

County reports several new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County has reported several new coronavirus cases this week that are unrelated to a major outbreak at Pacific Seafood in Warrenton. The county disclosed Wednesday that a woman in her 40s living in the southern part of the county and a woman in her 20s living in the northern part of

the county tested positive. On Monday, the county reported that five people tested positive, including a woman in her 70s living in the southern part of the county, a female between the ages of 10 and 19, a woman in her 20s, a woman in her 60s and a woman in her 50s all living in the northern part of the county. The county has recorded

232 cases since March. Ninety-seven have recovered, according to the county, and the others were convalescing at home. The Oregon Health Authority reported 33,509 cases and 559 deaths from the virus statewide as of Wednesday morning. The health authority tracked 5,949 test results in Clatsop County, including 221 of the positive cases.

Crab: ‘There’s so many variables every year’

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Oregon’s lucrative Dungeness crab fishery traditionally opens in December but has been delayed in recent years by everything from harmful algal blooms and low meat yield in crabs to industry squabbles over the starting price per pound. But Caren Braby, the marine program manager with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said getting boats on the water earlier and reducing the amount of gear later in the season when whales are moving off the coast through fishing areas is key to avoiding entanglement issues. “It’s a little bit of a blunt instrument,” she said. “But that’s the one tool that we have right now that we know is going to make a difference.” Oregon is also continuing to work on a habitat conservation plan to be submitted to federal fishery managers and will host two virtual public meetings on Oct. 8 and Oct. 22 to give fishermen and industry leaders the opportunity to provide their input. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service is considering issuing an incidental take permit to Oregon for the entanglement of species like humpback whales and leatherback sea turtles that are

listed under the Endangered Species Act. The permit would allow some degree of impact to the whales by the Oregon fishery. “Our fleet is made up of 400 individual businesspeople who each bring a different perspective to the issue,” said Hugh Link, the executive director of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission. “For over three years, they have been given the opportunity to weigh in on how best to mitigate the whale entanglement risk,” he continued. “But it is an ongoing process. These upcoming meetings are the next important step and we hope they take the opportunity to have their voices heard.” Whale entanglements on the West Coast have increased in the past six years. While the number may be due to greater public awareness, fishery managers and researchers also point to a marine heatwave that began in 2014 and triggered a chain reaction in the ecosystem altering where and when whales migrate and feed. These shifts have begun to draw the whales directly into the path of crabbing gear, Braby said. Oregon commercial gear has been implicated in some whale entanglement incidents on the West Coast. Oregon, in collaboration with industry and conserva-

tion representatives, wants to get ahead of the problem and avoid a lawsuit like the one brought against California over the impacts to whales from commercial fishing activities. That lawsuit settled in 2019 and now dictates aspects of the state’s commercial Dungeness crab fishery. Though some of Oregon’s measures this year are designed to get boats on the water earlier to avoid crossing paths with whales, other factors that determine the start of the fishery’s upcoming season remain unknown. People with knowledge of the industry believe price negotiations may be tricky this year. The coronavirus pandemic shut down markets near the start of the most recent season. Though landings and prices appeared good overall by the end of the season this summer, it isn’t clear how much product might be sitting in cold storage. The pandemic has also altered how restaurants, casinos and other markets operate. “There’s so many variables every year,” said Tim Novotny, the spokesman for the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission. “But it just seems like this year is going to be a mathematician’s delight trying to keep track of what the possibilities might be.”

