

# Meters: 'We can only measure how much power you're using'

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County. Pacific Power gave employees two years' notice of the change and has helped them find other internal positions or other employment, Dunlap said.

Some people have raised concerns about privacy from data collection and health worries over the mesh network, which sends information via radio waves between a collection of devices. Estlund said the concerns are largely the result of fear-mongering online.

"There's nothing that tethers into appliances or anything else," he said of the smart meters. "We can only measure how much power you're using in your home. If privacy is your concern, I would probably point you to Comcast or AT&T."

As for the health worries, the new meters meet all modern safety standards and have been put through several rounds of testing, he said. The smart meters are certified by safety consultant Underwriter Laboratories and the American National Standards Institute. Each meter is tested before shipment.

Pacific Power has been reaching out to custom-

ers about the installations. Workers with Aclara Technologies, the manufacturer of the new meters, will visit homes and businesses with badges identifying them as installers for the utility. There is no charge for installation.

Customers can opt out of having the smart meters installed, but face a \$36 monthly fee for meter reads.

Pacific Power has submitted an alternative opt-out plan to the state Public Utility Commission, in which customers would pay \$9 a month for less-frequent meter reads. The program would be available to 200 customers starting March 1. They would have the opportunity once a year to continue in the pilot or install a smart meter at no cost.

In October, Josephine County commissioners adopted an ordinance prohibiting utilities from charging opt-out fees for customers who do not want smart meters. The Public Utility Commission sued the county, arguing that local governments do not have the authority to set utility rates.

Commissioners in Coos County rejected a similar ordinance on opt-out fees this month.



Pacific Power Installers with manufacturer Aclara Technologies will visit homes around Clatsop County starting in February to install Pacific Power's new smart power usage meters.

## Tip leads to drug bust in Seaside

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Seaside police seized more than a pound of methamphetamine, 4 3/4 ounces of heroin and \$3,150 in cash in a coordinated, multiagency traffic stop Sunday afternoon.

At about 3 p.m., police received a tip that a vehicle carrying a large amount of drugs was making its way into Seaside. Officers stopped the vehicle and searched the occupants and the vehicle after getting a positive alert from a drug detection dog.

The driver, 50-year-old Ronald J. Yaakola, of Astoria, was arrested for four felony counts of delivery of a



Gunner, the K9 officer of Cannon Beach, helped officers seize heroin and methamphetamine Sunday.

controlled substance and six felony counts of possession of a controlled substance.

Danielle E. Jacobs, 24, a

passenger in the vehicle, was charged with possession of methamphetamine. Jacobs was cited and released.

## Officials urge vaccinations amid Northwest measles outbreak

By GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Public health officials scrambling to contain a measles outbreak in the Northwest warned people to vaccinate their children Monday and worried that it could take months to contain the highly contagious viral illness due to a lower-than-normal vaccination rate at the epicenter of the crisis.

The outbreak in Vancouver, Washington, has sickened 35 people in Washington and Oregon since Jan. 1, with 11 more cases suspected. Most of the patients are children under 10, and one child has been hospitalized.

Health officials say the outbreak is a textbook example of why it's critical to vaccinate against measles, which was eradicated in the U.S. after the vaccine was introduced in 1963. In recent years, however, the viral illness has popped up again

from New York to California and sickened hundreds.

Clark County, Washington, has a vaccination rate of 78 percent, well below the level necessary to protect those with compromised immune systems or who can't get vaccinated because of medical issues or because they are too young.

Misinformation is circulating on social media, said Dr. Alan Melnick, Clark County public health director.

"What keeps me up at night is eventually having a child die from this completely preventable situation," he said. "It's still out there, even though it's been debunked, that the measles vaccine results in autism. That's nonsense."

Before mass vaccination, 400 to 500 people in the United States died of the measles every year, 50,000 people were hospitalized and 4,000 people developed brain swelling that can cause deafness, Melnick said. One

to three cases out of every 1,000 are fatal, he said.

People may have been exposed to the disease at about four dozen locations, including Portland International Airport and a Portland Trail Blazers game, officials said.

They announced Monday that others could have been infected at the popular Oregon Museum of Science & Industry in Portland and a Walmart Supercenter in the bedroom community of Vancouver.

Thirty-one of the confirmed patients had not been vaccinated against measles. The vaccination status of four others who were infected is unknown.

The vaccine has been part of routine childhood shots for decades, and measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000. But measles is still a big problem in other parts of the world, and travelers infected abroad can bring the virus back and spread it, causing periodic outbreaks.

## Coast Guard: 'It was just the right thing to do'

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"We are prepared to get that pantry back up and running," Benson said. "We are preparing for the worst, but hoping for the best."

Numerous businesses offered free events and discounts to the Coast Guard and other federal employees. Main St. Market in Warrenton allowed them to shop on credit, paying their outstanding balances back without interest after paychecks arrived.

"It was just the right thing to do," said Tommy Smith, the co-owner of the grocery store. "You've got people caught in the middle who didn't have any control over their own destiny."

A small number of mostly Coast Guard took advantage of the offer, and

others in the community ended up paying off their outstanding balances, Smith said.

"If three weeks from now they shut back down, the offer stands," Smith said. "We'll still do what we have to do to take care of our own."

The Warrenton Community Center Advisory Board recently held a "Breakfast with Santa" at the Community Center on Saturday, December 15th, 2018. The breakfast was a great success and we want to thank the community, 318 persons attended, for their awesome support.

A special thanks to all our great volunteers; to the Starbuck's Coffee shop in Warrenton; the Pig N Pancake; the VFW 10580 and the VFW Auxiliary Detachment 1228; Lektro Inc.; McCall Tire Center; Columbia Bar Pilots; Columbia Bank; Ocean Beauty Seafoods; Warrenton Deep Sea; Warrenton Kia; Ocean Crest Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac; Super Market; Medix Ambulance Service; Pacific Seafood; Hampton Lumber Mill; CMH Urgent Care; and Walmart.

Volunteers who served the meals and washed the dishes included VFW members, the Warrenton Senior Citizens group and the Center's Advisory Board Members. "The Warrior Way" is alive and well as 8 members of the Warrenton High School football team helped serve our breakfast.

Sincerely,  
Frank Becker, Vice Chairman

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## Thank you!

I want to thank this amazing community for all of the love and support you have given to our Coast Guard community. Your generosity with the NON-perishable items, coming to the dinner, and all of the monetary donations brought in to the Moose Lodge 408 in Astoria have been overwhelming. When I decided to do this on 1/11/2019 and planned it for 1/15/2019, I was not thinking about what a small amount of time I had to pull this off. I owe several people all of my gratitude for I could not have pulled it off without any of them. Thank you all for proving once again how amazing my friends and our community really are. Thank you: Amy Fisher, Beau Hogge, Travis Oja, Fester Rosenberg, Steve Stuckey, Naomi Roberts, Kathy Riva, Laura Hutson and Eva Middleton.

Thank you All!

Sincerely,  
Tracy Johnson  
Social Quarters Manager  
Moose Lodge 408, Astoria, Oregon



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