

## Hospital sets up tent as proactive measure

Blue Mountain Eagle

Blue Mountain Hospital has erected a tent outside the emergency room as a proactive measure for COVID-19, but the hospital still has capacity for patients.

Rebekah Rand, Blue Mountain Hospital District director of emergency medical services, said the tent is not currently needed, but staff wanted to prepare in case a surge of patients come in, especially with the long Labor Day holiday weekend coming up.

"On weekdays, our (COVID-19) numbers are looking higher than they have in a

long time," she said, adding the hospital wanted to get the tent set up in case it was needed. "If a surge does come in and we do need to use (the tent), we want to have a good handle on what our plan is."

Hospital staff have been boosted by Oregon National Guard soldiers, who also helped set up the tent, she said. They also help set up barriers for a new viral clinic.

Rand said Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic, inside the hospital, is in the final planning stages for a viral clinic, which will operate on a mostly walk-in basis for patients who may not need emergency room

treatment but who are unable to get an appointment with a provider.

"When people are feeling ill ... they can get care, and they can access testing without having to go to the ER," she said. "Obviously, if they're having severe symptoms, we recommend they go to the ER."

Rand said it will likely operate during regular business hours, but the exact schedule has not been determined. She said the hospital is also working on improved signage directing people with COVID-19 symptoms to the second-level emergency room entrance instead of the main entrance.

## COVID-19 testing clinics planned

Blue Mountain Eagle

COVID-19 cases in Grant County continue to be identified amid the latest surge with testing clinics planned.

Since Sept. 1, the Grant County Health Department has reported 49 new cases. Since the uptick began in mid-August, the county has reported 155 cases, with 680 since the pandemic began. From Aug. 22-28, Grant County had the highest case rate in region seven covering southeastern Oregon.

About 38% of Grant County residents have been fully vaccinated, according to the New York Times, with about 58% of those 65 and older fully vaccinated.

Grant County is reporting an average of six new cases daily, a rate of 85 per 100,000 people, with a 330% increase in the last 14 days, according to the Times. There have been 673 total cases and eight deaths.

The county has the highest rate of pediatric cases — in people under 18 — in the state. With 136 child cases reported and only 1,022 children in the county, the rate is 13,309 per 100,000, according to the Times. The next highest in the state is Jefferson County with a rate of 9,725 per 100,000.

### COVID-19 testing clinics

Blue Mountain Hospital and the Grant County Health Depart-

ment are collaborating to provide COVID-19 testing clinics.

Individuals who are symptomatic or who have been in close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days may be tested. The clinics will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Sept. 10; Wednesday, Sept. 15; and Friday Sept. 17. They will occur in the Grant County Health Department parking lot, 528 E. Main St., John Day.

COVID-19 symptoms include fever, nausea, difficulty breathing, pneumonia, chills, runny nose, vomiting, loss or change in taste, diarrhea, sore throat, cough, abdominal pain, loss or change in smell, headache and muscle aches.

## 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 Justice Court

The Grant County Justice Court reported the following for the week ending Sept. 2:

Traffic citations: 25  
Violation crimes: 0  
Misdemeanors: 0  
Small claims/civil: 0  
Hearings held: 3  
Persons on probation: 40  
Community service hours completed: 13  
License suspensions: 0  
To collections/DOR: 56  
Warrants issued: 1

Violation of the speed limit: Jarrod X. Kellogg, 42, Casper, Wyoming, Aug. 26, 60/35 zone, fined \$265; James L. Howden 42, Burns, July 23, 89/65 zone, fined \$265; Allan F. Dulwick, 67, Sisters, Aug. 4, 60/45 zone, fined \$140; Thomas A. Mulligan, 45, New Windsor, New York, July 27, 52/30 zone, fined \$265; Maria L. Mick, 31, Caldwell, Idaho, Aug. 10, 82/65 zone, fined \$265; Ruthvik S. Chunduri, 20, San Ramon, California, July 25, 56/26 zone, fined \$440; Faith M. Myers, 25, Elizabethtown, Indiana, Aug. 3, 73/35 zone, fined \$440; Anthony J. Gallinatti, 29, Boise, Idaho, Aug. 6,

60/25 zone, fined \$440.

Violation of the basic rule: Alvin J. Eastman, 76, Lincoln, Nebraska, Aug. 26, 79/55 zone, fined \$265; Kent T. Golding, 65, Bend, Aug. 19, 72/55 zone, fined \$140; Luis Of Saucedo, 46, Pasco, Washington, July 18, 80/55 zone, fined \$265.

Violation of posted limits on use: Keith A. Swanson, 31, Milton Freewater, July 27, fined \$115.

Failure to renew registration: Shawn A. Hyde, 29, Burns, May 29, fined \$115.

Failure to carry valid registration card: Shawn A. Hyde, 29, Burns, May 29, fined \$115.

Failure to drive within lane: Jason D. Lanning, 23, Seneca, July 29, fined \$265.

No operator's license: Thomas A. Mulligan, 45, New Windsor, New York, July 27, fined \$265.

