

Vaccine clinics come to county

By TONY CHIOTTI
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — There will be a series of vaccination clinics offered in Grant County by the Oregon Health Authority and the Grant County Health Department starting Monday, Oct. 3, at various locations around the county. The OHA will be providing a team to assist in administering both COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

Primary COVID-19 vaccines as well as bivalent boosters, which are specifically designed to target the dominant omicron subvariants of the virus, will be available.

There will be both regular and high-dose flu vaccines; high-dose versions are intended for patients over the age of 65 or with underlying conditions. It is recommended that residents check with their primary care providers prior to attending to help them choose the right options, although nurses will be able to answer questions at the clinics.

Attendees should bring insurance information and any documentation of prior COVID-19 vaccination with them.

Here is the schedule for the vaccination clinics:

- Monday, Oct. 3, 1-3 p.m. at



Blue Mountain Eagle, File
A health care worker prepares a COVID-19 shot.

the Dayville Community Hall.

- Tuesday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Monument Senior Center, 269 Main St.

- Wednesday, Oct. 5, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Long Creek School.

- Wednesday, Oct. 5, noon-1:30 p.m. at the Prairie City Senior Center, 204 N. McHaley St.

- Thursday, Oct. 6, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Seneca Community Center.

- Friday and Saturday, Oct. 7 and 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Grant County Health Department, 528 E. Main St., Suite E, John Day.

Grant logs 26th COVID death

By TONY CHIOTTI
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — The Grant County Health Department reported the 26th death of a local resident related to COVID-19 on Monday, Oct. 3.

The 97-year-old male died at his residence on Sept. 25 and had underlying health conditions, the department said in a news release.

Grant County reported 22 new COVID-19 cases in the previous week. There is currently one person hospitalized in Grant County with COVID-19.

The state of Oregon reported 4,553 cases in the week ending on Sept. 28, as well as 41 new deaths and 268 hospitalizations. Nationally there have been a total of 96,418,825 COVID cases and 1,059,711 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Reported case numbers only reflect cases known to county and state authorities and do not include positive home tests that were not reported.

The Grant County Health Department asks that people report any positive at-home tests by calling the Oregon Health Authority at 1-866-917-8881 as well as notifying all close contacts so they can watch for symptoms and reduce the spread of the disease.

Vaccination is still the single most effective way to protect yourself and reduce the impact of COVID-19 in the community, according to public health officials. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly encourages COVID-19 vaccination for everyone aged six months and over.

Planning board seeks members

By TONY CHIOTTI
Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — The Grant County Planning Commission is seeking new volunteer members to ensure its ability to oversee land use, zoning applications and the siting of new facilities.

The commission is made up of nine regular members and two alternates, brought in to make a quorum when required. Currently, the commission has no alternates and only eight members.

Grant County Planning Director Shannon Springer explained that such a lean roster risks situations where the commission can't fulfill its vital role.

"We have 150 days to get through any local appeals," said Springer. She explained that if the appeals process is not completed within the statutory time frames, an application could be approved by default, regardless of its merits.

"So somebody wants to put a dog food factory on the corner next to, say, the grade school, and we don't make all of our timelines, even though it's not an allowable use and they don't meet the criteria, then it would be authorized by default because they weren't afforded the appropriate process in the appropriate time frame."

She explained that the commissioners are careful to plan things out to avoid such outcomes, but they would like to fill out their ranks to make sure they are never put in that position.

Applications for new members are reviewed by the current mem-

bers of the planning commission, who make a recommendation to the Grant County Court. The court makes the appointments as part of its regular meetings.

Positions are approved for a four-year term, at the end of which members are free to reapply.

Springer said there is an effort to ensure that a wide geographical area of Grant County is represented, and there are statutory requirements that state no more than two members should be from the same industry background, in order to ensure fairness in the decisions.

"It's not an enormous time commitment," said Springer, adding that when a complex case does come up, there is support for commission members. While not allowed to talk to each other or to applicants or complainants, commissioners are able to receive support from the planning office staff in order to understand the codes and processes before them.

"It's a key and integral part of Oregon's land use process," said Springer. "Citizen involvement is a foundational block."

The commission meets at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the John Day Fire Hall, 316 S. Canyon Blvd. Agendas and minutes from past meetings are published online at <https://grantcountyoregon.net/248/Planning>.

Anyone interested in applying should pick up a volunteer application form from the county court or by contacting the planning office directly.

Fourth Avenue to reopen next month

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Work to repair a flood-damaged stretch of Southwest Fourth Avenue should be completed next month.

A portion of Fourth Avenue, which serves as the primary connector between John Day and the Grant County Regional Airport, was damaged in 2019 after flooding in Canyon Creek eroded the bank beneath the roadbed.

Efforts by Tidewater Contractors to repair the road are about halfway done, according to Tidewater's Lee Duckett.

An update on the status of the project was provided at the Sept. 27 John Day City Council meeting by Nick Green, the city's chief planning official. Excavation of the site began on Sept. 1, with workers dig-



Justin Davis/Blue Mountain Eagle
Lee Duckett of Tidewater Contractors operates a front loader on Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2022. The company is shoring up a flood-damaged portion of Southwest Fourth Avenue in John Day.

ging out the road base in the damaged area. Sandbags were then placed along the creek to keep water out of the work site before a survey of the line where a mechanically stabilized earth retaining wall would be placed. The MSE retaining wall consists of compacted soil and gravel and will re-

create the road base that had fallen into Canyon Creek during the flooding.

