

Grant County reports 17th COVID-19 death

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — COVID-19 has claimed another Grant County life.

A 91-year-old man passed away at the Blue Mountain Hospital on Saturday, Dec. 4, the Grant County Health Department announced Wednesday, Dec. 8.

The press release said it is the 17th COVID-related death for Grant County. As of Dec. 8, according to the Oregon Health Authority, the county had recorded 1,092 cases of the virus since

the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020.

Oregon has had 398,262 cases and 5,318 deaths from COVID-19, OHA data show.

The country as a whole has seen a total of 793,188 COVID-related deaths and a little over 49 million cases, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

The Health Department's press release asked residents to be respectful as a Grant County family grieves.

Grant County Health Department

Administrator Kimberly Lindsay said she could not share the deceased person's vaccination status.

Nonetheless, Lindsay said the virus tends to be — but not always — more drawn-out for those who have not been immunized.

She said there is still a significant presence of COVID-19 in the area, and it's still something she encourages people to take seriously and be thoughtful about in their day-to-day lives.

Lindsay emphasized that she is happy children are back in school and that the

lockdowns were lifted, which she attributes to the available vaccine.

Yet, Lindsay said, 17 COVID-related deaths in 18 months is a lot.

While she understands the vaccines are not necessarily well-received by some in Grant County, the Health Department strongly supports the use of vaccines and encourages people to get immunized.

"There are just still a lot of people who are struggling with COVID-19," Lindsay said. "The bulk of them are unvaccinated."

Hines logging outfit wins E. Oregon award

Blue Mountain Eagle

HINES — H Timber Contracting of Hines has been named Eastern Oregon Regional Operator of the Year by the Oregon Department of Forestry.



Tony Hauth

Every year, ODF selects an outstanding logger from each of the state's three regions.

H Timber Contracting's work has consistently exceeded the Forest Practices Act and forest practice rules, the department said in a news release announcing the award.

The Regional Forest Practices Act Committee reviewed a logging job done by H Timber Contracting in the Laycock Creek drainage in Grant County. The job was particularly challenging because of a fish-bearing stream that flowed through the site, but H Timber Contracting used some unique logging techniques to remove the timber while protecting the riparian area, according to the news release.

The award will be formally presented to company owner Tony Hauth at a ceremony in Salem on Jan. 5.

Grant Union classroom gets 3D printers

By STEVEN MITCHELL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Grant Union students created keychains, pencil holders, rings, jack-o-lanterns and even Christmas ornaments last month after the school's computers class received a pair of 3D printers.

Stacy Durych, computer technology education and business teacher, said the 3D printers came to the school through the state's secondary careers pathways program, which covered the \$2,800 cost of the equipment.

Durych told the Eagle that the Oregon Department of Education's regional CTE program coordinator, Jerry Peacock, hand-delivered the printers last month.

Then the students got a four-hour training from Vale's specialist in education technology and STEM, Melodie Wilson.

"They encourage as many students as possible to be present for the training," Durych said, "as they are like sponges



Contributed photo

Grant Union seventh-graders Shreya Vyas, left, and Allyson Moore pose with a classmate's 3D-printed "Hunger Games" emblem.

and absorb all the new information quickly."

What is a 3D printer?

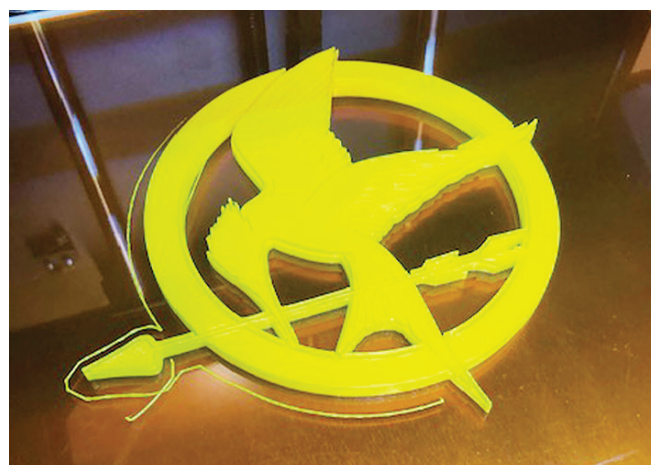
Sometimes called additive manufacturing, 3D printing is essentially a process of making an object by depositing material one thin layer at a time.

Invented in the 1980s by engineer and physicist Chuck Hull, the technol-

ogy has exploded in the last decade.

Once the user creates a three-dimensional blueprint using computer-aided design software, the 3D printer is filled with raw materials such as plastic, powders and binding solutions. Most 3D printers use polylactic acid, a biodegradable thermoplastic polymer.

Durych's class has gone



Contributed photo

A student's final product is displayed in Grant Union's computers class. Students have been learning to use the two 3D printers the school received in November.

through quite a bit in the last month.

"Between all of my classes loving the 3D printing, we have used many rolls of the 3D (PLA) material," Durych said.

