

County reports 22 new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County on Monday reported 22 new coronavirus cases. The cases include a male and female between 10 and 19, two men in their 20s, a man and a woman in their 30s, a woman in her 40s and a woman in her 70s

living in the southern part of the county. The others live in the northern part of the county and include three women and two men in their 20s, three men and a woman in their 30s, two women and a man in their 40s, a man in his 50s and a woman in her 60s. All 22 were recovering at home. The county has recorded 551 cases since March. According to the county, nine were hospitalized and three have died. The Oregon Health Authority reported 110,545 cases and 1,433 deaths from the virus statewide as of Monday morning.

Lyons: Oregon Coast was his dream destination

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“He was the Pied Piper of the youth of Seaside,” City Councilor Dana Phillips said. “His relationship with his students as a teacher, coach and driver’s ed instructor was one of being like a big dad who loved each and every one of them showing no favoritism.”

Lyons led the Gulls state championship football team in 1994, the first championship team in Seaside since 1959.

Wally Hamer, a fellow coach, called Lyons a “difference maker” in the lives of student athletes.

“He was a great teacher, coach, friend, father, city councilman, a true leader in every sense,” Hamer said.

“He could rally kids way beyond what you could expect of them,” said Jim Auld, also a former Gulls coach and friend of Lyons. “He could do that not just on the arena of athletics. He did it in the classroom, he did it in the hallways and in the community. He had that unique ability to bring the best out of kids.”

Part Sioux, Raphael Lyons Jr. was born Sept. 4, 1934, and raised on a reservation in North Dakota, one of 10 children of Anne and Ray Lyons.

The obvious question: Why the nickname “Stubby”?

“I was born at home, and after about three or four days they thought they should get me to the reservation hospital to get me checked out,” Lyons recalled in an interview last year. “My dad said, ‘Give me a suitcase and a couple of fluffy blankets in there.’ I was stubby enough to fit in it. And that’s what he called me.”

Lyons was a five-sport athlete at Coeur d’Alene High School in Idaho and entered the U.S. Marine Corps in 1953, serving for eight years, including time spent in the Korean War.

As a 20-year-old Marine, Lyons spent 14 months in Korea as a military officer in the demilitarized zone.

He attended Whitworth College and Northern Idaho



Sharee and Stubby Lyons at their Seaside home.

State College. After eight years in the service, he returned home and pursued his education on the GI Bill, earning his bachelor’s degree from Eastern Washington State College and his master’s at Pacific University in Forest Grove.

His teaching and coaching career began at 35, first in Nevada, then Washington state.

But the Oregon Coast was his dream destination.

“I always wanted to live near the ocean,” he said.

When a position became available in the Seaside School District, Lyons put his application in.

“The principal said, ‘Can you be up here tomorrow for an interview?’ I said, ‘Yes, I guess I can.’ I jumped in the car and the principal said, ‘Would you take this job if we offered it to you?’ I said ‘yes.’ He called the next day, Saturday, and said, ‘You start Monday.’”

Arriving in Seaside in 1980, he served as an assistant for Auld before taking the head football coach role.

The 1994 Gulls championship team was inspired by Lyons’ enthusiasm on and off the field.

“I knew we were going to have a pretty good football team that year,” he said. “So I thought I’d get a personal license plate: ‘FIRE UP.’ Those are the same license plates I’ve got on my truck right now.”

More than 3,000 Gulls fans traveled to Autzen Stadium at the University of Oregon in Eugene to watch the Gulls win the championship 27-14 over Brookings-Harbor, overcoming a 14-10 halftime deficit.

“One thing that stood out was during the 1994 state championship run how our whole coaching staff came together and really bonded,” Hamer said. “I feel that was directly influenced by the environment that Stubby brought to the table.”

After the game, the Seaside Signal reported that Lyons went to his knees.

“I made a promise I was going to say a little prayer along the sidelines right after the game if we won, and I did,” Lyons told the newspaper.

Lyons taught nearly every subject at Seaside High School, including English, U.S. history, personal finance, a law class — 16 different

classes over a 45-year career. He coached from 1980 to 1998 and returned briefly as the Gulls coach in 2010. He left teaching in 1999.

Lyons married his second wife, Sharee Opitz, a former teacher at Seaside High School, in 1998 after being introduced by sophomore students interested in playing matchmaker.

Lyons was a member of a number of associations and committees, including the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association and the Seaside American Legion. He is a life member of the Seaside Elks, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Northern Oregon Coast Marine Corps League.

Along with his wife, Lyons is survived by his sister, Joni Lewis; son, Lance Lyons, and his wife, Karen; daughter, Lacy Pannebaker, and her husband, Luke, and their children, Lola and Layla. He is also survived by Vanessa Underhill, Lyons’ ex-wife and mother of Lance Lyons and Pannebaker.

A service will be held later, Lance Lyons said.

In his later years, Lyons stayed close to home, enjoying his property in the Southeast Hills. He regularly met up with team alumni to share memories at Dundee’s.

