

County reports three new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County reported Monday that three people living in the northern part of the county have tested positive for the coronavirus.

A woman in her 40s, a man in his 30s and a man in his 20s were reportedly recovering at home.

The county has recorded 238 cases since March.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 35,049 cases and 572 deaths from the virus statewide as of Monday morning.

The health authority tracked 6,146 test results in Clatsop County, including 225 of the positive cases.

Virus: Surge in cases has prompted changes for schools on North Coast

Continued from Page A1

In late July, the state sent Umatilla County back to the baseline and Morrow County back to phase one after new infections increased dramatically.

“There are only a couple of circumstances in the state where we’ve moved the county back a phase,” Patrick Allen, the director of the Oregon Health Authority, said at a virtual town hall held Friday evening on the Pacific Seafood outbreak.

In those circumstances, he said, the counties had hundreds of new virus cases.

“And I don’t today see signs that we’re remotely close to that kind of a circumstance in Clatsop County,” Allen said. “Obviously, things could change and there could be a circumstance here, or really in any county, where there’s widespread transmission of coronavirus that that decision could come.

“But it’s not something that’s actively being considered right now.”

The surge in virus cases, however, has prompted changes for schools.

The Warrenton-Hammond School District, which had opened to in-person classes in September, closed school buildings as a precaution after the Pacific Seafood outbreak.

The county’s rising case count has pushed schools outside the metrics the state set for safely holding in-person classes.

“We’ll be monitoring those metrics locally, and it’s still fully our intent to bring students back for in-person instruction as soon as we can,” Warrenton Superintendent Tom Rogozinski said.

He added that, “even if those metrics are not met in the coming weeks, we have opportunity for limited in-person instruction to occur in certain circumstances, and we expect to fully exercise that as well.”

Transparency

The Oregon Health Authority hosted the town hall with the county and Pacific Seafood after U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici said she was concerned about transparency over the outbreak.

During the town hall, the health authority, the county and the seafood processor provided information and took questions from the public.

“Over the last seven months, Clatsop County has had to learn and adjust to the

many nuances of a pandemic,” Assistant County Manager Monica Steele said. “There are challenges and risks that are ever-present, regardless of our desire and hope for a return to normal. The hard truth is the virus is with us and it will be with us for the foreseeable future.

“During the pandemic, we do not have the luxury of going it alone or acting unilaterally. We need to coordinate and bind our efforts in a way that minimizes the spread of a potentially deadly virus and protects the vulnerable and simultaneously supports businesses.”

Brandie Hogg, the human resources director at Pacific Seafood, described protective measures at the Warrenton plant, the response when a positive case is identified and the phased reopening of operations since the outbreak.

She said the company provides face shields to workers to be worn over masks, performs daily health screenings and temperature checks and places restrictions on visitors.

Hogg said there is frequent sanitation of the plant and physical dividers set up on the plant floor and break rooms to ensure social distancing.

“And then we’ve also implemented cohorts,” Hogg said. “This means that we have separated our teams into small groups, keeping them on the same shifts and breaks with minimal to no crossover between departments. This has been critical in our safeguards.

“If we have a concern about exposure, this allows contact tracing to be immediate and very targeted to the cohort group allowing for quarantining of a small group as opposed to an entire operation.”

Testing

Allen said there is no plan to retest Pacific Seafood workers at regular intervals, since serial testing is not something that is well supported by data as being useful.

“And so we would continue to basically try to approach this from an outbreak standpoint, which is identify people who have coronavirus, test their close contacts,” he said. “We are changing our testing guidance that those contacts to be tested now don’t need to be symptomatic, they can be asymptomatic contacts.

“But we think that case-based testing continues to be a more effective way to find and successfully isolate the quarantine cases.”

Palmgren: Shared his services with other museums, local artists and galleries

Continued from Page A1

He moved to the coast in 2010, and then came back after moving away for a short time.

Palmgren continued his museum work at the Columbia River Maritime Museum, where he has been the assistant curator since 2016.

He has also shared his services with other museums, local artists and galleries in Astoria, including at RiverSea Gallery and the Clatsop County Historical Society.

He said his shift to two-dimensional work

has been due to space constraints.

“In some ways the three dimensions helped me express myself in two dimensions because I’m still thinking in depth and trying to convey a lot of information in a single plane,” Palmgren said.

“And images — you place an image next to another image and it has a totally different meaning than if you place a separate image next to another image. So there’s all these sort of inherent meanings that we receive all the time and we don’t even know it.

“It’s subconscious. It’s a language that we all know.”



North Coast Merchants
The North Coast 10U Merchants, following their tournament win in Seaside.

MERCHANTS WIN SEASIDE TOURNNEY

The Astorian

The North Coast Merchants’ 10U softball team closed out their fall season in winning style last week, winning the “It’s All Relative” tournament, held Sept. 26 and Sept. 27 in Seaside.

The Merchants went 4-0 in their final appearance of the season, a North American Fastpitch Association tournament hosted by the Seaside Riptide.

