

Outbreaks reported at Humbolt, Long Creek and Prairie City schools

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Humbolt Elementary School and the Prairie City and Long Creek School Districts are all experiencing active COVID-19 outbreaks.

According to Grant County Health Department Clinic Manager Jessica Winegar, Grant Union High School is likely to join that list when the Oregon Health Authority's weekly outbreak report comes out on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

State health officials define COVID-19 outbreaks at kindergarten through 12th-grade schools as instances where there are two or more coronavirus cases and evidence of transmission at the school.

Outbreaks are declared resolved when there have been no new cases for 28 days. The state reports the number of positive cases involving students, staff and volunteers at a school.

According to OHA's Sept. 22 outbreak report, eight students at Humbolt and one staffer tested positive for the virus.

At this point, Winegar said, the case counts at Grant County schools are low, which shows that the schools' mitigation efforts appear to be working.

Janine Attlesperger, Humbolt's principal, told the Eagle that roughly 14 students were put on quarantine after being exposed to the virus at a soccer game or soccer party on Aug. 30. She said all students and staff were back from the outbreak as of Monday Sept. 27.

However, Attlesperger told the Eagle a staffer had been exposed to the virus by a student. In an unrelated event, she said another Humbolt student was exposed from a small outbreak at Grant Union High School.

As of Monday, Sept. 27, Attlesperger said there had been no evidence of any student-to-student exposure on Humbolt's campus.

"We are just trying to be as cautious as we possibly can," Attlesperger said. "If we feel there may be a close contact, there will be a quarantine for 10 to 14 days."

Attlesperger said the information comes from the health department in a daily report. "We just share the information (with the parents)," she said, "and they (the health department) determine the quarantine. I think we did a really good job to make sure that it didn't spread within the school."

Jennifer Garinger, office manager with Long Creek's school district, told the Eagle that while their outbreak was resolved, an entire group of students on quarantine contracted the virus the week-end before returning to school. Those students, according to Garinger, were expected to return to in-person classes on Tuesday, Sept. 28. She declined to give the number of students in the group or how many were previously placed into quarantine to protect their privacy due to the small population in Long Creek.

What happens when a student is quarantined? Attlesperger told the Eagle that teachers offer their time virtually or over the phone to help students with their work when they are in quarantine. Attlesperger said educators learned that digital distance learning is not the best for kids. With that, she said that teachers are compiling the work that the students would do in class and are sending home textbooks and paper packets for students to complete at home. Prairie City Superintendent Casey Hallgarth did not immediately respond to the Eagle's request for comment.

Oregon regulators fine California winery

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

SALEM — The Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission has fined a California winery \$50,000 for mislabeling wines that improperly referenced specific geographic regions in Oregon.

It is one of the largest alcohol fines ever issued by OLCC, stemming from precise rules about what can and cannot be included on a wine's label.

Copper Cane LLC, based in Rutherford, Calif., purchases winegrapes from approximately 40 Oregon vineyards to make Pinot noir and rosé under the brand name Elouan. The fruit is then trucked in dry ice back to California where the wine is produced.

Oregon winemakers and consumers began raising alarm in 2018 when they noticed boxes of Elouan mention the Willamette, Rogue and Umpqua basins — regions that are federally designated as American Viticultural Areas, or AVAs, for their unique wine growing characteristics.



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press File

Wine grapes ripen in a vineyard in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

Under Oregon's labeling laws, wines must contain 95% of grapes from a particular AVA and be "fully finished" in that region to include its name on the label or marketing materials.

Though Elouan wines are made from Oregon grapes, they are technically produced in California and thus would not qualify to claim an Oregon AVA as its appellation of origin.

OLCC initially recommended revoking Copper Cane's certificate of approval

to sell wine to Oregon wholesalers, though the agency and winery instead agreed to a settlement.

In addition to the fine, Copper Cane agreed to abide by all wine labeling standards going forward.

Steve Marks, OLCC executive director, said in a statement that alcohol regulators and the wine industry collectively must continue to ensure that the unique locations where winegrapes are grown and produced are protected in the market, so consumers can be confident they are purchasing a bottle of wine from where it actually came from.

"In this case we used the agency's limited regulatory tools to protect Oregon's brand, in the same way we would respect the brands from other wine growing regions," Marks said.

