

IN BRIEF

Seniors start to get vaccine but many will need to wait

More than 1,100 coronavirus vaccines were administered in Clatsop County over the past week, including 200 to the first group of seniors 80 years old and older.

The county's vaccine task force, in a weekly update on Friday, said that although seniors age 75 and older are eligible for the vaccine statewide on Monday, there are not enough doses locally to begin vaccinating that age group.

The county will continue providing vaccines to those 80 and older, and will announce when doses are available for those 75 and older.

Local organizers will be reaching out to seniors who have filled out the county's online vaccine planning survey with instructions about how to register for a vaccination event.

People are asked to fill out the survey on the county's website, which will help the task force notify people when they are eligible for a vaccine.

As of Friday, 5,183 doses were administered, including 3,540 first doses and 1,643 second doses.

Three dead in Highway 26 crash

Three people died Wednesday in a two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 26.

Police say a Mercedes station wagon was heading westbound at around 10 a.m. about 2 miles east of the state Highway 53 junction when the driver lost control and slid sideways into the eastbound lanes, colliding with a Toyota Tacoma driven by a Seaside woman.

Walter Smith, 21, of Pendleton, who was driving the Mercedes, died. His passengers, Erick Fadness, 20, of Decorah, Iowa, and a 16-year-old female from Portland also died.

The Seaside woman who was driving the Toyota Tacoma was flown to a Portland hospital.

The highway was temporarily closed while law enforcement investigated and reconstructed the crash.

Free fishing offered in Oregon

Fishing is free in Oregon over Presidents Day weekend.

The state will not require fishing tags — including combined angling tags, Columbia River basin endorsement or two-rod validation — on Saturday and Sunday. People can fish, clam and crab for free.

All other fishing regulations, such as closures, bag limits and size restrictions, still apply.

— The Astorian

Four in Oregon test positive for virus after vaccine

Four Oregonians have tested positive for COVID-19 after being vaccinated against the disease, Oregon health officials disclosed Friday.

The Oregon Health Authority said two of the cases were in Lane County and two were in Yamhill County.

Two of the cases were found during routine surveillance testing. The other two appear to be connected. State officials did not specify which two.

"This is a serious but not surprising development," Patrick Allen, the director of the health authority, said.

These reinfections, called "breakthrough infections," are infections that occur more than 14 days after receiving the second dose of vaccine.

Given the effectiveness rate of the two vaccines — 95% for both Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's — it's inevitable that some of the 177,000 vaccinated Oregonians would become reinfected.

It isn't yet known if these four known reinfection cases involved newer variants of the coronavirus. The Oregon Health Authority is attempting to get samples from these patients to be tested, a process that could take over a week.

— Oregon Public Broadcasting

DEATHS

Feb. 9, 2021

COZART, Evelyn N., 84, of Knappa, died in Knappa. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 8, 2021

KIMINKI, Mark Arnold, 68, of Astoria,

died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

NICHOLAS, Julia Clair, 64, of Westport, died in Westport. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Samuel Joe Johnson, 30, was arrested Wednesday on W. Bond Street in Astoria for assault in the fourth degree and tampering with a witness.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting).

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.



Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian

Snow and ice made road conditions difficult.

Winter weather advisory issued

Schools closed, delayed by snowy and icy conditions

The Astorian

A winter weather advisory was issued for the North Coast through Saturday afternoon.

Snow, sleet and freezing rain around Astoria and Warrenton was expected through late Friday night. Up to one quarter of an inch of ice was expected near Astoria. Snow accumulations are not expected to exceed an inch.

Cold or freezing rain, possibly mixed with snow, was forecast for south of Seaside.

Travel is expected to be very challenging at times. Officials urged people to be

prepared for snow- and-ice covered roads while traveling inland from the coast, especially along the lower Columbia River around Astoria and points east.

Schools on the North Coast announced closures and delays because of snow and icy conditions Friday morning.

The Warrenton-Hammond School District canceled classes, instructing all students to instead do classes and coursework from home.

The Knappa School District also opted to close down classrooms in anticipation of wintry weather. Students were still expected to participate in the school day via distance learning and the school district sent home Friday's lunches with students on Thursday.

Athletic practices were

also canceled and will resume Tuesday.

Schools in the Astoria School District were on a two-hour delay, with all students to have remote learning. In-person instruction had only just begun for elementary students Thursday.

