

# County taps CCS to distribute COVID-19 vaccine incentives

Details on amounts and drawings still being finalized

By Steven Mitchell  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County handed over its \$67,000 vaccine incentive money to Community Counseling Solutions to distribute to those who have yet to roll up their sleeves to get the COVID-19 vaccine and those who are already immunized.

County Judge Scott Myers said CCS would roll out the incentive program. He said during a session of County Court June 23 that CCS would likely issue the dollars in the form of Grant County Greenbacks, a gift certificate program through the Grant County Chamber of Commerce.



**Rebekah Rand, emergency medical services director with the Blue Mountain Hospital District prepares a vaccine shot at a January vaccine clinic at the Grant County Fairgrounds.**

Kimberly Lindsay, CEO of Community Counseling Solutions, said she is still working with the county on how the program will roll

out regarding the amount awarded to lottery winners, how much those already vaccinated would receive and how many drawings

there would be.

Lindsay said on June 23 that, while she did not know the specific number of drawings CCS would do, she said there would be "several" drawings. During county court, Myers said that people could choose to have their incentive money go to a local charity. He said CCS would be in charge of the specifics in who those charities would be and how the money would get to those organizations.

Myers said the \$67,000 is the first half of the money that came "indirectly" from the state. He said the other half would go out within the next six months.

He said it was easier for the county to have CCS distribute the money, and they would be responsible for the process.

## OBITUARIES

### Julius 'Judd' Boyd Olp

Oct. 14, 1935 – Ma 23, 2021

Deceased's Obituary Julius "Judd" Boyd Olp was born Oct. 14, 1935, in Prairie City, Oregon. The son of Julius Ludwig Olp and Hilda Anna Davis Olp passed from life on earth to life in heaven on May 23, 2021. He graduated from Prairie City High School and married Nancy Lee Larson on June 13, 1954.

His entrepreneurial spirit was realized through retail and property development after years of employment in Washington, Alaska and Oregon. Julius started and sold several businesses and properties prior to retirement at the age of 71.

Passions included his love for outdoor adventures of hunting, fishing and international travel. His commitment to family has created a legacy of love.

Judd is survived by wife, Nancy; daughters Debra (Steve) Alsop, Everett, Washington, and Julie (Thorne) Ferguson, Anchorage, Alaska; granddaughters Danielle (Steve) Carlson and Sheree (Neil) Everson; five great-grandchildren; and sisters Wanda Madsen and Arlene (Stuart) Bailey. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Donald Olp and twin sister JoAnne Moore.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, at Prairie City Depot Park.

Judd's hope was found in Christ and God's promise of eternity where he is waiting for the rest of his family.



### Donna Faye Cox

Dec. 27, 1945 – June 24, 2021

Donna Faye Cox, age 75, loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, passed away June 24, 2021, at the Blue Mountain Care Center in Prairie City. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, July 17, 2021, at the Monument Senior Center at 11 a.m. with a potluck to follow. Mitch Mund will be officiating.

Donna was born Dec. 27, 1945, in Heppner, Oregon, to Darrel and Oleta Farrens. She joined a sister, Dorinda, and brother, Glen. Donna met the love of her life, Robert C. Cox, while going to school in Monument, Oregon. They were married on Sept. 5, 1965, and raised two children, Missy and Troy.

Donna was a stay-at-home mom while the kids were growing up. Donna was always involved in her kids' activities, whatever they decided to do. She had a large garden she would tend to and was a big fan of her kids' sports and 4-H projects and helping who she could.

After raising her children, she followed in her mother's footsteps and became the clerk at the Monument Post Office. Donna will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, Darrel and Oleta Farrens; and loving grandson, Tyler Boyer.

Survivors include her husband, Robert (Bob) Cox; son, Troy Cox; daughter, Missy (Wes) Boyer; sister, Dorinda K. Harding; brother, Glenn Farrens; six grandchildren, Kurt Boyer, Megan Howland, Jarrett and Amber Boyer, Tell Cox and Reece Cox; and two great granddaughters, Aubree and Addison.

To leave an online condolence for the family, visit [driskill-memorialchapel.com](http://driskill-memorialchapel.com).

### Gerald 'Bobby' Rehder

Gerald "Bobby" Rehder, 69, of Ritter, Oregon, died Friday, July 2, 2021, at the Blue Mountain Care Center in Prairie City, Oregon. A private family memorial will be held. Arrangements are under the direction of Tami's Pine Valley Funeral Home and Cremation Services. Online condolences can be shared at [tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com](http://tamispinevalleyfuneralhome.com).



**Volunteer Susan Conner prepares willows for planting along West Summit Creek south of Prairie City.**

## Volunteers plant thousands of willow and repair fences in the Malheur watershed

Blue Mountain Eagle

The native bull trout and redband trout in the Malheur River drainage, located south of Prairie City in the Malheur National Forest, can look forward to cooler river temperatures, thanks to volunteers coordinated by Oregon Natural Desert Association who helped the Malheur National Forest's Prairie City Ranger District on creek restoration projects in May.

"ONDA volunteers and Forest Service staff collectively planted over 3,700 hardwood willow cuttings and over 650 spruce and larch seedlings, giving the riparian restoration a huge jump start," said Allen Taylor, U.S. Forest Service Fish Biologist, in a press release.

