



Eagle file photo

Rebekah Rand, director of emergency medical services at Blue Mountain Hospital fills a syringe with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine last month at the Grant County Fairground's Trowbridge Pavilion during a vaccine clinic for educators.

Vaccinations moving to those 75 and older

By Steven Mitchell
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County administered shots of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to the roughly 60 people in the 80 and over group whom the health department put on the waiting list last week.

The county reported three new cases in both the Prairie City and John Day ZIP codes over the week as the county moved back to the "lower risk" category, according to the county's public health administrator, Kimberly Lindsay.

Lindsay said, in addition to moving into the 75 and older age group, the health department would also be getting booster shots to people who received their first dose four weeks ago.

She said the county would administer 100 first and second doses on Tuesday at the Trowbridge Pavilion at the Grant County Fairgrounds. The clinic is by appointment only and closed to the general public.

She said Oregon Health Authority did not send enough doses to vaccinate everyone in the 75 and over age group, but the health department would be administering every available shot.

Lindsay said she anticipates that 60 people in the 75 and over group would need to remain on the waiting list.

Lindsay said the county must have 20 doses for anyone that moves into residential facilities or people who move to Grant County and need a second dose.

She said the county must vaccinate people in previous groups — health care workers and educators — who now want the vaccine.

She said she does not know when the county will get more first doses from the state after this week. However, she said, the county is guaranteed to receive all second doses.

Lindsay said Monday that Grant County is on the lower end for vaccine equity across the state but is among the top five counties receiving the least amount of vaccines per 10,000 people.

She said the positivity rate and the number of cases in a county should drive vaccine distribution.

According to data Lindsay shared with the Eagle Tuesday, in Grant County, there were 577 people vaccinated per 10,000 during the week of Feb. 2 and 417 the previous week.

OHA's website listed the county's total case count at 220 and the positivity rate at 5% as of Monday.

John Day seeks county partnership road investments

Investments could be paid back by urban renewal agency

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day plans to talk with the Grant County Court on road investments that could lead to housing opportunities.

John Day City Manager Nick Green said the county court asked if he could present to them on Feb. 24 and introduce the topic of how the urban renewal agency could be used to help offset land development costs.

Green said the way that could work is if there is a public-public partnership between the city and the county and the URA. Under the proposal, the county would pay to install roads up front, and the URA would pay the county back for the cost of the roads when new development increased the taxes paid to the URA.

"We could do our piece for the utilities, but we couldn't do the utility and the streets," Green said. "We would need county road dollars to build roads in the county, and then we would pay back the road reserve funds or any kind of contribution through the URA."

The URA freezes the taxes that all taxing districts receive from a property at the level they were when the URA began in 2017-2018, and the tax revenue from any increases in property value are funneled to the URA for the life of the program, which cannot exceed 20 years.

Green said that before the hospital, school, city and the county taxing districts get



Eagle file photo

The city of John Day is asking Grant County to form a partnership to spur growth in the area.



The Eagle/Rudy Diaz

From left, John Day Councilor Shannon Adair, City Manager Nick Green and Mayor Ron Lundbom during the city council meeting Dec. 8.

their share of the underlying tax base, the investments made by the city and the county would be paid back. He added that it's a sustainable investment model, but it does defer the tax increase for all eight tax jurisdictions a couple of more years.

"The idea is that we buy out the negative equity, and then we recover through the URA's tax base so we all get repaid for our investments, and then we release the URA area to the other tax jurisdictions," Green said.

Under the URA's housing incentive program, the city provides a cash rebate equal to 7% of the increase in assessed value and pays for system development charges for new home construction.

"It's a slight change from what we originally proposed, but the reason we're considering it is if we run out of buildable lots, the URA would decline because there's nowhere else to build, which I think is proba-

bly going to happen," Green said.

Green said a good project to work on with the county would be on Ironwood Estates Phase One since much of the preliminary work has been completed.

"I think that's the project I would suggest you do the test case with, iron out any kinks in the development agreement, and once we figure that out, let's just replicate it, adjust on the market and don't saturate the market with too much supply," Green said.

Green said, with this scenario, the county controls their own investment risk since the county assessor captures the tax before it's remitted to the URA, and if an individual owner were to default, it's the county that goes through the foreclosure process.

"I just don't see any way the county doesn't get their money back," Green said. "They're both the lender and the collector by statute."

COPS AND COURTS

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 Circuit Court

Melinda J. Moss, 42, pleaded guilty Jan. 14 to a count of criminal driving while suspended or revoked committed on June 5. She was sentenced to 24 months of supervised probation, 40 hours of community service and ordered to pay a \$200 traffic fine.

