

COVID-19

Continued from Page A1

Most people are cooperating with the contact tracers, according to Lindsay. However, a few have hung up on them as well.

She said others have “made it very clear” they don’t want to speak to the health department and have provided “very minimal information.”

Starting this week, the health department will offer free testing from 3-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday for people without insurance by appointment only, according to a Monday press release. Lindsay said the health department will bill insurance for all others.

According to the OHA website Grant County is at 1,165 negative tests as of Monday.

Lindsay said she has also heard that some people are not following quarantine requirements, though she stressed that most people the health department has spoken to have been polite and receptive to the information the contact tracers provide and have answered their questions.

When someone tests positive for the virus, Lindsay said the health department makes sure the person can quarantine, and they offer them resources for getting groceries, prescriptions and other necessities.

She said the contact tracers will ask questions to identify close contacts. Lindsay said that is anyone who they have shared “secretions” with. This could include anyone they have kissed or shared a water bottle with or have been within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period cumulatively. She said identifying close contacts who spent a cumulative total of 15 minutes around someone who tested positive is a new guideline from the Oregon Health Authority.

“So five minutes here two



The Eagle/Steven Mitchell

Jessica Winegar, Grant County Health Department clinic manager, prepares tests during Thursday’s curbside testing at the fairgrounds.

minutes there, eight minutes there, you get the 15 and the 24-hour period, and that’s going to count as close contact,” she said.

Lindsay said contact tracing guidelines are state specific.

Lindsay said when contact tracers call a close contact they let them know they have been in close contact with someone who tested positive. They ask them to quarantine, go over symptoms, collect demographic information and then contact them daily during the quarantine period to see if they are experiencing symptoms.

If they do, she said, they have them come into the health department to follow up. She said a close contact is also encouraged, after first calling ahead of time, to come in and get tested. She said at that point they will write them down as a presumptive positive case.

Lindsay said the department has not been asked to report the number of recovered cases, but they could start reporting that metric in the future.

“That’s something that we can take a look at, but it’s not going to happen tomorrow,” she said.

She said after 14 days a case is not considered active. She said periodically there are people who still show symptoms for several weeks. However, Lindsay said, in Grant County that has not been the case.

Lindsay said she heard about a Grant County resident who was hospitalized elsewhere with the virus. She said she did not know why the person was hospitalized and that the person was not a patient of the health department.

“It’s not somebody that we are following medically,” she said. “We might be fol-

lowing them from a tracking perspective or attempting to follow them.”

Blue Mountain Hospital CEO Derek Daly said the hospital had not seen “a tremendous amount of activity” at the hospital in relation to the uptick in cases.

“We’re not at a point to say that we have one in house or zero in house,” he said. “Due to the law of small numbers, we can’t be reporting” for patient privacy reasons.

He said the hospital has seen people test positive, but the majority of the positive COVID-19 cases have not been tied to the hospital.

Rebekah Rand, the hospital’s director of emergency services, said the hospital is now allowing up to one visitor per patient, per day.

Daly said the limit on visitors does not mean the hospital is making any other

changes to the services offered to patients. He said preventive surgeries and reductions to other outpatient services have not been made, nor does he foresee any reductions in the future.

“As of right now, we have not made changes to any day-to-day operations,” he said.

Rand said the hospital will redirect patient flow to reduce exposure, if needed. She said they have a tent stored in Grant County. Rand said it is smaller than the one they received from the Army back in April.

Daly said the hospital staff has been using the past couple of months to conduct drills and tests to see how long it would take to respond to a surge in cases.

“We have used the last few months to prepare, and we are in a better place to respond,” Daly said.



Grant County Chamber Members Advertise Here
Contact the Grant County Chamber for more information
541-575-0547

Serving Grant County for 50 years!



Proud of being Locally Owned & Operated ~ 541-575-1899



Bank of Eastern Oregon
“CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF YOUR HOMETOWN”
Member FDIC
John Day 541-575-1862 • 200 W. Main
Prairie City 541-820-3321 • 178 NW Front St.
Equal Housing Lender



160 E. Main • John Day, OR 97845
Office: 541-575-2121
Home: 541-820-3721
JFranklin@easternoregonrealty.net
www.easternoregonrealty.net



Jerry Franklin
GRI, ABR, SRES
Broker/Owner



Blue Mountain HOSPITAL DISTRICT
Quality Healthcare Close to Home
170 Ford Rd., John Day, OR 97845 • 541-575-1311

Virginia McMillan, DDS PC
IMMEDIATE DENTAL COMFORT
LONG TERM VALUE
541-575-0550

PIONEER FEED & FARM SUPPLY
60561 HWY 26,
John Day, Oregon 97845
541-575-0023



The Outpost
Pizza, Pub & Grill

Breakfast Lunch & Dinner
201 W. Main
541-575-0250

Hello Grant County
Did you see our half page ad in the Blue Mountain Eagle? Our Logo merchandise is arriving! Take a look and let us know what you think! So far, we have lapel pins and the sample banners. They are beautiful! The coffee mugs and hats should be here soon.

We would like to welcome some new members to the Chamber – Canyon Creek Clinic – Shawna Clark, Andy’s Plumbing and Sports, Inc. – Bob Cobb – Feathered Arrow Salon – Jessie Huerta, and Katrina’s Barber Shop – Katrina Page. Welcome! We are happy to have you as members!

Now that Halloween is over, the holiday season is upon us. We will soon be doing our annual “Shop Local” ads.

This year, it’s more important than ever to “Shop Local” whenever you can. This has been a tough year for everyone, and we are very proud of our local businesses for standing strong! Let’s show them our support!

We are happy to announce that we have awarded six Business Enhancement Grants. Receiving grants in the amount of \$2,500 were Dreamer’s Lodge, America’s Best Value Inn, and Katrina’s Barber Shop. The Best Western John Day Inn received a grant of \$1,875, Java Jungle and The Floor Store N More received \$625, and Bar w-B received \$615. We are excited about the improvements these grants will help bring about! Applications are accepted each month. Grant Guidelines are available on our website or at the Chamber Office.

The Chamber Board will meet Thursday, November 19th at 10:30 am at the Chamber office.

With the recent increase in COVID -19 cases here, we hope you will all be careful and stay well!

Tammy Bremner
Chamber Manager



PROPANE
541-575-0804
OIL
541-575-1348
243 N. Canyon City Blvd.,
Canyon City, Oregon



Ed Staub & Sons



JOHN DAY AUTO NAPA
721 W. Main St.
John Day, OR
® **541-575-1850**



Solutions
Certified Public Accountants

101 NE 1st Ave. John Day, Oregon 97845
541-575-2717



eat fresh.

121 S. Canyon Blvd.
John Day • 541-575-0782



Grant County Chamber Members Advertise Here
Contact the Grant County Chamber for more information
541-575-0547

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
161 E. Main, John Day • 541-575-0632



True Value
HARDWARE



541-575-0629
120 E. Main, John Day
www.lensdrug.com

We’re here when you need us!

DAYVILLE MERC
207 W. Franklin Ave, Dayville
Cold Drinks • Groceries • Snacks
Gifts • Friendly Services
541-987-2133

Michael B. DesJardin
Dentistry, PC
Preventive, Restorative & Endodontics



New Patients Welcome!
208 NW Canton
John Day
541-575-2725
mbddental@live.com
michaelbdesjardinmd.com

5197701-1

Thank you to all who have served to protect our freedoms!



DRISKILL
MEMORIAL CHAPEL
241 S CANYON BLVD • JOHN DAY, OR 97845
PHONE 541-575-0529 • FAX 541-575-0681

5215405-1