by a vehicle on Highway 395B near milepost 95

July 28: Along with Grant County Sheriff's Office and Oregon Depart-

ment of Transportation, responded to a hazard rock slide across both lanes of Highway 19.

July 31: Advised of a driving complaint on Highway 26 near Lower Yard Road.

• **Grant County Sheriff's Office**  
July 27: Received a report of criminal mischief on East Sixth Street.

July 31: Received a report of criminal mischief on Pine Street in Granite.

July 31: Received a report of theft on Chimney Gulch Road.

• **John Day ambulance**  
July 28: Along with Seneca ambulance, responded for a 29-year-old man with chest pain and trouble breathing on Rendezvous Lane.

July 31: Responded for a 66-year-old woman with pain at the site of a previous surgery on West Main Street.

Aug. 1: Dispatched for an elderly woman with back pain on Widow's Creek.

Aug. 1: Dispatched for a man that fell and hit his head on West Main Street.

Aug. 1: Responded for an 80-year-old woman who was requesting to be seen at the hospital.

• **Monument ambulance**  
July 27: John Day ambulance responded for a 91-year-old woman who had fallen.

• **Mt. Vernon fire**  
July 30: Along with the Oregon Department of Forestry, dispatched for a forest fire near Nans Rock Road.

• **Oregon Department of Transportation**

July 31: Advised of a struck deer blocking the southbound lane of Highway 395C.

**Extra! Extra!**

**Fair Results in the August 26th issue.**

Be sure to call Kim today to place your ad for sponsoring this year's FFA and 4-H fair results.

**Blue Mountain Eagle**  
195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR. 97845  
www.MyEagleNews.com

**Grant County Youth Livestock Auction**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 15th**  
**DINNER 5PM • AUCTION 6PM**  
**EAST END OF THE HERITAGE BARN**  
**GRANT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

Options to bid on youth market animals:

1. In person. Strict social distancing guidelines must be followed.
2. Over the phone bidding by calling into one of the sale day phones.
3. Online bidding by logging in and creating an account through LiveAuctions.TV after August 5th.

**VIEW/BID LIVE ON THE INTERNET:**

**LiveAuctions.TV**

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For more information or support call 817-725-8595

**Sale Day Phones:**  
Ben Holliday: 541-620-0521 or MT Anderson 541.377.0030