In Astoria, snow began to fall and stick around 8 a.m.

Seaside School District students have been operating under a remote learning model this winter. The weather Friday did not change anything for them. The school district plans to phase students back into classrooms next week beginning with the youngest grade levels.

Students in the Jewell School District are still attending classes remotely. After a student tested positive for the coronavirus,

the school district temporarily shifted all students to distance learning. All grade levels will return to classrooms four days a week beginning Tuesday.

Lil' Sprouts Academy, a city-run day care in Astoria, announced it would be closed for the day because of the weather and staff capacity. The center is the largest in the city.

Astoria, meanwhile, closed Eighth Street between Franklin Avenue and Grand Avenue on Friday morning because of potentially hazardous road conditions.

Recology Western Oregon canceled routes for all customers on Friday and closed the Astoria Transfer Station. Recology said it would attempt to get Friday customers serviced on Monday.

Offices close for Presidents Day

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In observance of Presidents Day on Monday, all federal, state, county and city offices and services, including Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach city halls, are closed. All U.S. post offices are closed, and there is no mail delivery.

Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Warrenton-Hammond and Seaside (including Cannon

Beach and Gearhart) school district schools, and Clatsop Community College, are closed.

The Astoria Library, Seaside Library and Warrenton Library are closed.

The Port of Astoria offices and services are closed.

Garbage collection through Recology Western Oregon and the city of Warrenton garbage collection are not affected by the

holiday. Recology Western Oregon's transfer station is open.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside is closed. The Astoria Aquatic Center is still closed.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum is closed. The Oregon Film Museum and the Flavel Carriage House are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the Flavel House is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Uppertown Firefighters' Museum is closed for the winter.

Museum is closed for the winter.

Lil' Sprouts Academy is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Fort Clatsop Visitor Center is closed; the fort and trails are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Columbia River Maritime Museum is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Seaside Museum is still closed.

Sunset Empire Transportation ("The Bus") is running.

Enterprise zone: Companies to focus first on local hires

Continued from Page A1

the former Video Horizons on Astor Street to fit new brewing equipment that will double capacity. Pilot House will remodel a nearby warehouse into a larger headquarters, including a multistory, 5,000-liter still five times bigger than what the distillery uses now.

Being part of the enterprise zone would save Bouy Beer and Pilot House an estimated \$734,800 in property taxes over five years. The expansion is expected to create 15 to 20 new jobs in brewing, selling, packaging and warehousing beer and spirits, along with added administration.

The companies have agreements with the state Employment Department to focus first on local hires. Bouy Beer and Fort George

are partnering with Clatsop Community College on a brewing program that could link with higher-level programs at Oregon State University.

Dave Kroening, the president and general manager of Bouy Beer, said the company is still at the equivalent of 65 full-time employees after layoffs because of the coronavirus pandemic. Most of the layoffs have been on the retail side, whereas the expansion and new positions will focus on wholesale throughout the Pacific Northwest.

"In general, about 95% of everything we make on site goes outside the county for sales," Kroening said.

Scoular, an employee-owned agricultural trader based in Nebraska, is one of the largest privately held companies in the U.S., with \$4.5 billion in annual revenue.

The plant at the Port of Astoria's Airport Industrial Park in Warrenton is expected to cost \$10 million, create around 10 jobs and be operational this spring.

"That is a plant manager, a quality manager, a finance manager, multiple skilled operators," said Tom Wortmann, director of corporate development and strategy at Scoular. "... We're trying to run a lean facility here, so a skilled operator is someone that knows how to run the equipment, and if it breaks, knows how to fix the equipment. I think you'll see a very skilled workforce we're looking to employ here."

Scoular, an employee-owned agricultural trader based in Nebraska, is one of the largest privately held companies in the U.S., with \$4.5 billion in annual revenue.

The fish meal products made in Warrenton will go around the U.S. and to Asia, Wortmann said, and help bolster the company's presence in pet food and aquaculture.

Kevin Leahy, the executive director of Clatsop Economic Development Resources and manager of the enterprise zone, said the enterprise zone provides a tool to help local companies expand.

"We always talk about, 'How can we be competitive?'" Leahy said. "And we know that most of our growth in Clatsop County comes from within. It's business expansion and business retention. So it's so exciting to have a local, home-grown business in Bouy Beer doing this major expansion, and having The Scoular Co. as a new member of our economic family."

the Astorian

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