



Grant County reports first COVID-19-related death

10.4% positivity rate takes county to 127 total cases



Eagle file photo
Lucie Immoos, who organizes the annual Carrie Young Memorial Dinner and Auction, with her granddaughter Laikyn Hammon at the John Day Elks Lodge at a previous auction. The event will be held virtually this year.

Carrie Young Memorial to be held virtually

Items will be auctioned over the radio

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

The 28th annual Carrie Young Memorial will see changes this year, but the legacy of giving continues with many items for auction and a chance for the county to give back.

Organizer Lucie Immoos said the event will start at 6 p.m. Dec. 4 on the radio through KJDY. Bidders can call 541-620-2098, 541-620-0220, 541-620-2958, 541-620-0233 and 541-620-2534 to make their bids.

The event was originally scheduled to be held in the Grant County Fairgrounds heritage barn, but Immoos said the memorial for her sister would not be an in-person event this year.

Oregon's two-week freeze was one of the deciding factors.

Immoos came into this year hesitating to ask people for donations due to the fires throughout Oregon and the economic impact of COVID-19.

However, she feels she received more donations this year than ever before, including items the memorial has never auctioned before such as two, 100-gallon fuel delivery certificates and a fishing trip on the Columbia River.

Businesses that have been shut down for months also donated items to be auctioned.

"I am absolutely so grateful for everybody that participates in the memorial, everybody that's donated to us and my team that builds everything," Immoos said. "It's been a huge effort provided by the community in the county and out of county."

Immoos created the memorial in 1993 to honor her older sister, Carrie Young, who was killed in a car crash.

When Young passed away, the family learned that she purchased gifts each Christmas for residents at Blue Mountain Care Center in Prairie City, where she worked.

With the money raised by

See Memorial, Page A14

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

GRANT COUNTY COVID-19 CASES

March 19	1	1st
July 20	1	2nd
Aug. 4	1	3rd
Aug. 5	1	4th
Aug. 21	1	5th
Aug. 22	3	8th
Sept. 23	1	9th
Sept. 27	1	10th
Oct. 23	1	11th
Oct. 29	1	12th
Oct. 31	1	13th
Nov. 1	1	14th
Nov. 3	4	18th
Nov. 4	4	22nd
Nov. 5	4	26th
Nov. 6	21	47th
Nov. 7	3	50th
Nov. 9	4	54th
Nov. 10	3	57th
Nov. 11	5	62nd
Nov. 12	3	65th
Nov. 14	1	66th
Nov. 17	19	85th
Nov. 18	15	100th
Nov. 19	16	116th
Nov. 20	4	120th
Nov. 21	1	121st
Nov. 22	1	122nd
Nov. 23	1	123rd
Nov. 24	4	127th

The Eagle/Steven Mitchell
Grant County Public Health Administrator Kimberly Lindsay addresses the Nov. 18 session of Grant County Court.

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

The first COVID-19-related deaths were reported in both Grant and Harney counties last week.

The Grant County Health Department reported an 87-year-old woman with underlying conditions died Nov. 15 at her home. The Oregon Health Authority reported she tested positive Oct. 30. OHA reported an 81-year-old woman in Harney County with underlying conditions tested positive Nov. 12 and died Nov. 18 at Harney District Hospital.

Grant County Public Health Administrator Kimberly Lindsay said the region "peeled back another layer of the onion" as cases in the county saw a near 900% increase since the beginning of the month.

According to Lindsay, Grant County's total number of cases is at 127 as of Tuesday, and the county had a 10.4% positivity rate last week.

The health department will offer testing from 3-4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays for the next several weeks in their parking lot.

Statewide, 456 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 Monday, a 142% increase since Nov. 1, and 44 more than were reported on Friday.

In Grant County's Region 7, shared with Deschutes, Harney, Klamath, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake and Wheeler counties, OHA reported that 25 people were being hospitalized as of Friday for COVID-19. Five were in intensive care units, and one was on a ventilator.

According to Lindsay, ICU bed space and reduced staffing levels remained

See COVID, Page A14

"THERE ARE SOME INDIVIDUALS THAT 90 DAYS LATER DO NOT HAVE THEIR TASTE OR SMELL BACK, SOME STILL EXPERIENCING A COUGH. WHILE I DO THINK THAT MANY ARE RECOVERED, I COULD THINK OF NO WAY FOR US TO KNOW THIS WITH CERTAINTY."

—Kimberly Lindsay, Grant County public health administrator

Commissioners sign letter opposing widespread shutdown

'One-size-fits-all' approach ignores rural differences, they say

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Commissioners Jim Hamsher and Sam Palmer were among 51 elected officials who signed a letter asking Gov. Kate Brown to reopen bars, restaurants, schools, state offices and churches.

The letter, sent from state Sen. Lynn Findley's office Nov. 18, said a "one-size-fits-all" approach was logical at the start of the pandemic, but since then, communities have "adjusted, adapted and improved."



County Commissioner Sam Palmer



State Rep. Mark Owens



State Sen. Lynn Findley



County Commissioner Jim Hamsher

Findley, a Republican from Vale, said he and other legislators had been working on drafts of the letter for about three weeks before sending it to the

governor's office. Findley, whose district includes parts of 11 counties, said his main goal is to promote a "dialogue" between the

governor and other state officials and legislators, county commissioners,

See Letter, Page A14