

OWGL opposes congressman's Snake River proposal

Oregon Wheat Growers League strongly opposes the proposal floated by Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson to breach the four lower Snake River dams. The Columbia-Snake River System provides the most environmentally friendly and safest mode of transportation for getting wheat to market. The loss of those dams would significantly increase emissions, requiring wheat and other products to move from barge to rail and truck transportation, directly conflicting with our region's climate goals.

The Congressman's plan to create a "Columbia Basin Fund" for regional economic and environmental transition does not address the harm that would be caused to both the economy and environment by his proposal. OWGL joins their partners in firmly opposing this proposal which targets the lower Snake River Dams and the long-term viability of our agricultural economy.

As one of the largest wheat-producing states in the U.S., IGPA cannot overstate the importance of the river system to Idaho's grain growers. Wheat is grown in 42 of Idaho's 44 counties and last year alone, Idaho's wheat growers produced a record-setting 112-million-bushel crop. Every year, about half of the state's wheat is used domestically while

the other half is exported to overseas markets. Idaho is uniquely positioned to access the global marketplace by moving grain from the Port of Lewiston, through the Columbia-Snake River system to Portland, then onto foreign customers. Most of the top customers are countries in the Pacific Rim - Japan, the Philippines, Korea, China, and Taiwan.

But the Columbia-Snake River System moves more than just Idaho wheat - the four dams on the lower Snake River move nearly 10 percent of the entire nation's wheat exports each year.

Barging wheat is the most environmentally friendly mode of transportation available. Without the ability to barge goods down the river, diesel fuel consumption would increase by nearly 5 million gallons per year as barges would be replaced by less efficient truck-to-rail shipments. At least 201 additional unit trains and 23.8 million miles in additional trucking activity would be required annually, resulting in increases in CO2 and other harmful emissions by over 1.2 million tons per year.

The river system also provides low cost, clean hydropower to Idaho and the Pacific Northwest. Over 90 percent of the Northwest's renewable energy comes from hydroelectric dams.

Morrow County to get 100 vaccine doses this week

By David Sykes

According to figures released by the state, Morrow County will receive 100 doses of COVID-19 vaccine this week. The doses were expected to be delivered on Tuesday, and it was not announced where in the county or to whom the vaccines would be administered. See the table below for a look at how many doses and where the doses were distributed across the State of Oregon this week.

This recent allotment follows several weeks where the county received either no doses or very few of the COVID vaccine, prompting county commissioners to ask why counties like Morrow with higher per capita infection rates, were getting low doses and Brown was diverting so much to the cities.

Emotions about the inequitable distribution boiled over in late January when a 600-dose shipment was diverted by Governor

Kate Brown away from Morrow County to the metro areas of the state. Commissioners called a special meeting January 28 inviting representative Greg Smith and Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock to attend and talk strategy on how to get a more equitable distribution of vaccines for Morrow and Umatilla counties. Across the state, Morrow County is rated number three and Umatilla number four in rates of infection in their populations, and commissioners felt COVID "hot spots" like this should at least get their fair share of vaccines.

During the meeting, the consensus among the local political leadership was that the distribution had become very politicized with no evidence of equity of distribution. The hour-long meeting produced an agreement that Representative Greg Smith should write a letter to Brown asking for a virtual meeting with

Turn Away and Turn Towards

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph SDB, St. Patrick Church

Lent, a nearly 40-day period of fasting, prayer, almsgiving, mortification, self-sacrifice and self-denial, begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. The length of the Lenten fast was established in the 4th century as 46 days (40 days, not counting Sundays). During Lent, participants eat sparingly or give up a particular food habit or other habits. It is not uncommon for people to give up smoking during Lent, or to reduce the use of social media, watching television, eating candy or telling lies. It is six weeks of self-disciplining.

The book of Genesis describes the creation of the world and mankind. Adam and Eve had a very good relationship with God before the sin. In chapters 4-6, we see evil increasing and man falling prey to sin and its consequences. God decides to destroy the world with flood. Even when Noah is preparing the boat, others went on with sinning and turning away from God. But in Genesis 9:8-15 we see that God established a new relationship with mankind. Noah and his descendants are offered a covenant promising that God would protect and nurture them, a covenant sealed with a rainbow.

The First Letter of St. Peter very clearly explains this aspect of salvation through baptism. The flood foreshadowed our Holy Baptism, through which we are cleansed of original sin and set free to live a life for Christ. St. Peter writes like this about baptism, "...not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities and power subject to him."

In the Gospel reading of the day, Jesus is preaching repentance. Led by the Holy Spirit to the desert, He overcomes the temptations of the Satan. After 40 days in the desert of human existence, amidst barrenness and temptations, challenged not just with the elements but with Satan himself (Mk 1:12-15), Jesus emerges on the public stage ready for his public ministry, for proclamation of the Good News and healing of the Bad News, for Lenten death and Easter resurrection. His new covenant would be a perpetual one, reconciling humanity to God, sealed in the blood and water of the Lamb, offered on the ark of the altar and the altar of the Cross. He did this for our ransom from our slavery of sin. Sin breaks us from God and his friendship. Let's reflect more this week on how we can return to God.

