

State to begin vaccinating inmates for virus

By NOELLE CROMBIE
The Oregonian

Gov. Kate Brown has authorized the Oregon Health Authority to provide the state prison system with 10,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine for its inmate population beginning next week, a top agency official said Wednesday.

Brown plans to provide prisons with enough COVID-19 vaccines “until our job is complete,” Dr. Warren Roberts, chief medical officer for the Oregon Department of Corrections, told lawmakers.

Oregon’s prisons house nearly 12,600 inmates.

The first allotment of 5,000 doses is expected next week and will be used to start clinics for medically vulnerable inmates, Roberts said.

That will be followed by another shipment of 5,000 the week after.

“We have an aggressive vaccination plan and are ready to operationalize that plan as soon as the vaccines arrive,” said Colette Peters, director of the prison system.

The vaccines will be offered to inmates but won’t be required, corrections officials said.



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian

A dorm in the Coffee Creek Correctional Institution.

The timeline came into sharper view after U.S. Magistrate Stacie F. Beckerman on Tuesday ordered all inmates in Oregon’s prisons be prioritized for the vaccinations.

Her ruling addresses the explosive rise of the virus in the prisons, where the infection rate is 28% compared to 3.3% of the rest of the population.

“Currently,” Beckerman wrote, “an individual in (state) custody is nearly 10 times more likely to contract COVID-19 than the average Oregonian.”

Her decision comes after seven inmates filed motions Jan. 21 for the federal government to intervene and

immediately compel the state to vaccinate all inmates. The same inmates first filed a class action lawsuit in federal court last April seeking protection against the spread of the coronavirus.

Inmates across the state have described poor conditions as 3,392 cases of COVID-19 and 42 deaths have been confirmed in prisons to date.

Beckerman noted state officials had prioritized residents of other types of congregate care settings, such as nursing homes, but bypassed inmates.

Nationally, the pandemic has swept through prison systems and jails. According to the Marshall Project,

a news organization focused on reporting on prisons and criminal justice, at least 366,121 people in prison had tested positive for the illness as of Jan. 26, a 3% increase from the week before. The news organization reported at least 2,314 deaths of people in custody.

States have generally prioritized corrections workers for vaccines but not inmates, according to a state-by-state analysis by the Prison Policy Initiative, a nonprofit organization that researches issues related to incarceration. The group found that states’ plans were unclear on where inmates fell on their priority lists.

In Oregon, some inmates, including 91 who perform health care work, have already been vaccinated.

The lawsuit also revealed that “an apparent miscommunication regarding eligibility” last month had led corrections staff to offer vaccines to 1,558 inmates who are over 60 and have medical vulnerabilities. Of those, 1,343 prisoners chose to be vaccinated — an acceptance rate of 86%.

Another 316 inmates under 60 were vaccinated with leftover doses, Beckerman’s ruling states.

OBITUARIES

Richard Arnold Garner

Astoria

Oct. 31, 1945 — Jan. 31, 2021

Richard “Dick” Arnold Garner, 75, passed away from cancer in his home in Astoria, on Jan. 31, 2021.

Born in Kadoka, South Dakota, Richard graduated from high school in 1964 from Rapid City High School. From there, he enrolled at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota.

Though he started his college studies in business, by the winter term — after seeing “East Side/West Side,” starring George C. Scott — Richard decided to study sociology to help people. “That’s it. I want to help people.”

Richard’s desire to help others drove him to run for county office, start a homeless shelter, work with at-risk youth at Tongue Point Job Corps Center and devote his life to assisting others. Going beyond helping people, Richard was a devout vegetarian, and

adopted every wayward animal that showed up on his porch.

Richard is survived by the loving community of Astoria; his wife of 20 years, Mary MacDonald-Garner; son, Geof Garner; sister, Pamela Garner; brother-in-law, Brodie MacDonald; cousin, Aldine Thornton;

stepchildren, Tara Finch Hano and Joel Finch; and his grandchildren, Ravyn, Cameron, Leontine and Albin.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Iona Garner.

There will be no public service until it is safe to do so.