Taunts overpower Trump, Biden in their first debate

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, DARLENE SUPERVILLE, WILL WEISSERT and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The first debate between President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden deteriorated into bitter taunts and near chaos Tuesday night as Trump repeatedly interrupted his opponent with angry — and personal — jabs that sometimes overshadowed the sharply different visions each man has for a nation facing historic crises. In the most tumultuous presidential debate in recent memory, Trump refused to condemn white supremacists who have supported him, telling one such group known as Proud Boys to “stand back, stand by.” There were also heated clashes over the president’s handling of the pandemic, the integrity of the election results, deeply personal attacks about Biden’s family and how the Supreme Court will shape the future of the nation’s health care. But it was the belligerent tone that was persistent, somehow fitting for what has been an extraordinarily ugly campaign. The two men frequently talked over each other with Trump interrupting, nearly shouting, so often that Biden eventually snapped at him, “Will you shut up, man?” “The fact is that everything he’s saying so far is simply a lie,” Biden said. “I’m not here to call out his lies. Everybody knows he’s a liar.” The presidential race has been remarkably stable for weeks, despite the historic crises that have battered the country this year, including a pandemic that has killed more than 200,000 Americans and a reckoning over race and police brutality. With just five weeks until



Patrick Semansky/AP Photo President Donald Trump, left, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, right, with moderator Chris Wallace, center, during the first presidential debate on Tuesday in Cleveland.

Election Day and voting already underway in some key states, Biden has maintained a lead in national polls and in many battlegrounds. It’s unclear whether the debate will do much to change those dynamics. The presidential debate commission said Wednesday it will soon adopt changes to its format to avoid a repeat of the disjointed first meeting. The commission said the debate “made clear that additional structure should be added to the format of the remaining debates to ensure a more orderly discussion of the issues.” One possibility being discussed is to give the moderator the ability to cut off the microphone of one of the debate participants while his opponent is talking, according to a person familiar with the deliberations who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Over and over, Trump tried to control the conversation, interrupting Biden and repeatedly talking over the moderator, Chris Wallace, of Fox News. The president tried to deflect tough lines of questioning — whether on his taxes or the pandemic — to deliver broadsides against Biden. The president drew a lecture from Wallace, who pleaded with both men to stop talking over each other. Biden tried to push back against Trump, sometimes looking right at the camera to directly address viewers rather than the president and snapping, “It’s hard to get a word in with this clown.” Again refusing to commit to honoring the results of the election, Trump spread falsehoods about mail voting. Without evidence, he suggested that the process — surging in popularity during the pandemic — was ripe for fraud and incorrectly claimed impropriety at a Pennsylvania voting site. But despite his efforts to dominate the discussion, Trump was frequently put on the defensive and tried to sidestep when he was asked if he was willing to condemn white supremacists and paramilitary groups. “What do you want to call them? Give me a name. Give me a name,” Trump said, before Biden mentioned the far right, violent group known as the Proud Boys. Trump then pointedly did not condemn the group, instead saying: “Proud Boys, stand back, stand by. But I’ll tell you what, somebody’s got to do something about antifa and the left because this is not a right-wing problem. This is a left-wing problem.”

Bus stop: Ridership has gone down by 30%

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Doug Pilant, the general manager of Tillamook County Transportation District and chairman of the alliance, said the group hopes to have an approved grant from the Oregon Transportation Commission by July, followed by a two-year period in which to build the stops. “If we’re successful in getting this grant and complete all the projects in the next couple of years, then that would position us to ... continue seeking funding to developing other stops in the region,” he said. Last year, the alliance completed a transit access study identifying 24 stops of varying bustle in the five-county region that needed improvements. Hazen identified four Clatsop County stops in need of the most attention: the lonely bench at the North Coast Retail Center; a heavily trafficked bus shelter at

Avenue A and Highway 101 in Seaside; a stop along Highway 101 in front of Gearhart Bowl & Fultano’s Pizza; and another at the corner of U.S. Highway 30 and Hillcrest Loop Road in Knappa. “We’ll pick off one at a time,” Hazen said. “We’ll look at the other ones every two years before the (legislative) biennium, and that’s where we’re at now, looking at what we can afford to do servicewise and then in capital improvements.” Pandemic impact The grant application comes on the heels of \$861,000 that Sunset Empire received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to fund the purchase of a refurbished bus and the operation of two buses overall to offset the impacts of the pandemic on capacity. The transit district had been expanding service and experiencing a surge in rid-