A riprap wall made of large boulders will then be constructed to anchor the MSE retaining wall to the bank. The result, Green said, will be a native-looking slope with the riprap anchoring the MSE wall

to the bank while the MSE retaining grid stabilizes the wall.

Native soil will then be put back in place and efforts to re-vegetate the site will begin. Green said the goal of the project is to bring the site back to pre-disaster conditions.

Tidewater was expected to be finished with restoration efforts around Canyon Creek by Sept. 30, with the road opened for use by the general public again by the end of October or early November. Green also

mentioned that the repaired section of road may not be paved when it first reopens to the public but it will be in good enough condition to drive on and will be repaved eventually.

Duckett confirmed Green's timeline in an interview, stating that the road will be opened to the public sometime in November.

"(We have to) finish building the rock wall (and) get it brought up to the surface, and then put in a storm drain and

some paving. That's about it," he said.

"We're probably at the half-way mark (or) a little further than that. We dug out pretty fast ... It'll get faster and faster the higher we get," Duckett added.

Tidewater's bid for the project was \$917,575. The work was originally going to be 75% funded by the federal Emergency Management Agency with a 25% match by the city. The project is now completely grant-funded.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

THURSDAY, OCT. 6
Triple P Positive Parenting Program

- 5:30-8 p.m., Painted Sky Center for the Arts, 118 Washington St., Canyon City

Free parenting program that combines four evening sessions with personal phone calls to help with individual implementation. Sponsored by Families First, Community Counseling Solutions and Frontier Early Learning Hub. Free dinner and free child care available. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdevzm6s>. For more information, call 541-575-1006.

Emergency communications council meeting

- 6 p.m., John Day Fire Hall, 316 S. Canyon Blvd.

The Grant County Emergency Communications Agency Intergovernmental Council will meet to discuss the appointment of a budgeting officer, a hiring bonus program and other matters. The meeting is open to the public. To join via teleconference, dial 605-313-5406 and use access code 889135.

THURSDAY, OCT. 13
Triple P Positive Parenting Program

- 5:30-8 p.m., Painted Sky Center for the Arts, 118 Washington St., Canyon City

Free parenting program that combines four evening sessions with personal phone calls to help with individual implementation. Sponsored by Families First, Community Counseling Solutions and Frontier Early Learning Hub. Free dinner and free child care available. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdevzm6s>. For more information, call 541-575-1006.

FRIDAY, OCT. 14
Dayville Fall Festival

- 6 p.m., Dayville Community Hall, Highway 26, Dayville

The town will hold its annual Fall Festival in the newly renovated Dayville Community Hall. Cornbread, rolls and apple cider will be provided, and attendees are asked to bring a soup, stew, chili or dessert to share. There will also be a cake-



walk and an Anything Pumpkin Contest (bring food, artwork or anything else pumpkin-related to enter). Winners of the Scarecrow Contest will be announced, the community hall's new tile wall will be unveiled, and Dayville student work will be displayed.

THURSDAY, OCT. 20
Triple P Positive Parenting Program

- 5:30-8 p.m., Painted Sky Center for the Arts, 118 Washington St., Canyon City

Free parenting program that combines four evening sessions with personal phone calls to help with individual implementation. Sponsored by Families First, Community Counseling Solutions and

Frontier Early Learning Hub. Free dinner and free child care available. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdevzm6s>. For more information, call 541-575-1006.

THURSDAY, NOV. 10
Triple P Positive Parenting Program

- 5:30-8 p.m., Painted Sky Center for the Arts, 118 Washington St., Canyon City

Free parenting program that combines four evening sessions with personal phone calls to help with individual implementation. Sponsored by Families First, Community Counseling Solutions and Frontier Early Learning Hub. Free dinner and free child care available. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/bdevzm6s>. For more information, call 541-575-1006.

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



A MAN WAKES UP in the morning after sleeping on... an advertised bed, in advertised pajamas.

He will bathe in an ADVERTISED TUB, shave with an ADVERTISED RAZOR, have a breakfast of ADVERTISED JUICE, cereal and toast, toasted in an ADVERTISED TOASTER, put on ADVERTISED CLOTHES and glance at his ADVERTISED WATCH. He'll ride to work in his ADVERTISED CAR, sit at an ADVERTISED DESK and write with an ADVERTISED PEN. Yet this person hesitates to advertise, saying that advertising doesn't pay. Finally, when his non-advertised business is going under, HE'LL ADVERTISE IT FOR SALE. *Then it's too late.*

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Harvest Festival

**Oct 14th 3pm-8pm,
Oct 15th 9 am - 2 pm.**

**Heritage Barn at
the Grant County Fairgrounds.**

Multiple Food Vendors, Curbside Cravings on Saturday, Hot Dig-Ga-Dy Dogs, hot dogs and sausage dogs with all the fixings on both days. Fire and Ice Ice Cream, multiple dietary options available.

Live Music

Kids activities- face paintings too!

Drawing for a 8 burner grill

Cider Press available, bring your own apples/containers, or both available for purchase.

Autumn mini photo sessions

Pumpkins and winter squash, home canned goods, baked treats & honey for sale

20+ vendors

Sign up to be a vendor:

grantcofarmersmarket@gmail.com

or call 541-620-3152