To help continue his kindness, loyalty and compassion for others, please consider making a donation to the memorial fund at the First Presbyterian Church in Astoria. Also, consider volunteering at Clatsop County Animal Shelter.



Richard Garner

SPORTS

Officials, referees prepare for upcoming season

The Astorian

Ready or not, here comes the Oregon high school fall sports season.

With no guarantees in place, the first fall sports season of 2021 is set to begin in less than a month.

While athletes and coaches await the first day of practice, the North Coast Officials Association is seeking officials and referees for soccer and volleyball.

Teena Toyas, commissioner of the North Coast Volleyball and Soccer Officials, said her group is planning for the season, with an online

meeting next week. The initial meeting and training sessions will be by Zoom.

The first Oregon School Activities Association events are set to take place the first week of March, almost a year since last year’s winter sports season was postponed and eventually canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic, as was the 2020 spring sports season.

Astoria High School has a full week of activities planned the first week, all against Banks.

Fishermen volleyball hosts Banks, the boys soccer team hosts the Braves

and Astoria girls soccer plays at Banks on March 2. Astoria football plays at Banks March 5.

Seaside and Valley Catholic have a similar opening week, as Seaside boys soccer hosts the Valiants, the Lady Gulls play at Valley Catholic and the Seaside volleyball team opens the new Seaside High School gym with a home match against the Valiants. Three days later, the Seaside football team hosts the Valiants in a season opener at Broadway Field.

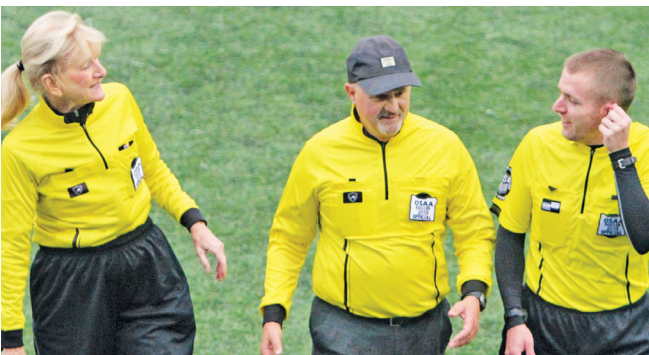
Warrenton volleyball, the two-time defending champions of the Coastal Range

League, hosts Neah-Kah-Nie March 2.

But before the games and events can begin, Clatsop County will have to be downgraded from the extreme risk category for COVID-19 as designated by the state.

In addition, coronavirus guidelines and county risk levels will determine the location and means for additional meetings and training sessions for officials and referees, Toyas said.

“Initial meeting times are yet to be determined,” she said. “Officials are hoping that area schools will be allowed to participate in a



Gary Henley/The Astorian

From left, soccer referees Teena Toyas, Z. Barbic and Ben Sago exit the field following a 2019 soccer game at CMH Field.

shortened season for both sports (soccer and volleyball) beginning March 1.”

If interested in officiating volleyball or soccer, contact Toyas at 503-440-0221 or email officiallyteena13@

msn.com. The first Zoom meeting takes place Monday.

High school football games in Clatsop County will be officiated by members of the Longview, Washington, association.