The 3D printers, not unlike a home inkjet printer, use a two-dimensional layering method to create the desired object. With information from the digital file, the 3D printer knows precisely

where to put the material.

"They (students) love to watch the printer print layer by layer," Durych said, "and are mesmerized by the design on their computer screen coming to life inside of the 3D printer."

3D printing, Durych said, has been an exciting addition to the school's CTE curriculum.

"The joy that has been added to the classroom is priceless," Durych said.

Annual bird count seeks volunteers

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant County Bird Club invites birdwatchers of all ages and skill levels to help with the 2021 Audubon Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 18.

Sponsored by the National Audubon Society, the annual event is the longest-running community science survey in the country, dating from 1900. It provides ornithologists with a snapshot of native bird populations throughout North America during the winter months.

Each individual count is performed in a count circle with a diameter of 15 miles. The volunteers break up into small parties to cover different sections of the count area, counting every bird they see. Some people also watch feeders instead of following routes and submit their sightings to the compiler. Interested birders should meet at the Outpost Restaurant in John Day before 7 a.m. Compiler Tom Winters will designate teams and assign territories. Due to the risk of transmitting COVID-19, teams will be comprised of persons that share space continually, are fully vaccinated and willing to share space, or are driving separate vehicles.

Those counting birds at feeders should contact

the compiler to help reduce duplications of sightings from field participants. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Tom Winters at home at 541-542-2006, by cell at 541-620-2922 or by email at tjwinters1951@gmail.com.

The compilation of the day's efforts will take place at 5 p.m. at the 1188 Brewery. Feeder watchers and anyone interested in the day's results are welcome.

This year, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count will mobilize nearly 80,000 volunteer bird counters in more than 2,600 locations across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America. The Audubon Christmas Bird Count utilizes the power of volunteers to track the health of bird populations at a scale that scientists could never accomplish alone.

Data compiled on the John Day count will try to record every individual bird and bird species seen in a specified area, contributing to a vast community science network that continues a tradition stretching back 120 years. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, Audubon's Christmas Bird Count provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

SUNDAY, DEC. 19

Deck the House 2021

• 6 to 8 p.m., Canyon City
Annual holiday lighting contest sponsored and judged by the Whiskey Gulch Gang. First place wins \$500 and a trophy, and second place wins \$250. To enter, call or text Jenna at 541-620-1673 with your address. Entries will be accepted until Dec. 18. Be sure to have your lights on the evening of Dec. 19.



Do you have a community event in Grant County you'd like to publicize? Email information to editor@bmeagle.com. The deadline is noon Friday for publication the following Wednesday.

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★ December 17-23 ★

SPIDERMAN: NO WAY HOME (PG-13)
Friday 4:00, 7:10
Sat & Sun 12:45, 4:00, 7:10
Mon - Thurs 4:00 7:10

ENCANTO (PG)
Friday 4:20, 7:20
Sat & Sun 1:10, 4:20, 7:20
Mon & Tues 4:20, 7:20

GHOSTBUSTERS AFTERLIFE (PG-13)
Friday 4:10, 7:30
Sat & Sun 1:00, 4:10, 7:30
Mon & Tues 4:10, 7:30

OPENING WEDNESDAY 12/22
"THE MATRIX: RESURRECTIONS" (R) & "SING 2" (PG)

SHOWTIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CALL AHEAD TO VERIFY
www.eltrym.com (541) 523-2522

Thank you to the health care workers that have been vaccinated and wear masks. Thank you to the business owners and their employers who have been vaccinated and wear masks. Thank you to family, friends and neighbors who are vaccinated and wear masks. By doing your part you make it safer for yourself and others, and I for one appreciate it!

Alena Smith, Canyon City, OR

5273136-1

THE JUNIPER ARTS COUNCIL / GRANT COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION IS SEEKING GRANT PROPOSALS FOR OREGON CULTURAL TRUST GRANT AWARDS

The coalition has \$12,000 from the Oregon Cultural Trust to distribute in Grant County to organizations for projects relating to culture and / or heritage.

Applications are available from Karin Bantish, 131 W. Main Street, John Day, Oregon, or call Kris Beal at (541)932-4892 for more information or an application.

Applications are due by 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

5273310-1

TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR MEDICINE CABINET!

Help prevent drug misuse, and protect our water supply from improper drug disposal.

Safely Dispose of Unused or Expired Medications

Find a disposal location near you at safemedicinedrop.com

5271608-1

Grant-Harney County CASA is hiring!

Grant County Program Manager

Status: Part-Time (20 hours), Non-exempt
Salary Range: Starting \$17-19/hour, dependent on experience
Position Summary: The Program Manager provides supervision and case management support to CASA Volunteers. CASA Volunteers are trained citizen volunteers appointed by the court to advocate for the best interests of children during their time in the juvenile dependency system, with a goal of finding a safe and permanent home as expeditiously as possible. The Program Manager ensures that children in Grant County who have experienced neglect or abuse receive strong and effective advocacy and strict confidentiality.

Visit www.grantharneycasa.org for a job description and application instructions.

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

5273165-1