God continuously calls us to conversion and waits for us to return to him like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, or rather, he runs after us like the hound of heaven in the poem of Francis Thompson.

Jesus did not leave behind a list of sins, but he showed the meaning and seriousness of sin by the way he responded to events and situations. He redefined many of the existing teachings on sin (Mt.5:21f).

a) Refusal to help those in need: The last judgement

himself and the Morrow and Umatilla county commissioners. "The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss vaccine distribution throughout District 57, focusing on Morrow and Umatilla counties," Smith said in his letter.

Governor Brown subsequently refused to meet with the group. When asked why she would not, Smith said, "Right now, the Governor feels as if she is in a very difficult position. She has stated that she is going to maintain her current course of action. Governor Brown's preference at this time is to communicate through the Association of Oregon Counties."

When asked about the refusal to meet, commissioner Don Russell said he didn't really know much other than Greg Smith's office had told him the meeting was denied. "It is my understanding that we did get promised 200 doses of Moderna (vaccine) first round vaccine for this week (Feb. 7)," Russell told the Gazette. "This is more than we had been getting, so maybe we accomplished something. The federal government had been allocating 50,000 doses per week to Oregon and a per capita share to Morrow County would be 150 doses per week. I don't know if there is a cause and effect or not. We also got an interview with OPB and the governor being a political person doesn't like negative publicity," Russell said. "So even though we didn't get the one-on-one conversation, it looks like we may have moved the needle at least for this week." Commissioner Doherty did not comment on why he thought the governor

scene and the stories of the Rich Man and Lazarus show that we are judged according to our refusal to reach out to persons who need timely support and assistance. (Mt. 25: 41-46; Lk. 16: 19f)

b) Waste of Talents: Every one of us is gifted with multi talents, and the parable of the talents reminds us that we should not be like the one who buried the talent. (Mt. 25.24-30) How do you make use of your God-given talents and energy to bring the lost ones back to God's flock?

c) Unwillingness to Forgive: The parable of the unforgiving servant, from the Gospel of Matthew, is the best example for our refusal to forgive others daily. Do we have a habit of forgiving people who offend or hurt us?

d) Pharisaism: There is a growing tendency among many of us to condemn others, as we see in the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. The Pharisee, when he came to pray in the temple, instead of praying, was despising the tax collector. During this holy season of Lent, let's try to get rid of this aspect of pharisaic nature hidden in us. (Lk. 18:11-12)

e) Refusal to accept and stand by one's own people: From the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus highlights the elder brother as one who refuses to accept his own brother when he returns. A lesson to us all. (Lk. 15: 25-32)

f) Ingratitude: With the parable of the healing of 10 lepers, the Lord is reminding everyone to be grateful to God for the numerous blessings we receive every day in our lives, though we have received much more than we truly need or deserve. (Lk 17:11-19)

g) Selfishness and hoarding: Do we behave like the rich fool, who instead of sharing with the poor and the needy around him, was foolish and selfish. Let's try to come out of this selfish mentality and share with the people who need what God gives through our hands. (Lk 12:13-21)

This Lenten season is an invitation from God to all of us to return to him. God does not keep track of our sins (cf. Lk. 15:21f). As we see in the parable of the prodigal son, when we return God is just waiting to receive us back. But our guilty conscience torments us and we punish ourselves. This Lenten season, He is waiting to welcome us all to His kingdom. For God, our readiness to forgive and contrition are more important. Readiness to change is a necessary condition as we see in the life of Zacchaeus. (Lk. 19:8) Reparation for the rapture is necessary. The Gospel of the day gives us a very good example, after Jesus' 40 days and nights of fasting and prayer, He comes out proclaiming the message of repentance. Jesus embarks on His ministry, strong, focused, determined and bold. In the same way, everyday spend a little time with the Lord reading scriptures. With the strength that we receive from the reading of the scriptures and the sacraments, and with the help of the Lord, we must also balance our prayers and fasting with repentance on our part and become Gospel signs to the people around us. God wants from us our conversion - to change our hearts and turn towards and closer to Him.

at the state administration Morrow County still seek that I don't personally re-council with the state, county quest. If the others from me out," Doherty said.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