Driving while suspended: Timothy A. Edwards Jr., 29, Mt. Vernon, July 22, fined \$440; Harrison E. Caron, 32, Bend, July 18, fined \$440; Katie M. Watt, 35, John Day, July 21, fined \$440.

Operating an unsafe vehicle: Timothy A. Edwards Jr., 29, Mt. Vernon, July 22, fined \$265; Dalton J. Davis, 25, Yakima, Washington, July 18, fined \$265.

Driving uninsured: Timothy A. Edwards Jr., 29, Mt. Vernon, July 22, fined \$265; Harrison E. Caron, 32, Bend,

July 18, fined \$265.

Failure to carry proof of financial requirements: Dalton J. Davis, 25, Yakima, Washington, July 18, fined \$265; Travis J. Friere, 35, John Day, June 5, fined \$265.

Driving outside restrictions: Juvenile, 16, John Day, July 28, fined \$265.

Careless driving: Ruthvik S. Chunduri, 20, San Ramon, California, July 25, fined \$265.

Failure to yield to pedestrian on sidewalk: Ruthvik S. Chunduri, 20, San Ramon, California, July 25, fined \$265.

### Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week ending Sept. 1:

Concealed handgun licenses: 5  
Average inmates: 8  
Bookings: 7  
Releases: 9  
Arrests: 2  
Citations: 5  
Fingerprints: 1  
Civil papers: 10  
Warrants processed: 5  
Assistance/Welfare check: 1  
Search and Rescue: 1  
Aug. 30: Cited Spencer Braden 20, Canyon City, for speeding, 51/35 zone.

Aug. 30: Cited Jordan McLuckie, 23, Portland, for speeding, 61/35 zone.

Aug. 30: Cited Jarrod Kellogg, 42, Casper, Wyoming, for speeding, 60/35 zone.

Aug. 31: Cited Rheanna

Cartner, 23, Seneca, for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Sept. 1: Cited John LaFranchise, 55, John Day for driving uninsured, driving while suspended and failure to install an ignition interlock device.

### Oregon State Police

Aug. 26: A trooper stopped a vehicle for a traffic infraction on Highway 395. Upon contact, the trooper observed indicators of drug impairment. During field sobriety tests, additional indicators of impairment were observed. The driver, Timothy A. Edwards, 29, was arrested and transported to Grant County Jail where he cooperated with a drug evaluation. He was lodged at the jail. His vehicle and dog were removed from the scene by a friend.

Aug. 28: A trooper stopped a driver on Highway 395B near milepost 120 for operating an ATV on a state highway. On contact, the driver had watery, glassy, bloodshot eyes, and a strong odor of alcohol on his breath. The driver admitted to drinking three beers. During field sobriety tests, further indicators of impairment were observed. The driver, Kyle L. Kinsey, 32, John Day, was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants and transported to the Grant County Jail. He provided a blood alcohol content sample of 0.10%.

He was issued a citation for DUII.

### Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 108 calls from Aug. 29 to Sept. 3, including:

#### • John Day Police Department

Aug. 29: Advised of an injured buck on Northwest Third Avenue.

Aug. 30: Responded for bank fraud on Adam Road.

Aug. 31: Arrested Holly A. Newman, 48, John Day, for fourth-degree domestic assault.

#### • Grant County Sheriff's Office

Aug. 30: Ashley Post, 32, Portland, was arrested for domestic violence on Highway 395.

Aug. 31: Responded for an elderly woman who fell and could not get up on North Humbolt Street.

Aug. 31: Harassment was reported in Ritter.

Sept. 1: Advised of a stolen shotgun on Highway 395 near Silvie.

Sept. 2: Received a report of fraud in Canyon City.

Sept. 2: Cited Paul H. Rogers, 64, Sarasota, Florida, for speeding, 46/25 zone.

Sept. 2: Received a report of a domestic dispute on Cottonwood Street.

#### • Oregon State Police

Aug. 29: Advised of a cow on Highway 26 near

milepost 136.

Aug. 31: Received a report of a vehicle-versus-deer crash on Highway 26 near milepost 163.

#### • John Day ambulance

Aug. 29: Responded with Long Creek ambulance for a woman with breathing problems on East Main Street.

Aug. 29: Dispatched for a child with difficulty breathing on Riverside Street.

Aug. 30: Responded for an unresponsive person on Valley View Drive.

Aug. 31: Responded for a woman who fell at Valley View Assisted Living.

Sept. 1: Responded for a nonresponsive woman on Cottonwood Street.

Sept. 1: Dispatched for a woman with a possible stroke on Patterson Drive.

Sept. 1: Dispatched with Long Creek ambulance for a man with chest pain on Third Street.

Sept. 1: Responded for a 78-year-old man who fell on Southwest First Street.

Sept. 2: Responded for a man with a possible appendix problem in Long Creek.

Sept. 2: Responded for a woman who was sick on Harper Creek Road.

#### • U.S. Forest Service

Aug. 29: Advised of a fire on Fields Peak.

Aug. 30: Smoke was reported in Murderers Creek.



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