

Hermiston School District approves Rocky Heights bid

HERMISTON HERALD

The Hermiston School District Board of Education has awarded the contract for construction of the Rocky Heights Elementary School bond project to Kirby Nagelhout Construction Company.

The company will construct a new, larger version of the elementary school, paid for by the bond passed by voters in 2019. According to a news release, Kirby Nagelhout has the apparent low bid at \$23,390,000.

Superintendent Tricia Mooney said in a news release that the bid came in about \$3 million below initial projections.

“Community members can rest assured, with an independent review by the Bond Oversight Committee, HSD will appropriately use community tax dollars throughout the implementation



Jade McDowell/Hermiston Herald, File

The current Rocky Heights Elementary School, pictured here in 2019, will be torn down and replaced with a larger version.

of the November 2019 voter-approved bond projects,” she said.

The new Rocky Heights will be

a single-story, 73,500-square-foot building built to serve approximately 600 students, with 24 class-

DISTRICT RELEASES 2021-22 CALENDAR

Hermiston School District has released its planned academic calendar for the 2021-22 school year.

The calendar would start school on Aug. 30, and the final day of school would be June 14, 2022, barring any days added on to make up for snow days.

Students would have their last day of classes before Winter Break on Dec. 17 and return to school on Jan. 3, 2022. Spring Break would run April 4-8, 2022. Graduation would take place on June 9, 2022.

rooms and various communal spaces, such as a library and gymnasium. The project also includes demolition of the existing building, fencing, two new parking lots with drop-off areas, a main entry plaza, new play fields and playground equipment.

The bid timelines were staggered for the two elementary school projects, to encourage bidding by regional small- and medium-sized businesses, according

to the release. Bid opening for the new Loma Vista Elementary School planned for East Theater Lane is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17.

Loma Vista will include the same square footage, number of classrooms and outdoor campus features as the new Rocky Heights. Construction of both elementary school projects will begin this spring and are expected to finish during the summer of 2022.

New vaccination opportunities opening up locally

COVID-19 vaccine offered at local pharmacies and clinics

By JADE MCDOWELL
NEWS EDITOR

All Walmart stores in Oregon began scheduling COVID-19 vaccine appointments on Wednesday, March 10, according to a news release.

As new appointments become available, slots will appear online at www.walmart.com/COVIDvaccine. Times vary by store. Vaccines through Walmart are available to those currently eligible under Oregon Health Authority guidelines, including those age 65 and up and certain professions.

“Ninety percent of the country lives within ten miles of a Walmart. We’re committed to helping people live better — and healthier lives — in Oregon, and we take that role very seriously,” Dr. Cheryl Pegus, executive vice president of Health & Wellness for Walmart, said in a statement. “We want to help the country reopen, but we can only achieve that through widespread COVID-19 vaccination.”

Walmart joins Bi-Mart’s and Safeway’s pharmacies in offering the vaccine in Hermiston through allocations from the federal government directly to pharmacies. To schedule an appointment in those locations, visit bimart.com/pharmacy/covid-19-vaccine for Bi-Mart or safeway.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html for Safeway.

Good Shepherd Health



Good Shepherd/Contributed Photo

A Good Shepherd Health Care System nurse receives a COVID-19 vaccine at the hospital.

Care System expects to receive weekly COVID-19 vaccine allocations and will hold weekly vaccine events for those eligible under Oregon Health Authority guidelines.

“Allocation projections are looking better for Umatilla County and our primary goal is to help Umatilla County Public Health to vaccinate as many as we can,” Devin Goldman, quality and infection control director, said in a statement.

Vaccine clinics will be held weekly until further notice on Good Shepherd’s campus in Conference Centers 1 & 2, located at 610 N.W. 11th St. in Hermiston. Community members should sign up for an appointment online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050c4cafaf2ca0f49-good>.

The signup link goes live at 8 a.m., the Monday before the vaccine clinic takes place. Those signed up are encouraged to wait in their vehicle until 10 minutes prior to their scheduled appointment to

allow for social distancing while waiting in line, and will need to be monitored for 15 minutes after the

vaccine is administered.

For questions, call Good Shepherd’s COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline at 541-667-3426.

Mirasol Family Health Clinic has been administering vaccines, and can be reached at 541-567-1717 or mirasol@yvfwc.org to schedule an appointment.

According to Family Health Associates’ Facebook page, the clinic is also offering vaccines by appointment to those who are eligible, which can be scheduled at 541-567-6434.

Umatilla County Public Health continues to administer the COVID-19 vaccine through regular drive-through clinics.

To check for appointments each week, visit bit.ly/ucohealthcovidvaccine. Appointments for the week are posted at 8 a.m. on Mondays.

The health department, Good Shepherd and other organizations have also posted announcements to their Facebook pages when they have extra doses. In Morrow County, all residents interested in getting the vaccine, regardless of age or profession, are urged to fill out a form at <http://ow.ly/EZro50D-VJRC> so that they can be notified when they are eligible.

More Oregonians will be added to the eligibility list on March 29, accord-

ing to the Oregon Health Authority’s latest timeline. Those added to the list will include people ages 45-64 with underlying health conditions, agricultural and food processing workers, migrant workers, people living in low-income senior housing or other congregate senior living not already eligible, pregnant women over the age of 16, wildland firefighters, and homeless residents.

Last week, President Joe Biden urged all states to open their vaccine eligibility to all people by May 1. In Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown said the state will do so only if it feels the vaccine supply is sufficient.

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(next to Columbia Harvest Foods)
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