SAVE \$1,182*

1% cash back & 30 days no payments OR

\$100 cash back & 90 days no payments

Move your vehicle, watercraft, off-road, or unsecured loan to us

Wauna

Credit Union

Individuals Welcome

waunafcu.org | 800-773-3236 | 24/7 Lending

*The \$1,182 Savings represents the estimated difference in Total Interest Paid on a \$20,000 used vehicle loan (2014 or newer) with a 2.24% APR and a 66 month repayment term (Total Interest: \$1,276) and the same loan term with a 4.24% APR (Total Interest: \$2,458). Total Interest figures reported are estimates provided solely as an example for comparison purposes. Loan terms used are as of December 15, 2020. Special Promotional Terms: Upon loan approval, current and new Wauna CU members who refinance a qualifying loan currently financed elsewhere to Wauna Credit Union become eligible to choose one of two Loan Reward Promotion offers: Option #1. An immediate Cash Reward equal to 1% of the approved loan value, plus 30-Days No Payment (Interest will continue to accrue during the No Payment period); Or, Option #2. An immediate \$100 Cash Reward, plus 90-Days No Payments (Interest will continue to accrue during the 90-day period). Qualifying Loans: Auto, Truck, SUV, Van, Motor home, trailer, boat, watercraft, motorcycles, side-by-sides, quads, and unsecured loans such as home furnishings, tuition, personal loans, etc. Minimum loan amount to qualify for special terms: \$2,000; Maximum Reward allowed is \$500 per qualifying loan. These special Reward terms are subject to change without notice. Rates & financing are offered based on applicant's credit worthiness and term of the loan. Note: the promotional cash reward paid to a member may be forfeit if the loan balance is paid in full within 180-days of the loan funding date. Membership with Wauna CU required to be eligible for this special offer. Federally insured by the NCUA.

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
48 39	45 36	45 32	45 29	44 28	44 31	45 32
Rain and drizzle	A morning shower	A morning shower	Chilly with some sun	Chilly with some sun	Some brightening	Showers possible

ALMANAC
Astoria through Thursday
Temperatures
High/low 48/41
Normal high/low 51/37
Record high 65 in 1984
Record low 13 in 1989
Precipitation
Thursday 0.32"
Month to date 2.79"
Normal month to date 1.07"
Year to date 18.70"
Normal year to date 11.27"

UNDER THE SKY
Tonight's Sky: The Orion Nebula is visible as a faint smudge of light in Orion.
Source: Jim Todd, OMSI
SUN AND MOON
Sunrise today 7:32 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:28 p.m.
Moonrise today 3:22 a.m.
Moonset tonight 12:23 p.m.
New First Full Last
Feb 11 Feb 19 Feb 27 Mar 5

TODAY'S TIDES
Astoria / Port Docks
Time High (ft.) Time Low (ft.)
7:44 a.m. 8.7 1:32 a.m. 3.3
9:40 p.m. 6.1 3:21 p.m. 0.6
Cape Disappointment
7:25 a.m. 8.6 12:43 a.m. 3.7
9:35 p.m. 6.1 2:33 p.m. 0.6
Hammond
7:38 a.m. 8.9 1:09 a.m. 3.3
9:36 p.m. 6.3 2:49 p.m. 0.3
Warrenton
7:39 a.m. 9.1 1:16 a.m. 3.4
9:35 p.m. 6.5 3:05 p.m. 0.7
Knappa
8:21 a.m. 8.9 2:33 a.m. 2.8
10:17 p.m. 6.4 4:22 p.m. 0.5
Depoe Bay
6:38 a.m. 8.8 12:08 a.m. 3.7
8:49 p.m. 6.1 2:04 p.m. 0.4

NATIONAL CITIES
Today Sun.
City Hi/Lo/W Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta 46/37/r 52/34/pc
Boston 38/24/s 35/20/sn
Chicago 15/-6/sn 7/0/pc
Dallas 56/35/s 61/44/s
Denver 44/26/c 53/18/s
Honolulu 78/64/s 79/66/pc
Houston 67/42/c 64/48/pc
Los Angeles 75/50/s 73/49/s
Miami 83/74/t 84/69/t
New York City 44/28/s 35/22/sn
Phoenix 73/47/s 74/49/s
San Francisco 61/45/s 60/47/s
Wash., DC 50/36/pc 45/24/sn
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

AccuWeather Plan your week | Get the NEW app

REGIONAL FORECAST

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

City	Today	Sun.	City	Today	Sun.
Baker City	46/33/pc	41/27/pc	North Bend	51/41/s	50/39/pc
Brookings	54/40/s	53/40/c	Roseburg	51/40/pc	49/34/c
Ilwaco	48/40/r	45/39/sh	Seaside	48/39/r	44/37/sh
Newberg	49/40/c	47/36/c	Springfield	50/39/pc	49/33/c
Newport	49/39/c	46/38/c	Vancouver	48/42/c	47/38/sh