

Maxwell Market sees slower season

Vendors follow social distancing guidelines and booths are set along the walls, 6 feet apart

By **NADA SEWIDAN**
STAFF WRITER

Business at the Maxwell Market has been slow this summer compared to previous years, according to several vendors.

They attributed the slowdown in business to the pandemic. The market included its usual live music, produce vendors, bakery, food trucks and more on Thursday, July 23, but this year's market features added safety measures to protect vendors and customers.

Booths and tables were spread 6 feet apart and lined against the wall. Floor markers indicated where people could stand with safe distancing. A few booths were also set up directly in front of the pavilion. People attending the market were asked to wear a face covering prior to entering the event space and before interacting with vendors.

Jackie Kerns, a vendor for Way of Life Farms, said that week in particular had been slow compared to past markets in the season.

"It hasn't been as busy as it's usually been," she said. "People are slowly trickling in and out, but last week, it was a lot faster. There were a lot more people coming in."

Kerns said it's hard to hear people through the mask and the distance, and she needs to raise her voice

IF YOU GO

The next market is set for 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6 at Maxwell Pavilion, 145 N. First Place in Hermiston.

a lot to be able to communicate. In regards to business, Kerns said they did not make as much money as they normally would have this time in the season.

"We've haven't made as much today as we've usually made," she said. "Hopefully, next week it picks up more."

Teresa Engbretson, a floral vendor for My Garden Overfloweth, has attended the market as a vendor on and off for four years and said this has been a slow season business-wise. She said she doesn't think a lot of people know that the market is open for the season.

In terms of people wearing masks and maintaining 6 feet of distance, she said everyone is doing well on that end.

Lucy Alvarez, who makes Mama Lucy's Salsa, agreed with other vendors about the slower pace.

"With this pandemic people don't want to come out," she said. "It's been different."

The market normally runs from 4-8 p.m. each Thursday at the Maxwell Pavilion, 145 N. First Place in Hermiston. The market has been canceled for Thursday, July 30, but organizers plan to reopen it on Thursday, Aug. 6.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Shoppers wander the booths at the Maxwell Market on Thursday, July 23, 2020.



Signs encourage social distancing at the Maxwell Market in Hermiston on Thursday, July 23, 2020.



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan

Workplace outbreaks include Hermiston nursing homes

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
NEWS EDITOR

Umatilla County Public Health continues to report deaths at Hermiston nursing homes after an outbreak at Regency Hermiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

The county has reported six deaths of people with COVID-19 that took place at Regency Hermiston, and on July 28 reported a death at Guardian Angel Homes in Hermiston.

Regency Hermiston had 37 cases linked to it as of the Oregon Health Authority's July 22 weekly COVID-19 report. The state will release an updated report of outbreaks at worksites and congregate care facilities on Wednesday, July 29.

The number in the report includes all cases and deaths of residents, staff and close contacts of residents or staff who appear to have contracted the virus from them.

David Bake of Regency Hermiston said in an email that the facility had been working hard since March to prevent the introduction of COVID-19 through vari-



Staff photo by Jade McDowell

Regency Hermiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center has been linked to 37 COVID-19 cases, according to a weekly report published by the Oregon Health Authority on July 22, 2020.

ous measures, such as temperature checks and regular testing of staff and residents. He said their thoughts and prayers were with those who tested positive and their families.

After their first positive test on July 8, he said, they worked with the health department to complete testing on residents, and are in the process of finalizing the remainder of the staff testing. Employees who

tested positive or are showing symptoms are quarantining at home, and test results have been communicated with families of the residents.

Bake said Regency Hermiston will continue to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

"We will continue to work with both Oregon Health Authority and Department of Health officials to take

the appropriate steps to protect our residents and staff members, and to meet this extraordinary challenge in a compassionate and understanding way," he said.

"We want to thank each and every member of the community that have connected with us and given support. We want to thank every staff member at Regency Hermiston for their amazing and true dedication and caring for our residents every day despite their own concerns and family responsibilities."

On July 28, the county announced three new deaths and 47 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, bringing the county's totals up to 1,704 confirmed cases, 103 presumptive cases, 13 hospitalizations and 19 deaths. The county lists 1,479 cases as inactive.

According to OHA, Umatilla County's 17th COVID-19 death was an 84-year-old woman with underlying health conditions who tested positive July 22 and died July 25 at Guardian Angel Homes in Hermiston.

The county's 18th death

was an 87-year-old woman with underlying health conditions who tested positive July 16 and died July 27 at Regency Hermiston Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

The 19th death was a 94-year-old woman who tested positive July 22 and died July 28 at Regency in Hermiston. Her death marked the sixth death of a COVID-19 positive patient the county has announced at Regency.

Also included in OHA's weekly report are workplace outbreaks of COVID-19 where at least five cases have been linked to a site that has 30 or more employees. Workplaces remain on the list until they have gone 30 days without a new case linked to them, either through an employee or close contact.

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution remains on the list. Superintendent Ron Miles provided up-to-date information on Wednesday, July 22, stating by email that there are 33 positive cases at EOIC, including five staff, and 48 adults in cus-

tody who have tested negative. Fifty-three tests at the institution are still pending results, and approximately 700 inmates are in quarantine status.

Other Umatilla and Morrow county worksites listed in the July 22 report are:

- Lamb Weston, Hermiston, 142 cases
- Medelez Trucking, Hermiston, 38 cases
- Columbia River Processing (Tillamook), Boardman, 30 cases
- Shearer's Foods, Hermiston, 27 cases
- Walmart Distribution Center, Hermiston, 23 cases
- Atkinson Staffing, Hermiston, 19 cases
- Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston, 15 cases
- Oregon Potato Company, Boardman, 12 cases
- JM Eagle, Umatilla, 10 cases
- Walmart store, Hermiston, 10 cases
- Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Umatilla, 8 cases
- Marlette Homes, Hermiston, 6 cases

Nutrient cycling conference accepting abstracts

HERMISTON HERALD

A free, virtual Regional Nutrient Cycling Soil Health and Food Safety Conference will take place in the Pacific Northwest on Oct. 27-29.

The conference is accepting abstracts now through Sept. 18. It will be targeted toward growers, extension centers, irrigation districts, environmental organizations, agronomists and others with an interest in soil health. Opportunities for continuing education credits are expected, according

to a flyer for the event.

According to the brochure, the conference will include virtual tours of farms, and discussions on topics, including debunking the myths of manure, technologies for capture and recycling of manure phosphorus and solids; carbon sequestering and storage, predicting nitrogen miner-

alization in organic farming systems; safe use of compost/manure for vegetable crops, economics, and nutrient cycling in grazing systems; irrigation management and food safety.

Funding is provided by Western SARE, and the conference is being organized by the United States Department of Agriculture

and western universities, including Oregon State University. Ray Quin, an agronomist at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, is one of the organizers and presenters.

For more information, or to submit an abstract or register, visit extension.wsu.edu/pmwncfsc.

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