This successful planting effort took place along West Summit Creek, part of the Malheur River watershed that supports populations of native bull trout and redband trout. It was the final step in the larger West Summit Creek Restoration Project led by Taylor.

"As an advocate for desert waterways, ONDA works on forest creeks that form the headwaters and tributary sources of the desert rivers," said ONDA Stewardship Coordinator Beth Macinko. "With each project, ONDA puts boots on the ground and ensures that the high desert is a healthy, thriving landscape."

Volunteers also repaired 2 miles of fences along Summit Creek that had

been damaged by downed trees over the winter. The streamside fences were built to protect sections of the creek where restoration projects are in process from grazing by livestock. The repaired fence will protect more than 100 acres of critical riparian habitat and allow native plants to become established and spread.

"Completing both these projects was an impressive feat for just 11 volunteers over the course of one month, but that's the kind of hard work we are used to from our determined volunteers," said Macinko.

Robust plant life along streams improves fish habitat by creating the shade that cools water temperatures, provides valuable nutrients for vigorous food webs and provides forage for recovering beaver populations.

"All of this work, along with other associated landscape restoration actions, will make the area more resilient to future fire and drought, which will likely become more frequent due to climate change," said Taylor.

"We enjoyed the sense of accomplishment in a short period of time of repairing a badly damaged fence," said Bill Hull of Bend, one of the project volunteers.

The planting and fence repair projects were funded in part by the National Forest Foundation, an organization chartered by Congress to engage the public in maintaining the health of national forest lands.

## OTEC to conduct power pole inspections and testing throughout summer

Blue Mountain Eagle

Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative is gearing up to begin its annual pole-testing program throughout the cooperative's service territory in Baker, Grant, Harney and Union counties.

Osmose Utility Services, a contracted service with OTEC, will begin inspecting and testing utility poles for strength and potential rot, determining and treating ailing poles. Testing — which is mandated by the Public Utility Commission — will begin the week of June 21 in Grant and Harney counties, then will move to Baker and Union counties over the next few months.

"Testing requires digging around our power poles and this means that in some instances Osmose employees will be working in OTEC member-owners' yards and maybe even driving 4-wheelers across open fields testing each power

pole," said Jay Tanzey, Baker District superintendent. "OTEC and Osmose will both be doing their very best to make contact with each property owner, but if a rancher is out in the fields or a family isn't home for one reason or another, we are just wanting to give a heads up that they will be working in the area."

OTEC's power pole-testing program calls for each pole to be inspected and treated on a 10-year cycle.

Approximately 10% of the system is inspected each year to identify any poles that need to be replaced and to extend the lives of those poles that remain in service. OTEC maintains more than 44,000 poles, so around 4,400 poles will be tested this summer.

"This inspection helps to safely maintain reliability and keeps costs down for our members," Tanzey said.

If members have any questions or concerns, contact OTEC at 541-523-3616.

## LOCAL BRIEFS

Blue Mountain Eagle

### Summer lunch program underway

The free USDA Summer Lunch program is underway.

John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation District will serve free lunches for children Mondays through Fridays in John Day, Canyon City and Prairie City, according to a Facebook post from the organization.

Lunches will be served at Humbolt Elementary School in Canyon City from 11:15-11:45 a.m.

John Day City Park (Gleason Pool) will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m.

Prairie City Park will be served from 12:45-1:15 p.m.

### Oregon Elks lodges rank fifth in nation

Oregon Elks lodges ranked fifth in the nation for charita-



**Children enjoy lunch at the John Day City Park near Gleason Pool in 2019.**

ble giving last year, according to reports compiled by the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Despite facing unprecedented challenges during the last year from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to the devastating wildfires that ravaged the state, Oregon members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks gave back more than \$9.3 million to their local communities. This was achieved through over 231,000 volunteer hours, more than 617,000 miles driven in support of charitable activi-

ties and over \$4.5 million in direct donations of funds and items.

Lodges throughout the state supported projects over the last year by providing relief to communities impacted by the fires, donating to support front line workers in the fight against COVID-19, assisting homeless veterans, aiding children with disabilities, distributing food boxes to those in need, providing scholarships and much more.

Oregon Elks charitable contributions ranked fifth in the nation in the Benevolent and Protective Order of

Elks behind Florida (\$34.1 million), New Jersey (\$16.6 million), California (\$16.5 million) and Texas (\$11.8 million). Total charitable giving from the Elks in the United States for the last year was valued at more than \$208.8 million.

To learn more about the Elks, visit [oregonelks.org](http://oregonelks.org).

### Long, Weaver named to OSU honor roll

Names of students who have made the scholastic honor roll for spring 2021 have been announced by Oregon State University.

A total of 7,255 earned a B-plus (3.5) GPA or better to make the listing. To be on the honor roll, students must carry at least 12 graded hours of course work.

Johna M. Long, a freshman from John Day studying nutrition, and Wyatt T. Weaver, a senior from John Day studying mechanical engineering, were both named to the list.

### Last Week's Temps

John Day	HI/LO
Tuesday	105/70
Wednesday	102/68
Thursday	98/66
Friday	99/61
Saturday	99/60
Sunday	95/5
Monday	99/55

24/7 FORECAST

AUTOMATED: 541-575-1122

ROAD CONDITIONS: 511; TRIPCHECK.COM

NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR JOHN DAY

162.500 MHZ

### WEATHER FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 7 - 13

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Hot	Sunny	Sunny	Hot
<b>92</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>