ership before the pandemic kept people at home and limited buses to less than half the usual capacity. Ridership has gone down as much as 30% as a result. Sunset Empire’s route along Highway 101 runs about every 49 minutes, which Hazen said is fairly impressive for a rural transit agency. The coronavirus relief funds will pay to increase the frequency of buses into 2023. “We’ll have almost frequency every 20 minutes. We’ll knock that 49 minutes down to maybe 24 minutes frequency. So it’ll just give more people more opportunities to plan their trip better.” “For a rural agency to plan on route 101, where there are a lot of miles between Astoria and Seaside, that’s unheard of, to have less than hourly or 49 minutes now. It’s totally different than being in an urban area where you see a bus every few minutes.”

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
70 57	67 54	64 54	65 54	68 53	69 55	63 51
Mostly sunny	Clouds and sun	Areas of low clouds	Low clouds	Clouds and sun	Partly sunny	Cloudy

ALMANAC

Astoria through Tuesday

Temperatures	
High/low	83/56
Normal high/low	65/47
Record high	84 in 1987
Record low	34 in 1983

Precipitation	
Tuesday	0.00"
Month to date	2.92"
Normal month to date	2.04"
Year to date	41.87"
Normal year to date	40.39"

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2020

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Jupiter and Saturn are low west after sunset. Sunrise is now after 6:30 a.m. PDT.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

	Full	Last	New	First
Sunrise today	7:14 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	6:55 p.m.			
Moonrise today	7:20 p.m.			
Moonset today	6:50 a.m.			

Oct 1 Oct 9 Oct 16 Oct 23

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
1:28 a.m.	7.3	7:52 a.m.	0.1	
1:57 p.m.	7.6	8:15 p.m.	0.4	

Cape Disappointment

1:08 a.m.	7.3	7:08 a.m.	0.4	
1:36 p.m.	7.3	7:25 p.m.	0.6	

Hammond

1:17 a.m.	7.6	7:23 a.m.	0.2	
1:45 p.m.	7.7	7:46 p.m.	0.5	

Warrenton

1:23 a.m.	7.7	7:36 a.m.	0.2	
1:52 p.m.	8.0	7:59 p.m.	0.5	

Knappa

2:05 a.m.	7.6	8:53 a.m.	0.1	
2:34 p.m.	7.8	9:16 p.m.	0.3	

Depoe Bay

12:20 a.m.	7.8	6:34 a.m.	0.6	
12:48 p.m.	7.9	6:54 p.m.	1.1	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	78/52/s	68/49/s
Boston	74/54/s	67/50/r
Chicago	57/42/sh	54/42/pc
Dallas	82/54/s	76/58/s
Denver	69/47/s	76/44/pc
Honolulu	90/75/pc	89/76/sh
Houston	88/61/s	81/57/s
Los Angeles	98/69/s	96/66/s
Miami	88/75/t	83/75/t
New York City	72/58/s	62/51/r
Phoenix	106/73/s	105/73/s
San Francisco	90/63/s	84/59/s
Wash., DC	74/56/s	67/49/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Seattle	74/56	
Wenatchee	80/57	
Spokane	76/50	
Aberdeen	73/55	
Olympia	78/53	
Tacoma	76/53	
Yakima	85/50	
Kennewick	84/50	
Walla Walla	80/55	
Lewiston	81/52	
Enterprise	80/47	
Pendleton	85/53	
La Grande	83/43	
John Day	87/53	
Burns	86/38	
Caldwell	83/46	
Ontario	83/46	
Medford	96/57	
Klamath Falls	86/43	

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	83/41/s	84/42/pc
Brookings	71/58/pc	71/57/pc
Ilwaco	66/57/pc	65/56/pc
Newberg	85/54/s	84/53/s
Newport	65/54/s	64/53/c

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Fri. Hi/Lo/W
North Bend	69/55/s	67/55/pc
Roseburg	92/56/s	87/54/s
Seaside	70/57/s	69/55/pc
Springfield	85/53/s	83/51/s
Vancouver	83/56/s	80/56/s