As part of the settlement, Copper Cane did not admit to any wrongdoing. The company has argued it used labels that were previously approved by the federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. It later voluntarily surrendered nine labels amid complaints.

A representative for Copper Cane could not immediately be reached for comment.

While the OLCC dispute is now resolved, Copper Cane remains embroiled in a class action lawsuit filed by consumers over the alleged misrepresentation of its Elouan wines.

A federal judge recently declined to dismiss the case, which claims the winery violated state laws on false advertising, unfair competition and unjust enrichment, among others.

National forests offer free firewood program

Blue Mountain Eagle

National forests in Oregon and Washington will allow people to gather and cut firewood for personal use under a new free permit program, the Forest Service announced in a press release.

The free permits only cover firewood gathered for personal use, not for resale. The minimum charge for commercial firewood cutting permits will remain \$5 per cord.

"We are pleased to be able to offer free personal use firewood across the national forests in Oregon and Washington," Regional Forester Glenn

Casamassa said in the news release. "This change will benefit people who rely on firewood as their primary heat source and allow us to dispose of material that otherwise would have a cost to burn or remove."

The program will go into effect no later than Jan. 1 in the Malheur, Deschutes, Fremont-Winema, Gifford Pinchot, Ochoco, Okanogan-Wenatchee, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests.

For more information on the free use firewood program, contact Mike Spisak, assistant regional director of natural resources for the Forest Service, at michael.spisak@usda.gov.

OBITUARIES

Kristine Lynn Shull

Kristine Lynn Shull
Sept. 6, 1961 — Aug. 29, 2021

Kristine Lynn Shull, age 59, of Prairie City passed away Aug. 29 at home after an 11-year battle with cancer. She was laid to rest with her motorcycle helmet at a private burial at the Prairie City Cemetery on Sept. 12.

Kristine was born Sept. 6, 1961, in Brawley, California, to Hollis and Elsie Button Shull. She graduated from high school in Morris, Minnesota, attended the University of Washington at Pullman and graduated from the University of South Dakota with a bachelor's degree in wildlife biology. She worked as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Forest Service in Prairie City and as an administrative assistant for the National Park Service in Walla Walla, Washington. Kristine also had the advantage to work in New York with a team from the USFS and was welcomed along with her team to work administratively with Hurricane Katrina victims.

She was a member of the Prairie City Cruisers and a former member of the city planning commission. Kristine learned to play the piano at a very early age and fulfilled her desire to visit the Galapagos Islands.

Kristine had been married and later divorced. She and her sister Pat enjoyed motorcycle trips around the Northwest. She liked birding, especially ducks, and her cats. She also enjoyed camping, making new recipes, small woodworking projects, and spending time with her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hollis and Elsie Shull. Survivors include her sisters, June and Pat Shull of Prairie City, Oregon; a sister, Cheryl Lower of San Diego, California; and a niece, Cindy Walsh of San Diego, California.

Memorial contributions in her name can be made to a charity of one's choice through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, Oregon 97845. To leave an online condolence for the family please visit www.driskillmemorialchapel.com.

Susan Kay Komning

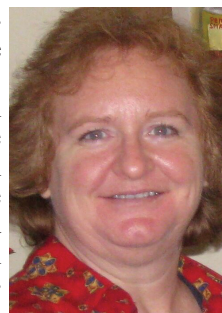
Susan Kay Komning, age 66, of Mt. Vernon passed away Sept. 24 at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. A graveside service will be held Friday, Oct. 1, at 1 p.m. at Mill Creek Cemetery in Prineville. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021 at the Mt. Vernon Community Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Grant County 4-H Program through Driskill Memorial Chapel, 241 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845.

To leave an online condolence for the family, visit www.driskillmemorialchapel.com.

About Obituaries

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Read to run for governor

By KELCIE GREGA
Pamplin Media Group

State Treasurer Tobias Read has officially entered Oregon's gubernatorial race.

Early Monday morning, Sept. 27, the former Beaverton lawmaker announced his bid in a campaign video highlighting his personal stake in the COVID-19 pandemic as not only a politician but a father.

"I'm tired of adults who think their version of freedom allows them to endanger children," Read said, referring to opponents of public health orders intended to slow down viral transmission.

Read joins House Speaker Tina Kotek, Yamhill County Commissioner Casey Kulla and former Independent gubernatorial candidate Patrick Starnes in the 2022 as other major names in the Democratic primary race.