“What a tremendous loss to our community,” Phillips said. “But the legend of Stubby will continue. Stubby, you will be missed but never forgotten.”

Vote: ‘We are a different breed than the city slickers’

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suggesting voter opinion has only hardened over the past four years.

The county’s precinct map for the November election illustrates the historical advantage for Democrats, as well as the political divide playing out across Oregon and the United States between city and rural neighborhoods.

Biden defeated Trump 54% to 43% in the county. While Biden performed better than former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who received 47% in 2016, Trump pulled slightly more than the 41% he had four years ago.

Voter turnout was about 80%, up only marginally from 2016.

Biden won every city precinct except for part of Warrenton. Only four rural precincts broke against Trump.

“I think one of the takeaways for me when I look at this data for the presidential races, and I think about the upcoming ideological split that I see on our nominally nonpartisan county commissioner board — I’m always fascinated by how people compartmentalize local politics in a different way,” said Andy Davis, the chairman of the Clatsop County Democratic Party.

“That we’ve got 55% of the county in this case voting for the Democratic nominee for president, and I’m looking at a county commissioner board that appears to me that it’ll be 3-2 in a conservative-leaning direction. And that’s always interesting to me that there’s that split existing.”

Davis, in a text message, said, “the challenge going forward is finding ways for those two geographic groups of people to understand each other and work cooperatively, so we don’t

just swing back and forth each election with the out of power group becoming more aggrieved at the one that happens to be currently in charge.”

Lisa Lamping, the chairwoman of the Clatsop County Republican Party, believes the party can grow its base in the 2022 elections.

“I see a real move towards more conservative things because of the extreme policies that seem to be affecting our state right now,” Lamping said. “So I think you’re seeing a lot of Clatsop citizens that are just kind of fed up. I also think #TimberUnity played a big factor in that, and I think you’re probably going to see more of that coming.”

She pointed to the victory of Tillamook Mayor Suzanne Weber in the state House District 32 race, the first Republican to win the seat in nearly two decades. Weber nearly tied Debbie Boothe-Schmidt, the Democrat, in Clatsop County, while claiming the Tillamook County and Washington County portions of the district.

“So that tells you right there that some Democrats ... came over and voted for her and some independents I’m sure did,” Lamping said.

She thinks liberal state policies and the restrictions aimed to stop the spread of the coronavirus have caused people to become disillusioned with government.

“And it doesn’t just affect those issues,” Lamping said. “There’s a lot of values associated with those choices, too. And so it trickles down beyond just the political side. It trickles down into the value system side and how it’s affecting families and our quality of life and how we live.”

“And here on the coast, we are a different breed than the city slickers.”

Apps: Has mostly attracted food carts

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“Our model is we will only charge 10% to the restaurant for every order to go out,” Yiu said. “But once it hits \$50, then we stop, so restaurants don’t have to pay more than \$50” a month.

Malka can earn between \$1,200 and \$1,600 a week through DoorDash, Yiu said, but the delivery service takes up to 30% of the profits. Slurpacious is part of the couple’s effort to help local restaurants afford deliveries, especially when the coronavirus pandemic has limited indoor dining.

The state Legislature capped third-party delivery fees at 15% and online ordering commissions at 5% during the pandemic. Portland capped delivery fees at 10%, although restaurateurs have reported some larger companies violating the ordinance.

Customers ordering through Slurpacious will pay 7% of the order’s price in handling fees, Yiu said, along with \$1 pickup and drop-off fees. Drivers will be paid 80 cents per mile. Slurpacious will incentivize customers to group orders in a certain time slot, offering a discount on delivery fees while helping drivers earn more per mile, Yiu said.



Candy Yiu and Akshay Dua with their two children, Neal and Niam Dua.

“Slurpacious is not going to make as much money as DoorDash, but I don’t think our expenses of running, (that) we need that much money,” she said.

The service has mostly attracted food carts, including Coffee OR Waffle, Surf 2 Soul, Roll and Bowl and CS Fisheries in Astoria, along with the Tres Bro’s Nicaraguan food truck in Warrenton.

Yiu and Dua have been recruiting brick-and-mortar restaurants to join the delivery service but have so far only convinced Curry & Coco Thai Eatery, whose future is up in the air. Nalinrat Sahunalu, who owns Yellow Curry Cozy Thai in Seaside and expanded to Astoria last year, closed Curry &

Coco temporarily to travel and is debating whether to reopen in March, depending on the severity of the pandemic.

“We’re trying to see if the delivery can help them out, to get more business so they don’t have to close down,” Yiu said.

Yiu said restaurants were initially hesitant to join Slurpacious, arguing that they have enough business from indoor dining. She suspects the situation has changed since the beginning of the pandemic and hopes to build momentum.

“Hopefully ... they understand that this is really helping them and get more comfortable to do that,” she said. “Then hopefully we will just take off.”

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