



## UPDATES

### Umatilla County reports four new COVID-19 cases

UMATILLA COUNTY — Four new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Umatilla County on Tuesday, June 9, bringing the county's case total to 140 confirmed cases and nine presumptive cases, according to a press release.

All four of the individuals are currently self-isolating at home, the release stated, though it didn't state whether any have been traced to previously confirmed cases.

Of the county's 149 cases, 119 are considered recovered and 27 are considered active. A person is considered recovered when they've gone at least 72 hours without symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath and diarrhea.

Two residents with COVID-19 are currently hospitalized, and three deaths from the virus have been reported in the county.

Nine of the county's cases are still considered presumptive, the release stated, which means those individuals haven't tested positive for COVID-19 but are displaying symptoms after being identified as a close contact of a confirmed case.

According to the Umatilla County Public Health Department's website, 2,137 COVID-19 tests have been run in the county as of June 9.

Statewide, on June 8 the Oregon Health Authority reported Oregon is at 4,922 confirmed cases and 164 deaths.

On a national level, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports more than 1.95 million Americans have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and 110,925 Americans have died from it.



Rasna Som, 10, bowls at Desert Lanes Family Fun Center in Hermiston on Monday, June 8, 2020.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

# RECREATION RETURNS

## Hermiston enters next phase in reopening

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

First it was haircuts, and now comes bowling.

Umatilla County continues to see more businesses reopen after the county moved to Phase 2 of the state's multi-step plan for reopening the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Morrow County and 13 other counties were approved for Phase 2 on Friday, June 5. After the state initially asked for more information, Umatilla County joined that group the next day. The phase allows for gatherings of up to 50 indoors and 100 outdoors, and adds more establishments to the list approved for reopening.

On Monday, staff at the Desert Lanes Family Fun Center in Hermiston were excited to offer bowling and arcade games for the first time since March.

"Just like every other business, we're happy to be reopened and moving forward now," manager Ray Fields said.

Returning customers will notice changes when they walk in the door. The new lighting, tables and renovated con-



Ray Fields, manager of the Desert Lanes Family Fun Center in Hermiston, shows where customers will have to check out bowling balls on Monday, June 8, 2020.

Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

cessions/bar space are improvements just for the sake of making the center nicer. Other changes, such as sneeze guards over the counter and every other table in the concessions area being taped off, are following guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Staff all wear masks now, and have their temperature checked when they arrive at the door. Four additional employ-

ees now work each shift, including a "porter" whose job is to wipe down an arcade machine each time someone is done using it. Customers are spaced out on every other lane, with odd lanes going dark some days and even-numbered lanes dark the next day.

Bowling balls are now behind the

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# Hermiston's Black Lives Matter protests continue

By JADE MCDOWELL  
NEWS EDITOR

As a line of protesters that stretched two blocks long marched down Highway 395 in Hermiston on Saturday, June 6, they joined in chants that have been echoed by hundreds of thousands of people around the world in the past two weeks.

"No justice, no peace! No racist police!"

"Hands up! Don't shoot!"

"Say his name! George Floyd!"

The protest against racism and police violence was Hermiston's second in a week, drawing a steadily swelling crowd of area residents holding signs with messages, such as "Stop killing black people" and "End police brutality."

They started at the corner of Highway 395 and Elm Avenue, and after about an hour marched to the festival street in downtown Hermiston. There, they began with an 8 minute and 45 second long moment of silence — the amount of time that Minneapolis police



A protester holds a "Racism is for losers" sign on the corner of Highway 395 and Elm Avenue in Hermiston on Saturday, June 6, 2020.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

officer Derek Chauvin was seen kneeling on George Floyd's neck during a video that sparked protests across the world.

Downtown, standing beside a memorial to Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other black Americans

killed by police, Hermiston resident Jackie Linton said the protest was not about hating police, but rather about justice.

She outlined reforms to policing in America that she wanted to see, including additional training, a



Black Lives Matter protesters march toward downtown Hermiston on Saturday, June 6, 2020.

Staff photo by Jade McDowell

ban on chokeholds, protections for officers who intervene when they see a fellow officer doing something wrong, and having the FBI handle investigations of officers accused of assault or murder.

She said a majority of police

may join to protect and serve, but wrongdoers need to face justice.

"We want them tried and found guilty and sent to prison where they belong, not on the police force, not

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## INSIDE

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