In his campaign announcement, Read prescribes "steady leadership" and prioritizing children as the cure for getting past the pandemic.

"We need to stop lurching from one crisis to the next and lay out a vision for where to take Oregon, not just next year, but for the next generation," he said. "My approach is simple: I'll measure Oregon's progress by how well our kids are doing."

The Democrat is in his

second term as the state's top financial official. His term expires in 2024.

As treasurer, Read has earned a reputation of being "business-friendly."

He also oversees the Oregon College Savings Plan, which helps tens of thousands of students save for post-high school education.

Read's campaign website also touts his contributions as treasurer in helping place environmental advocates on boards of major energy companies to move them away from fossil fuels.

Before he was treasurer, Read represented much of Beaverton and surrounding parts of Washington County from 2007 to 2017 as a state representative.

In 2015, he sponsored the Oregon Retirement Savings Plan, which would later become Oregon's first state-sponsored retirement program in 2017. The program has since helped 100,000 Oregonians fund their retirement accounts.

Read notes in his campaign website that if elected, he intends to make pre-kindergarten available to every Oregon child, as well as extend the school year so kids can have year-round educational opportunities. He also wants to bolster apprenticeships and vocational training, as well as bring down the costs of college tuition.



Tobias Read

Kelly O'Dell Haskins

August 13, 1960 ~ September 10, 2021

Kelly O'Dell Haskins, 61, of Prairie City passed away September 10, 2021 at St. Charles Hospital in Bend Oregon. A celebration of life will be determined at a later date.

He was born to Thomas Haskins and Twila Darlene (Schreckhise) Haskins on August 13, 1960 in Prairie City Oregon. Kelly married his late wife Faye Suzanne (Curts) Haskins on September 23, 1979, and together they had three children. Kelly proudly served in the United States Army where he had commendations for his skill in sharpshooting, grenades, and weapons, he served his country until he was injured and became disabled.

During the earlier years of his life Kelly followed in his parents' footsteps and worked in the logging industry, spent long hours on the road as a truck driver and was the owner of KOH Construction. Kelly was saved in his Christian faith in 1996 at Assembly of God church in Prairie City. In 1999, he moved to Prineville, Oregon where he and his first wife, Faye, headed up a Bible Way Church in Prineville, where he also led a radio ministry on KRCCO.

Kelly married his long-time childhood friend Wilma Sue Bullock on May 20, 2004 and together they led a tent revival ministry for about a year shortly after their wedding. Kelly and Sue held pastoring positions with the Church of Acts, in 2004-2005 at the Methodist Church building in Prairie City, and also in La Grande from 2006-2007, at the Bible Way Community Church in John Day, Oregon and led the Church of Acts ministry from their home until Kelly's health did not allow him to continue.

His favorite pastimes included hunting, fishing, mining, reading his bible and spending time with his animals. Last year in 2020 Kelly killed an elk with one shot on a hunting trip with his son.

Kelly was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Haskins and Twila (Schreckhise) Hammack; his late wife, Faye Suzanne (Curts) Haskins; his infant daughter, Amber Dawn Haskins; three brothers Thomas, Rocky and Tony Haskins and nephew Thomas Kennedy.

Kelly is survived by his wife, Wilma Sue (Bullock) Haskins; daughter, Christina Wilson (Jonathan); son, Joshua Haskins; grandchildren, Elizabeth Wilson, Jonathan Wilson Jr.(Nathan), Christopher Wilson, Noah Wilson, Hannah Wilson, Erin Wilson, Haylie Haskins, Hunter Haskins, Abigail Haskins and Mia Haskins; sister, Twila Daniels; great-grandson, Liam Wilson; nieces, Tonya Kennedy, Holly Jisa, Ashley Smith and Taylor Kennedy; nephews, Jeff Curts, Kyle Curts, Trevor Curts, and Byron Curts as well as other several other great-nieces and nephews.

To leave an online condolence for the family please visit, www.driskillmemorialchapel.com.

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Paid for by the family of Kelly Haskins.



Last Week's Temps

Table with 2 columns: Day and HI/LO. Rows for John Day Tuesday through Monday.

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 SEPT. 29 - OCT. 5

Weather forecast grid for days Wednesday through Tuesday, showing icons, conditions, and high/low temperatures.