

Virus: Krane has lost 60 pounds

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He was the first reported hospitalization from the virus in Tillamook County.

Krane’s wife did not test positive for the virus and neither did anyone at Covenant Community Church, the congregation he has led for three decades.

“I just want to give some hope for people,” Krane said. “There’s so much fear and fear is not a good master to make decisions with, facts are. And people need to understand the magnitude — that this is very, very serious. This is not a hoax. But when we are given into fear, we treat each other fearfully and we lose our sense of centeredness.

“I was so fearful when I came in here, all I kept on saying is, ‘Am I going to die?’ And I’m a Christian, I’m a pastor — I know where I’m going. But all that fear was just poured all over me.

“And what they told me was, ‘Rick, you’re going to have to just wait for your body’s need for the oxygen to go down.’”

Recovery

Krane has lost 60 pounds and has been recovering at home since he returned on Sept. 21. He said his doctor recommended he convalesce three days per every one day he was in the hospital.

He is happy to be home, but his biggest fear now is that his lungs will be left seriously damaged. He is also still processing the trauma of the experience.

Krane described himself as an extrovert and said it was difficult not seeing his wife and friends while he was in the hospital.

“I have had the most excellent care and being loved by the staff,” he said. “When they finally took me off of the machine, the staff was standing out of the window cheering.”

He said he also felt the support of his congregation, which is made up of people

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Rick Krane | pastor who had coronavirus



living in Clatsop and Tillamook counties.

“We’re a Latino American church. So the Latino families have been very, very scared because COVID has ... really gone through Latino communities like a wood burn.

“Church isn’t just a Sunday thing ... You can connect with people, not just people of faith, but people of encouragement. We’ve isolated ourselves so bad, but there’s ways to go ahead and do it. So we work really hard. We have text groups sending pictures back and forth, little videos of each other telling jokes. We pray a lot for each other per request. We have people struggling.”

Alex and Jennifer Cabezon, Youth with a Mission missionaries, have been leading services while Krane heals.

“There was a certain level of caution, but then once Rick was in the hospital, it was like, ‘Oh, my gosh, this has come to our doorstep now,’” Jennifer Cabezon said. “This is not just something that’s happening in the news.”

She said the fact that no one else at the church tested positive for the virus shows that taking proper precautions works.

“What one person does affects others,” she said. “And so that’s where we have to put our own comfort zone, opinions aside and go, ‘Yeah, I’m responsible for my community. I’m responsible for my neighbors. I’m responsible for my kid’s school and for their health and for my church.’ I’m

responsible to take them into consideration, and do what I can to keep everybody safe.

“I’m 40, I’m in fairly good health, I don’t feel super in danger, but I care about the people around me, and so it does make me be more cautious.”

A balance

Cabezon said there is a balance leading the church because people don’t all agree on the virus precautions. However, she said she is proud of the congregation for respecting one another and their ability to place the safety of the people around them above any inconveniences and discomfort.

“If you go on Facebook, it seems like we can’t do that,” she said, adding that it is neat to see a small, local church be an example of what it looks like to get along with each other and stay united even with differing opinions.

“To me, that’s been very encouraging because I feel like it will kind of on a small-scale level, bridge those divides of differing political or whatever opinions.”

Krane said that although most people with the virus are not hospitalized and are recovering at home, he continues to urge people to be diligent about the precautions.

“Anybody dying is a horrible thing, but it isn’t necessarily a death sentence” he said. “But people need to understand that it is very, very dangerous.”

Detention: Yamhill ‘main contract’

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Braaten said Yamhill County has the capabilities for virtual hearings and visits.

Cowlitz County also does not accept youth 18 years or older, so Clatsop County has been contracting with Yamhill County for space for older youth.

“For the most part, it definitely served the purpose and it filled the need. But I think we’re excited for the ability to use Yamhill,” said Braaten, who took over the county’s Juvenile Department last year.

“Probably within the first couple of months of me kind of looking at things and trying to determine what’s the best route to move towards, having those two separate contracts makes sense,” he said. “But in my mind, it always made sense to kind of flip-flop them. So have Yamhill as our main contract and then have Cowlitz as a backup. If for some reason there’s no room, then we could potentially use Cowlitz as a backup.”

Clatsop County contracts with Cowlitz County for two beds, or 730 days. Usually, more than two children can stay at the facility at the same time, as long as



Clatsop County will shift a juvenile detention contract to Yamhill County.

the number of days does not exceed 730 days.

However, the county has been limited to two actual beds at a time due to coronavirus restrictions.

Three months ago, Braaten said, there was only two youth in custody, but they were both 18 and older and therefore had to go to Yamhill County.

In that case, the county was paying for beds in Cowlitz County but could not utilize them.

Braaten said that on average, based on the number of days, Clatsop County has 1 1/2 children in detention.

He said Yamhill County will honor the contract for the two youth ages 18 and older until the next fiscal year, when they begin a new contract for 1 1/2 beds.

“That way, we’re not paying for something we might not use,” Braaten said. “If we happen to need more then we’ll pay the daily rate for the additional beds if we have to.

“Either we slightly underutilize it or slightly overutilize and pay a little bit more. But I think in the long run, theoretically, it should save money because we’re not losing out on that space.”

Braaten said underutilizing beds is the risk counties run in trying to guarantee detention services.

