



HORSE HEALING

Solid Ground secure grant funding LOCAL, A3

COVID-19 UPDATE

There are 401 cases reported in Klamath County. There are 39,794 cases reported in Oregon.

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KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020 | \$1.50

Oregon mask requirements expanded as COVID cases rise

SALEM (AP)— As the total number of COVID-19 cases in Oregon nears 40,000 people, health officials announced Monday that face-covering requirements are once again being expanded to include all private and public work spaces, outdoor markets and colleges.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 266 new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases Monday and eight deaths. The numbers bring the state's case tally to 39,794. The death toll is 627.

Currently, Oregonians are required to wear masks at indoor

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public spaces and outside when they cannot maintain 6 feet of space between others.

The Oregon Health Authority is expanding the requirement to now include all private and public workplaces, including classrooms, offices, meeting rooms, work spaces, outdoor markets, street fairs, private career schools and public and private colleges and universities.

In addition, state health of-

icials also said they recommend that people wear masks rather than face shields.

The expansion of mask requirements emerge as the COVID-19 rate of transmission in Oregon has increased.

For six weeks, Oregon's COVID-19 cases were in a downward trend. However, since mid-September, officials warned that numbers were again increasing at an alarming rate.

At the current rate of transmission, Oregon Health Authority officials project that new infections will increase substantially to 570 new reported cases a day and 40 hospitalizations.

On Friday the health authority also submitted a draft plan to the federal government for allocating and distributing a COVID-19 vaccine in Oregon, "once a safe and effective vaccine

becomes available."

The health authority's plan follows federal guidance of a phased approach that "assumes a COVID-19 vaccine will be, at the outset, in limited supply and should be focused on individuals critical to the pandemic response, provide direct care and maintain societal function, as well as those at highest risk for developing severe illness."

The plan will allow for broadening of the vaccine's distribution to other high-risk groups and the general population as more doses become available.

Water woes

"What's the cost of losing business? Quite a bit."

— Matt Trotman

Baley-Trotman Farms Manager



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX SCHWARTZ

Potatoes travel on a conveyor belt to be stored in a cellar. Baley-Trotman Farms raises approximately 1700 acres of potatoes, along with grains and alfalfa. With an exceptionally low water allocation to the Klamath Project this year and contracts with large food companies, they had to truck water in from wells in Bonanza and Dorris to support their potato crop and leave about 15% of their grain land idle through the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency. It was a lot more expensive to import the water, but, as farm manager Matt Trotman said, "What's the cost of losing business? Quite a bit."

Fire measure missing from some Sprague River addresses

By ALEX SCHWARTZ
H&N Staff Reporter

A few addresses along Sprague River Road between Chiloquin and Sprague River may have received ballots that did not include local Measure 18-118, despite being eligible to vote on it.

Klamath County Clerk Rochelle Long said her office is aware of the mistake and has already sent out 21 corrected ballots to the affected voters.

The measure would annex areas west of Sprague River and Beatty into Klamath County Fire District No. 3's response area and raise tax revenue to fund those services.

The clerk's office originally sent ballots without the measure to addresses it had classified as being in Chiloquin, while the post office codes them as Sprague River addresses. Voters who registered based on their postal addresses did not receive the correct ballots because of that mix-up.

Long said about five or six addresses are believed affected, but the office is still going through and evaluating more homes on Sprague River Road. She encouraged anyone who lives on Sprague River Road and whose postal address is coded as Sprague River to call or email her office if they received a ballot that did not include Measure 18-118, despite being eligible to vote on the measure.

The Klamath County Clerk phone number is 541-883-5134 and its email is elections@klamathcounty.org.

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COVID-19 downturn prompts cuts to Amtrak's Coast Starlight route

By DANA SPARKS
(Eugene) Register-Guard

Amtrak quietly reduced the number of times the only passenger train that connects Oregon and California — the Coast Starlight route — stops in Klamath Falls.

Decreasing the long-distance services from daily to three times a week this month on 10 of its long-distance routes nationwide is one of the ways Amtrak is trying to cope with the pandemic's economic impacts, potentially costing Oregon millions.

The other route that will impact Oregon is the Empire Builder train, which provides service from Chicago to Seattle and Portland. Its service reduction to three times a week begins Monday.

The pandemic upended the success Amtrak experienced in 2019, the best year for ridership in the company's history with a record 32.5 million passenger trips and \$3.3 billion in total operating revenue in 2019.

Amtrak's August monthly performance report show its overall ridership is down 45% compared to 2019's pre-COVID levels, falling

from 29.3 million riders to 16.2 million riders.

"Cutting daily service could drop at least a \$2.3 billion bomb on flyover country while possibly only saving Amtrak \$213 million," said Jim Mathews, the chief executive of the advocacy group Rail Passengers Association.

The RPA released new research showing that Amtrak's plan to reduce service on its long-distance routes will cost Oregonians \$43 million annually, driven by a loss of roughly 182,000 passengers.



BY TAYLOR GRIGGS/H&N STAFF REPORTER

The Amtrak Coast Starlight runs from Los Angeles, California to Seattle, Washington and back, passing through Klamath Falls and Eugene on the way.

More AMTRAK | A4

TODAY'S WEATHER
Partly sunny
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HIGH 71
LOW 37



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