North Coast outscored the opposition 47-8, had 24 hits in four games and finished with an 18-0 victory over Seaside in the tournament’s championship game.

Defensively, the Merchants had just two errors, both on Day 1.

They opened the first day with an 11-0 win over West Linn, as North Coast pitcher October Graves tossed a no-hitter, allowing no hits or walks, with nine strikeouts.

North Coast had just two hits of its own, but took advantage of multiple walks and stolen bases.

In their closest game of the weekend, Merchant pitcher Kiki Olson gave up just three hits with seven strikeouts, and North Coast held on for an 8-5 win over the Rampage.

Olson also had two of the Merchants’ five hits, with a double and a triple. Teammate Jessie Smith added a double.

In their final at-bat, the Rampage had the bases loaded with two outs and the winning run at the plate, but the Merchants’ Scarlet Anderson fielded a ground ball at third base and made a quick tag to end the game.

On the second day, Graves allowed four hits and a walk with nine strikeouts, in a 10-3 win over West Linn.

North Coast had six hits, with doubles by Natalie Davis, Kysa Whitsett, Anderson and



Diana Anderson
From left, North Coast 10U softball players Kysa Whitsett, Scarlet Anderson and Natalie Davis who are fifth graders at Warrenton Grade School.

Olson.

In the championship game, the Merchants scored a routine 18-0 win over Seaside, as Olson tossed a no-hitter with nine strikeouts and four walks.

Offensively, North Coast pounded out 11 hits. Olson was 2-for-2 with two doubles, Sadie Smith was 2-for-2 with a double and Anderson had a single and a triple.

Avrey Ford and Adelaide Maher had two singles apiece, and Ford also caught a line drive and tossed the ball to Maher at second for a double play, on the only ball put in play by Seaside.

Whitsett caught all four games and allowed no runs scored on passed balls.

“Every player contributed, every player made big plays ... there were diving stops, multiple caught fly balls and line drives and double plays,” Diana Anderson, North Coast’s coach, said.

“Our girls put the ball in play and made the other teams work. They were focused and on fire from start to finish.”

She added, “This is huge for 10U players.”

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
69 54	65 53	63 53	64 54	61 46	61 51	60 51
Sunshine and nice	Partly sunny	Low clouds	Cloudy	Rain	Occasional rain	Rain possible

ALMANAC

Astoria through Sunday

Temperatures	
High/low	66/47
Normal high/low	64/46
Record high	82 in 1942
Record low	33 in 1973
Precipitation	
Sunday	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.46"
Year to date	41.87"
Normal year to date	40.95"

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Taurus, the bull, is high overhead.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:21 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:45 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:17 p.m.
Moonset today	12:05 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 31

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
4:48 a.m.	6.2	10:17 a.m.	2.3	
3:59 p.m.	7.7	11:03 p.m.	0.2	

Cape Disappointment

4:17 a.m.	6.2	9:33 a.m.	2.7	
3:49 p.m.	7.2	10:21 p.m.	0.3	

Hammond

4:35 a.m.	6.4	9:53 a.m.	2.4	
3:57 p.m.	7.6	10:41 p.m.	0.0	

Warrenton

4:43 a.m.	6.6	10:01 a.m.	2.4	
3:54 p.m.	8.1	10:47 p.m.	0.3	

Knappa

5:25 a.m.	6.5	11:18 a.m.	2.0	
4:36 p.m.	7.9	none		

Depoe Bay

3:35 a.m.	6.7	8:59 a.m.	3.1	
2:58 p.m.	7.8	9:52 p.m.	0.6	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	78/59/s	84/61/s
Boston	68/57/s	72/54/c
Chicago	70/58/pc	73/49/s
Dallas	86/62/s	88/60/s
Denver	84/50/s	83/49/s
Honolulu	89/73/s	90/75/pc
Houston	87/59/s	88/63/pc
Los Angeles	89/63/pc	84/62/pc
Miami	88/81/t	88/79/c
New York City	70/58/s	74/56/pc
Phoenix	104/70/s	102/72/s
San Francisco	74/56/pc	69/58/pc
Wash., DC	73/57/s	80/58/s

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

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REGIONAL FORECAST

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

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Seattle	68/53	
Tacoma	69/48	
Yakima	81/49	
Kennewick	83/49	
Walla Walla	78/51	
Lewiston	79/51	
Enterprise	78/43	
Pendleton	82/48	
La Grande	80/40	
John Day	85/50	
Burns	83/29	
Ontario	80/40	
Caldwell	81/43	
Medford	88/48	
Klamath Falls	82/31	

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	82/36/s	82/37/s
Brookings	68/54/pc	62/53/pc
Ilwaco	66/55/s	63/54/pc
Newberg	78/51/s	75/52/pc
Newport	66/52/s	63/53/c

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
North Bend	69/53/s	64/53/pc
Roseburg	83/50/s	82/52/pc
Seaside	68/54/s	65/53/pc
Springfield	77/49/s	76/52/pc
Vancouver	76/53/s	73/55/pc