

# Umatilla County reaches 151 COVID-19 deaths

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At least 151 Umatilla County residents have died of COVID-19, the county's health department reported Tuesday, Oct. 26.

The county reported four new COVID-19 deaths in a press release Oct. 21, which brought the total to 150. Two victims died in a single Pendleton nursing home, and on Oct. 26, the county announced another death, No. 151.

The disclosures mark another grim milestone as the county continues to grapple with the delta variant, the highly-infectious coronavirus strain that has spread rapidly among the county's unvaccinated residents in recent months, inundating hospitals with patients.

But the county's overall infection rates have recently declined, following a positive statewide trend. The county has reported a weekly drop in cases for two consecutive weeks.

The newly disclosed deaths came as the county reports several new COVID-19 cases. The daily total remains far higher than totals in late spring and early summer, but it continues a general downward trend in average daily cases.

As of Oct. 21, the county averaged 34 cases per day. That's the lowest number since July 21.

But as with all previous pandemic surges, COVID-19 deaths have followed in large numbers. The county has reported 49 COVID-

19 deaths since the beginning of August. At least 23 residents died in August alone, making it the pandemic's deadliest month in the county. The following are the four deaths Umatilla County Public Health reported Oct. 21:

- The county's 147th victim is an 86-year-old woman who tested positive Aug. 6 and died Aug. 20 at a private residence. She had unspecified underlying health conditions.

- The county's 148th victim is a 70-year-old woman who tested positive Aug. 31 and died Sept. 10 at Willowbrooke Terrace Nursing Home, Pendleton. She had unspecified underlying health conditions.

- The county's 149th victim is a 79-year-old woman who tested positive Aug. 31 and died Sept. 21 at Willowbrooke Terrace Nursing Home, Pendleton. She had unspecified underlying health conditions.

- The county's 150th victim is a 78-year-old man who tested positive Aug. 3 and died Sept. 23 at the Milton-Freewater Health and Rehabilitation Center. He had unspecified underlying health conditions.

- The county's 151st victim is a 97-year-old woman who tested positive on Oct. 2 and died Oct. 23 at Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center in Tualatin, Ore. She had underlying conditions.

Since the pandemic started, the county has reported 14,566 confirmed and presumptive coronavirus cases.

# Police arrest man in Boardman stabbing incident

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BOARDMAN — A man is facing assault and attempted murder charges after a stabbing, Oct. 19, at mobile home park in Boardman that injured a 27-year-old woman.

Boardman Police Chief Rick Stokoe reported officers arrested Pablo Alonzo Hernandez, 20, in connection to the stabbing and booked him into the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton.

Police responded around 9 a.m. to a report of a stabbing at the Wilson Road Mobile Home Park, 600 S.W. Wilson Road. Stokoe said officers found the woman, who had multiple stab wounds and lacerations, and they found Hernandez, who had "facial trauma," and called medical services.

An ambulance transported the two to Good Shepherd Medical Center, Hermiston.

Police reported the woman had been on her front porch when Hernandez allegedly attacked her with a knife. The woman's boyfriend interrupted the fight, wrestled Hernandez to the ground and beat him, subduing him until police got there, Stokoe said.

Stokoe said police are not yet aware of any connection between Hernandez and the woman. The woman has since been released from the hospital, the police chief added, which also was where officers arrested Hernandez.

His preliminary bail is \$380,000, according to the jail website. Stokoe said police continue to investigate the case.

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