



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

Veronica Delgado, Veronica's Fresh Produce owner, sells produce on Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, McKenzie Park.

Market:

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He was disappointed when he heard the Maxwell Market would be closed. Its closure was uncommon, as he regularly brought his vegetables there every week during the season. Other markets close on occasion, especially for special events, but this one was a surprise.

He also knew that it would be a surprise to his customers. He made promises that he would be in Hermiston every week during the season.

When he heard of the closure, he began making calls.

"The city was kind enough to say, 'yeah, come down, and we're not going to charge you anything.'" He also called his farming friends, people who also have booths at the Maxwell Market.

With short notice, he was not able to organize a larger market, but he believes he can attract more people in the following week.

Veronica Delgado, Veronica's Fresh Produce owner, operated the other booth at the impromptu market in the park. A Pasco farmer, her family has five acres. She has been at the Maxwell Market for three years, and she likes it.

She came to Hermiston on Thursday with peaches, potatoes, beans, corn, plums, honey, baked bread and more.

She said it would have been a shame to lose her goods. When Mueller called her and said they had an opportunity to sell in the park, she jumped at it. Otherwise, she her products would have gone to waste.

"It's good to be here," she said. She hopes to return this week.

Breakthrough:

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time, he washed his hands frequently and made regular use of hand wipes.

"Possibly, I let down my guard," he said.

There were public events, movies and football games he attended. Still, he said he was careful.

He does not know where he got sick, but he does remember the first days of the illness. COVID-19 began gently for him. At first, he thought it was allergies.

But then, his symptoms strengthened. He decided to take an at-home COVID-19 test, just as a precaution. He was stunned when his test results were positive.

"I was blown away. I thought it was wrong at first," he said.

Sure, he had a fever, runny nose and sore throat, but he could still smell and taste. The test must be wrong, he thought. How could he have the disease after taken many precautions to avoid it? He had never had it before.

The day after the test, his condition worsened. His senses of taste and smell began failing, and other symptoms grew worse.

He finally had to admit he had COVID-19, and he called his doctor. Morris explained his symptoms to his doctor, which convinced him he had the disease. The best thing he could do would be rest and monitor his own health, and visit the hospital if his condition became much worse.

So that is what he did. He stayed in bed, and he began taking over-the-counter medication and vitamins — NyQuil, zinc, vitamins C, D and B. He recently started taking dexamethasone and it has helped quite a bit, he said. Still, his illness continues.

Vaccinations remain key

Fiumara explained that breakthrough cases for any disease "occur for a variety of reasons." Waning immunity is one cause for disease, which may be a contributing factor



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald

Andrew Morris, of Umatilla, takes a rare step out of doors Monday, Sept. 20, 2021. He has been sick for two weeks with a breakthrough case of COVID-19.

to COVID-19 breakthroughs. This may necessitate booster doses, as is done with tetanus, or a series of vaccinations, as is done for measles and rubella.

"Other reasons that immunity could wane include age and medical conditions or medications that suppress the effectiveness of the immune system," Fiumara said.

While researchers continue to study the disease, Fiumara recommended vaccinations. Breakthrough illnesses, if they occur, are generally less severe than are regular cases.

"Breakthrough cases tend to have much less severe symptoms, or no symptoms at all," he said. "While preventing all illness is always a goal, the main function of vaccinations is to prevent severe illness and death."

The Oregon Health Authority report from Sept. 16 showed from Sept. 5 to 11 there were 14,046 cases of COVID-19 in the state. Unvacci-

nated cases accounted for 81.3% of that total.

In addition to getting a vaccine, Fiumara recommended wearing masks in crowds. People should be especially careful if they are older or immunocompromised. They should stay home if they have even minor symptoms, and people should wash hands often.

At some point, he said, we will be free from restrictions and masking, though this depends on how the virus adapts and if a more deadly variant shows up.

"Our chance at eradicating this was in the early days and we have missed that," Fiumara said. "Most likely this will become like the flu, where it cycles in and out of susceptible populations and others are left mostly untouched."

And the best hope, he said, to "achieve decreased impacts" from COVID-19 is to increase vaccinations.

Books:

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Rose, whose favorite banned book is "To Kill a Mockingbird," said that banning can be considered good or bad, depending on the perspective of the people involved. Most librarians, he said, have a negative opinion of bans because the bans can limit the access to information.

Umatilla Public Library

Susie Sotelo, Umatilla Public Library director, also stands against bans. Her favorite banned book is "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" by J.K. Rowling. Co-worker Arianna Strong, library aide, said her favorite banned books are the "Hunger Games" series. And Kellie Lamoreaux, also a library aide, joked that she could not think of a favorite banned book; she only likes nice books.

In honor of Banned Book Week, the Umatilla library placed "The Story of Ferdinand," a banned book, in its StoryWalk displays. The StoryWalk book is changed every month, and the current book will remain to the end of September.

"You can walk the trail and learn about what Banned Book Week is and you can find out why this particular story was banned," said Sotelo. "At the end of the

trail, we also have a display with other popular banned books and the option to enter to win a copy of 'The Story of Ferdinand.'"

Sotelo said she chose Ferdinand as the StoryWalk book because its status as a banned book is surprising and might interest people. She points out that the book, about a pacifistic bull, has a nice message for children. Still, people of varied political stripe have criticized the book and caused it to be banned.

The library has participated in Banned Book Week since it opened its new building in 2010. StoryWalk has been displaying books, banned and non-banned, since April 2021.

Boardman, Heppner and Irrigon

Kathy Street, the director of the Oregon Trail Library District, oversees the Boardman, Heppner and Irrigon libraries. She said all three of her branches will each have banned book displays of the top challenged books.

A majority of the displayed books, she said, will be young adult literature. They will also be a "mix of classic titles and newer writings."

She believes that Banned Books Week has been recognized every year since 1992, when her library district was formed.

"One of my favor-

ite challenged and banned books is 'And Tango Makes Three' by Peter Parnell, Justin Richardson and Henry Cole," she said. "I love it for the story of a little penguin egg being taken care of by the two male penguins who were bonded at the zoo. I mean how sweet is that?"

She feels the book should not be challenged or banned, as the challenges all focuses on the fact that it is a same sex pair of animals. As such, she said, it is perceived as anti-family.

"Even in the animal world there all kinds of families, and to see them reflected in books is important," she said. "We need a broad selection for patrons to choose from. And there will always be books that someone might disagree with. But that is no reason for one person to remove it."

Hermiston bookstores

Hermiston's two bookstores are also recognizing Banned Book Week.

Michael Gormley, Neighborhood Books owner, said he would celebrate the week by laughing at anyone who would go so far as to ban a book.

"Anyone who has a history of banning books is not good," he said. He pointed out that repressive governments, such as Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union,

banned books. History has not judged those governments well, he said. They were trying to erase their history, and we can be sure that they were wrong.

His favorite banned book, he said, is the Bible. As a Christian, he believes the Bible is divine communication from God to

man. Through it, people can achieve eternal salvation. Any attempt to ban the book, then, is a mistake.

The Next Chapter Bookstore will be recognizing Banned Books Week with a display of banned books. Banned books currently for sale at the store include "The Grapes of Wrath,"

1984, "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Brave New World," "The Sun Also Rises," "Charlotte's Web" and the "Lord of the Rings."

"It's hard to comprehend what we as readers, as thinkers, would have missed if we hadn't had access to this great literature," said Angela Pursel, store owner.

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