

## Normalcy

Continued from Page A1

While recent legislative action allowed her to announce an extension of a mortgage foreclosure moratorium through the end of September, Brown said she had not yet received legislative authority to extend the rental eviction moratorium set to expire June 30.

With the Legislature set to adjourn no later than June 27, Brown said she hoped there was still time to act and give renters "safe harbor" for July. But she advised renters to take steps now and not assume the law would be extended.

"Please apply today for rental assistance to pay your July rent," Brown said.

The backlog of earlier unpaid rent is covered by a schedule in prior legislation, but as of July 1, there is no special dispensation for rental payment or eviction proceedings.

"I'm calling on landlords across the state to work with tenants to avoid evictions," she said.

Information on programs for both renters and landlords could be found online at oregonrentalassistance.org or lcf.oregon.gov or by calling 2-1-1 to ask questions.

"We have made it through this pandemic by looking out for one another," Brown said.

Current COVID-19 infection trends are good, according to Dr. Dean Sidelinger, the state epidemiologist.

Oregon reported 1,720 new COVID-19 cases in the most recent week, the lowest since September 2020, before the autumn and winter spike. Hospitalizations and deaths are also trending lower.

The current rate of spread is 0.66, meaning each infected person spreads the disease to less than one person. That will ensure a continued decline that could push daily totals to about 100 cases per day and five hospitalizations.

Even the most pessimistic forecast has overall cases declining, but to 135 per day and seven hospitalizations.

Sidelinger emphasized that the numbers combined what infectious disease experts see as two different pandemics.

People who have been vaccinated make up a tiny fraction of new cases. Guidelines to loosen restrictions on interactions with others show inoculation is the key to safely returning to a lifestyle close to normal.

"If you are not vaccinated, the virus still rages," Sidelinger said.



Eagle file photo

Blue Mountain Hospital District Director of EMS Rebekah Rand prepares a shot at a previous vaccination clinic.

Brown said she had complete confidence that the state would reach the 70% goal for one shot in eligible adults by the June 25 goal date.

She noted the \$1 million state lottery prize that those vaccinated are automatically entered to win. Another \$10,000 prize can be won in each county.

Brown urged those who were vaccinated by the federal Veterans Administration or in another state to register for the lottery at takeyourshot.oregon.gov.

Health officials say they are concerned that, once the 70% mark is met and restrictions are relaxed across the state, clusters of new infections could arise in areas where vaccination rates have been low.

Many of the areas are in less populous parts of Central and Eastern Oregon, where medical care and hospital beds are less available. More remote areas could experience overtaxed emergency response and medical care systems.

Brown singled out the St. Charles Health System. It's main COVID-19 care facilities are in Bend, where vacci-

nation rates in surrounding Deschutes County are among the state's highest. But the facilities are also where infected patients from a wide swath of the state with much lower vaccination rates would most likely be sent.

Brown said hospitals are woven into a network of emergency COVID-19 care.

"We have a well developed system that works on the local level and with neighboring states," Brown said.

But specific points in the system can quickly become overwhelmed, and moving patients takes time.

Sidelinger said unvaccinated Oregonians are also potential hosts for new variants of the virus, which could spread faster and be potentially more severe.

Saying the pandemic would have "no easy exit," Sidelinger urged the unvaccinated or those with compromised immune systems who might not receive the full benefit of inoculations to continue to wear masks and socially distance, even when the time comes that the state lifts mandatory restrictions.

The recovery does not equal

"going back to life as it was in 2019," Sidelinger said.

Brown rejected the suggestion from some in the business community that Oregon should cut unemployment benefits as a way to get more people to search for work. Some conservatives say higher benefits during the pandemic have served as a disincentive to people on unemployment to accept work at the lower end of the wage scale.

Brown said she believed that the hesitancy to go back to work was due to a number of factors, including fear of the virus, the costs associated with a return to working and the lack of affordable, dependable and convenient child care.

Brown said Oregon had low infection and death rates throughout the pandemic and was doing "substantially better" on most public health measurements than other states.

While the pandemic is far from over, she said hitting the 70% mark for one shot of vaccine in adults would be a major step.

"We can return to some level of normalcy," she said.

## Sheriff

Continued from Page A1

big county, and if you're somewhere else, it just takes a long time to get there," he said.

He said right now the office has six patrol deputies.

### Goals, setbacks and the future

McKinley said a judge's Feb. 10 ruling to dismiss murder charges related to a missing couple whose house burned in Grant County in 2018 was a considerable setback for the sheriff's office. The judge dismissed the case due to Undersheriff Zach Mobley inappropriately obtaining a murder confession.

McKinley said scrutiny for mistakes is not limited to just the county and gets spread around the state like "wildfire." He said, initially, when he was "out and about" around the state, people would mention the case to him quite frequently.

McKinley said the investigation is still "very active," however. He said it was something that "should have occurred differently" and that he did not want to say anything else that could get into "personnel issues" or jeopardize the case.

### A ways to go

McKinley told the Eagle that for an institution as old as the Grant County Sheriff's Office, he is surprised at how far it has come along throughout the years — but also surprised it has not further along than where they are.

He said it comes back to the business model of policing.

"I'm sure any business has this issue: You're continually getting new employees and retraining to do your model," he said.

**Choices.**

**BX23S**

- 21.6 Gross HP,† 3-Cylinder Kubota Diesel Engine
- Fully Integrated Tractor/Loader/Backhoe

**Choices.**

**LX2610HST**

- 24.8 Gross HP,† E-TVCS, 3-Cyl. Kubota Diesel Engine
- 3-Range Hydrostatic Transmission

**Choices.**

**L2501**

- 24.8 Gross HP,† 3-or 4-Cyl. Kubota Diesel Engine
- Choice of Transmission

**\$0 DOWN, 0% A.P.R. FINANCING FOR UP TO 84 MONTHS ON SELECT NEW KUBOTAS!\***

**BV4180**

- Bale Diameter of 4' Wide by 6' High with a 79" Pickup Capacity
- Efficient Fork Feeder Intake System

**RA2076**

- 23'/25.7" Working Width
- 0.35" Diameter Wire Tines
- Maintenance-Friendly FarmLine Rotor Head

**DM5032**

- 10' 6" Cutting Width
- 9' 10" Transport Width
- Flexible Suspension for Work on Slopes

**MX5400HSTC**

- 55.5 Gross HP,† 4-Cylinder Kubota Diesel Engine
- Gear Drive Transmission



5629 SOUTH SIXTH ST.  
KLAMATH FALLS, OR  
541-882-8809

3290 S HIGHWAY 97  
REDMOND, OR  
541-548-6744

211 HIGHWAY 20 S  
HINES, OR 97738  
541-573-1322  
541-589-3877

[www.plattequipment.com](http://www.plattequipment.com)



\*© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2021. Offer valid for residents within states of CA, AZ, NV, UT, WY, ID, OR, MT and WA only. \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 84 months on purchases of select new Kubota B, BX, L, L60 and LX Series equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Some exceptions apply. Example: 84 monthly payments of \$11.90 per \$1,000 financed. Offer expires 6/30/21. Terms subject to change. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your local Dealer or go to KubotaUSA.com. † For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the product operator's manual. Power (HP/KW) and other specifications are based on various standards or recommended practices. K1033-24-146001-2