Garrett E. Lovell, 24, pleaded guilty on Jan. 7 to a count of second-degree burglary and first-degree theft committed on Sept. 11, 2019. He also pleaded guilty Jan. 7

to a count of first-degree failure to appear committed on Feb. 20, 2020. He was sentenced to 364 days in jail, 12 months of post-prison supervision, 24 months of supervised probation and 40 hours of community service. He was also ordered to pay \$1,586 in restitution to Adam Schumacher. A count of first-degree theft was dismissed.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Feb. 10:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 12
- Average inmates: 12
- Bookings: 5
- Releases: 6
- Arrests: 0
- Citations: 2
- Fingerprints: 1
- Civil papers: 7

Warrants processed: 2
Assistance/Welfare check: 0
Search and Rescue: 1
Thomas Pfeifer, 51, of Prairie City was cited for a failure to appear warrant.

Shawn Kite, 52, of Prairie City was cited for driving while suspended and uninsured and for failure to install ignition interlock device.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 125 calls during the week of Feb. 8-14, including:

- John Day Police Department
- Feb. 10: Cited Jessica Thomas, 37, of John Day for

allowing dog as a nuisance on Highway 26.

Feb. 10: Jared Bake, 25, of John Day was arrested for furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Feb. 14: Advised of snowmobilers riding on the city streets on Main Street.

Feb. 14: Warned a driver for expired license plates on Highway 26 near milepost 162.

- Oregon State Police
- Feb. 10: Responded to a crash between a deer and vehicle on Highway 26 near milepost 163.5.

- Grant County Sheriff's Office
- Feb. 11: Took a report of

fraud in Prairie City.

Feb. 12: Responded to a theft in Canyon City.

Feb. 12: Bryon Freniere of John Day was cited for careless driving, driving while suspended and uninsured.

Feb. 12: Responded to a report of a theft at a business on West Main Street.

Feb. 14: Advised of a theft on Bridge Street.

- John Day ambulance
- Feb. 8: Dispatched for an elderly man with possible heart issues on Happy Valley Lane.

Feb. 10: Along with GCSO, responded for an 83-year-old woman with

heart palpitations on North Cozart.

Feb. 10: Responded to Prairie City for a medical alarm. The patient was coughing, wheezing and had back pain with painful lungs on Johnson Street.

Feb. 11: Dispatched for a woman with an infected tailbone.

Feb. 13: Along with Seneca ambulance, responded for a 61-year-old man with chest pain.

- Prairie City ambulance
- Feb. 11: Paged for a woman who was not breathing on North Johnson Street.

Mtn. View Mini-Mart 211 Front St., Prairie City 541-820-4477
Weekly Specials
Sunday - Family Style Joy's Choice | Thursday - Asian | Saturday - Sushi

TOM CHRISTENSEN CONSTRUCTION
(541) 410-0557 • (541) 575-0192
CCB# 106077
REMODELS • NEW CONSTRUCTION • POLE BUILDINGS
CONCRETE EXCAVATION • SHEET ROCK • SIDING
ROOFING • FENCES • DECKS • TELESCOPING FORKLIFT SERVICES

Balance Today with Retiring Tomorrow
No matter where you're starting from, COUNTRY can help you achieve financial security in retirement. It starts with listening to your situation. Then we help you build a straightforward plan with step-by-step guidance. Call me to get started today.
Debbie Ausmus
245 South Canyon Blvd.
John Day, OR 97845
OPEN WED. & THUR.
9 am - 5 pm
541-575-1113
24 hrs/7 days wk
debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com
COUNTRY FINANCIAL

DGDriscoll's BOOKS!
We Have Romances
Austen to Robb
small paperbacks at 2 for \$1
other formats \$2 & up
248-719-2122
In Canyon City just across from the post office

dish BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!
Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available
2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE
America's Top 120 Package
\$64.99 MO. 190 CHANNELS
for 12 Mos. Including Local Channels!
CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100
1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 7/14/21.
All offers require credit qualification, 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay. Prices include Hopper Duo for qualifying customers. Hopper, Hopper iSling or Hopper 3 Sling, more. Upfront fees may apply based on credit qualification.

Imagine The Difference You Can Make
DONATE YOUR CAR
1-844-533-9173
FREE TOWING
TAX DEDUCTIBLE
Help Prevent Blindness
Get A Vision Screening Annually
Heritage for the Blind
Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!!

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator
REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
877-557-1912
FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!
Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021
Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval
*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE
CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-536-8838
15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE + 10% OFF SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS + 5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!
Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 12pm-8pm EST | Promo Number: 285
*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ** Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOP# 10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99388 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 223 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 27051321534 License# LEAFNW8232 License# WWS65012 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC_0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 396920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# R0731 R04 Registration# LVH09953900 Registration# PA692383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 2705169445 License# 262000022 License# 262000403 License# 0086990 Registration# H-19114

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC
Timeshare Cancellation
Get your free information kit and see if you qualify:
855-385-4473