State-Wide Moderna vaccine Delivery Numbers Week of February 14

Location	County	Moderna Prime				Total	Boost	Total
		Seniors	Educators	1a	Total			
AFC URGENT CARE OF BEAVERTON	Washington						300	300
ALBERTSONS/SAV-ON 3595	JACKSON						200	200
ALBERTSONS/SAV-ON 536	MULTNOMAH						200	200
AVIVA HEALTH - ROSEBURG	DOUGLAS	900	100	400	1,400		1,400	2,800
BAKER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	BAKER	100			100			100
BEAVERCREEK HEALTH CENTER -	CLACKAMAS	500	300	400	1,200		2,300	3,500
BENTON CO HEALTH DEPT	BENTON	100	300	200	600		900	1,500
CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	UNION	200	100		300			300
CLATSOP CO HEALTH DEPT	CLATSOP	300	100		400			400
COOS HEALTH AND WELLNESS	COOS	500			500		100	600
CROOK CO HEALTH DEPT	CROOK	200			200		200	400
CURRY MEDICAL PRACTICE	CURRY	200			200			200
DESCHUTES CHS - BEND	DESCHUTES	1,100	200		1,300		2,700	4,000
DOC - CENTRAL PHARMACY	MARION			1,400	1,400			1,400
DOC - FOUR RIVERS CORRECTIONAL PHARMACY	MALHEUR			1,600	1,600			1,600
GENOA HEALTHCARE PHARMACY - EUGENE	LANE			500	500			500
GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL	BENTON	200			200			200
GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	GRANT	100			100			100
HARNEY CO HEALTH DEPT	HARNEY	100			100		100	200
HOOD RIVER CO HEALTH DEPT	HOOD RIVER	100	100		200		700	900
JACKSON CO HEALTH DEPT	JACKSON	1,500	300		1,800		600	2,400
JEFFERSON CO HEALTH DEPT	JEFFERSON	100	100		200		800	1,000
JOINT OPERATIONS MASS VACCINATION CLINIC	MULTNOMAH			500	500			500
JOSEPHINE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT	JOSEPHINE	700	400		1,100		600	1,700
KAISER PERMANENTE - AIRPORT WAY CEN	MULTNOMAH						1,900	1,900
KLAMATH CO PUBLIC HEALTH	KLAMATH	500	100		600		400	1,000
LAKE CO HEALTH DEPT	LAKE	100			100			100
LANE CO HEALTH DEPT	LANE		275	25	300		6,700	7,000
LINCOLN CO HEALTH DEPT	LINCOLN	400	100		500		700	1,200
LINN CO HEALTH DEPT - ALBANY	LINN	700	800		1,500		800	2,300
MALHEUR CO HEALTH DEPT	MALHEUR	200	300		500			500
MARION CO HEALTH DEPT	MARION	300	25	75	400			400
MORROW CO HEALTH DEPT	MORROW	100			100			100
MULTCO CHS IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM	MULTNOMAH	1,800			1,800		6,500	8,300
MULTCO PC HSC	MULTNOMAH	500			500			500
NORTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HLTH DIST	WASCO, GILLIAN	200	100		300		500	800
OHSU - FAMILY MEDICINE AT SCAPPOOSE	COLUMBIA	300	100		400			400
OHSU - PHARMACY	MULTNOMAH						3,500	3,500
OYA - MACLAREN YCF	MARION			300	300		300	600
POLK CO PUBLIC HEALTH	POLK	200			200			200
PROVIDENCE W MEDICAL CENTER	CLACKAMAS						400	400
SAFEWAY 1888	DESCHUTES						600	600
TILLAMOOK CO HEALTH DEPT	TILLAMOOK	200	100		300		200	500
UMATILLA CO HEALTH DEPT - PENDLETON	UMATILLA	300			300		900	1,200
VIRGINIA GARCIA - BEAVERTON PC	WASHINGTON	300			300			300
VIRGINIA GARCIA - CORNELIUS PC	WASHINGTON	200			200			200
VIRGINIA GARCIA - HILLSBORO PC	WASHINGTON	300			300			300
VIRGINIA GARCIA - MCMINNVILLE PC	YAMHILL	200			200			200
VIRGINIA GARCIA - NEWBERG PC	YAMHILL	100			100			100
WASHINGTON CO - HILLSBORO CLINIC	WASHINGTON	800	700		1,500		1,400	2,900
WEST VALLEY HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY	POLK	500	300		800		400	1,200
YAMHILL CO HEALTH DEPT	YAMHILL	600	300		900		400	1,300
Tribes							3,000	4,000
Totals		15,700	5,200	5,400	29,300		37,700	67,000

Pfizer vaccine Delivery Week of February 14

Location	County	Pfizer Prime				Total
		Seniors	Educators	1a	Total	
JOINT OPERATIONS MASS VACCINATION CLINIC	MULTNOMAH	6,825	4,600	6,125	17,550	
LANE CO HEALTH DEPT	LANE	2,400	525		2,925	
OHSU - PHARMACY	MULTNOMAH					
PROVIDENCE PORTLAND MEDICAL CENTER	MULTNOMAH					
ROGUE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	JACKSON					
SALEM HOSPITAL PHARMACY	MARION	3,900			3,900	
SANTIAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	MARION		975		975	
Totals		13,125	6,100	6,125	25,350	

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