“That’s one of the challenges of not having your own detention facility,” he said. “But in the long run, it’s far more fiscally responsible to try and secure those services from a provider that already exists.”

Sea lions: Predation impact unclear

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thousand California and Steller sea lions now roam the river waters near Astoria. The population has been growing for several years, with as many as 2,000 sea lions recorded in a single day count at Astoria’s East Mooring Basin. The pinnipeds have resisted numerous strategies to keep them away from places like the basin — from mechanical fiberglass orcas to physical barriers.

In August, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a permit allowing three states, including Oregon, and six regional tribes to lethally remove sea lions. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has started to trap sea lions at Bonneville Dam and expects to begin trapping animals at Willamette Falls in November.

The permit allows the applicants to kill up to 540 California sea lions and up to 176 Steller sea lions through 2025 that have been identified as causing a significant negative impact on listed salmon species, that approach those species or that migrate through the Ballard Locks at Seattle in Washington state.

In Oregon, removals in the past have focused at environmental pinch points like Willamette Falls and Bonneville Dam, where sea lions are known to congregate and prey on salmon.

Oregon removed 33 sea lions at Willamette Falls last year, a move fishery managers say reduced predation from a previous high

of nearly 25% of the adult spawning run to just 1% to 2% this year.

“We know that this action isn’t going to restore healthy runs, but it is a critical piece of the recovery picture,” said Shaun Clements, senior policy analyst for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, in a statement this summer after the permit application was approved.

Negative impact

There is enough evidence that sea lions are having a negative impact on salmon and some removals are worth trying, said Sarah Converse, another author of the recent sea lion predation study, an associate professor at the University of Washington and leader of the Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

What isn’t clear, though, is how much impact sea lion predation has on salmon across their entire life cycle.

The recent study is “kind of a first step in understanding what the effect is on how many salmon come back,” Sorel said. One motivation behind the study was to better understand the potential risk of this heightened predation to push threatened or endangered salmon toward extinction.

While other types of data and research are needed to further refine the information presented in the study, it is concerning to see such a marked impact on the earlier returning salmon, researchers said. Having viable runs of many different salmon entering the river at differ-

ent times is key to the health and continued survival of the fish.

Sorel compares it to an investments portfolio. An ideal portfolio has a variety of stocks, so any losses are less disruptive, distributed across a range of possibilities.

Migration corridors like the lower Columbia River are important but risky places. Increased predation here “could affect salmon behavior and life-history expression over time,” study authors wrote. Fish may begin to migrate later to avoid predators like sea lions, but this could cause other issues at spawning grounds and expose fish to warmer water.

“Such changes could affect management of the fishery, which relies on consistent run timing to make in-season assessments of run size and adjust harvest accordingly,” the authors note.

Salmon live in environments that face any number of pressures and shifts every year. As the effects of climate change begin to unfold further, salmon face even steeper challenges to their survival along traditional migratory routes. The systems they rely on are changing rapidly, Converse said.

The variations already found across existing salmon runs may help certain salmon better weather whatever the new normal becomes.

“We’ve got a lot of changes coming up that are not entirely straightforward to predict,” Converse said.



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

The original Sailor Steve from the Wayfarer in Cannon Beach, now retired at the home of Dale Brechlin.

Brechlin: Phone booth was abandoned

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The five-bedroom house serves as home to the entire family, including grandchildren.

“We’re on the coast where we can go down to the beach any time that we want,” he said. “When I was in Maine, we were living on the water. So it was nice to go from one coast to the other.”

Brechlin said he tends to collect unique things.

After reading about the phone booth’s availability through the “Goonieville” Facebook group, Brechlin rescued it from the trash heap, “thinking it would be a good ‘Bill & Ted’s Excellent Adventure’ for my grandchildren,” he said.

“I was having my lunch, surfing the internet, and it just happened to pop up,” Brechlin said. “It was on there four minutes.”

The GTE phone booth was designed intention-

ally without doors, Brechlin explained. It was installed in front of the Budget Inn with a steel floor plate and bolted to a concrete pad.

Eventually, the booth was abandoned by the phone company. The phone set was removed, wires cut and the windows became a magnet for graffiti.

The phone company didn’t want it back. The property owner contacted Chris Pounds to post it on Goonieville.

Pounds moved the phone booth, Brechlin said.

“He put it in the back of his pickup and drove it over. He delivered,” he said.

Brechlin placed cement blocks to steady the booth in the wind in his driveway.

He cleaned the graffiti off. Brechlin still has structural repairs to the booth’s side wall. He’s not sure if he’ll put in a phone or not, or where it will ultimately sit.

Another treasure, the original Sailor Steve from the Wayfarer Restaurant in Cannon Beach, holds a prominent position in his backyard. Brechlin came to the rescue when the wooden statue, rotted at the bottom and in a dumpster, was going to be hauled off to the trash heap.

When he was general manager at KOA in Warrenton, he acquired river buoy number 42, now on display there at the base of the stairs going to the pool.

“I am told that was the buoy where the bar pilots and the river pilots would exchange in the Columbia River,” Brechlin said. “And as you know, in Douglas Adams’ ‘The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy,’ 42 is a magical number answer to the meaning of life, the universe and everything — calculated by a very big computer over a very, very long time.”

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