

## IN BRIEF

## State updates vaccine rollout against coronavirus

All Oregonians should be eligible to receive coronavirus vaccines by July, according to the state.

Gov. Kate Brown on Friday updated the state's priority list. After seniors, people 45 to 64 years old with underlying health conditions will be next in line by March 29, along with seafood and agriculture workers, people living in low-income senior housing, the homeless, people displaced by wildfires and wildland firefighters.

By May, the list will expand to more front-line workers, people living in multigenerational households and people 16 to 44 with underlying health conditions. By June, people who are 45 to 64 will be eligible and, by July, all people 16 and over will be eligible.

Weather-related disruptions in vaccine delivery to Clatsop County have set the county's vaccine task force behind schedule.

The county is still limiting vaccines to seniors aged 80 and older. The county will invite people 75 and older as soon as supplies are available.

The county encourages people to fill out the vaccine survey on its website so the task force can notify people when they are eligible for a vaccination event.

Safeway pharmacies in Astoria and Seaside and Costco in Warrenton are offering vaccines by appointment. People can visit the pharmacies' website for eligibility requirements and to register.

As of Friday, 6,555 doses have been administered in the county.

## Seaside woman injured in crash on Highway 101

A Seaside woman was flown to Oregon Health & Science University Hospital in Portland with injuries Wednesday afternoon following a crash on U.S. Highway 101.

Officials say a man was heading southbound on the highway in Seaside when he took his eyes off the roadway to admire the scenery.

When he looked up again, officials say, he saw a vehicle stopped in the southbound lane waiting to turn left and rear-ended the vehicle, pushing it into the northbound lane.

— *The Astorian*

## DEATHS

Feb. 24, 2021

ELMES, Ronald, 83, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 23, 2021

DUTTON, Janet, 94, of Nehalem, died in Nehalem. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

## ON THE RECORD

## Strangulation

• Matthew Corey Ruljancich, 32, of Astoria, was arraigned Thursday for strangulation, assault in the fourth degree, criminal trespass in the first degree and contempt of court.

## Assaulting an officer

• Jodi Marie Eno, 40, was arraigned Thursday for assaulting a public safety officer, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct in the second degree and criminal mischief in the third degree.

## Child neglect

• Jay Christopher Jamieson, 38, of Astoria, was arrested Thursday on Knappa Dock Road for child neglect in the first degree, endangering the welfare of a minor, unlawful delivery of heroin and unlawful delivery of a controlled substance to a minor.

## Burglary

• Addisu Getachew, 44, was arrested Tuesday at the Astoria Riverwalk Inn for burglary in the second degree, theft of services and interfering with a police officer.

## DUII

• Brian Paul McCarthy, 43, was arrested Wednesday on Exchange Street in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Hansel Faxon Wolff, 33, of Warrenton, was arrested Wednesday on U.S. Highway 101 for DUII.

• Lavon Lee Sargent, 51, of Warrenton, was arrested Tuesday on Hanover Street and W. Marine Drive in Astoria for DUII.

• Pavel Borkin, 55, was arrested Feb. 19 on U.S. Highway 26 for DUII.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## MONDAY

**Knappa School District Board**, 5:30 p.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

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

## TUESDAY

**Seaside Community Center Commission**, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

**Clatsop County Board of Commissioners**, noon, work session, (electronic meeting).

**Seaside Library Board of Directors**, 4:30 p.m., (electronic meeting).

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

## the Astorian

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## State Senate Republicans stage walkout over Brown's virus order

By GARY WARNER  
*Oregon Capital Bureau*

SALEM — A one-day Republican walkout in the Oregon Senate on Thursday was sparked by Gov. Kate Brown's announcement that she will extend the COVID-19 state of emergency until May 2.

"We had to get their attention," said state Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, one of the lawmakers who was not present for Thursday's scheduled session.

The Republicans sent a letter to Brown protesting her decision and other virus restrictions and calling on her to support reopening the Capitol, which has been closed since March.

"We need an open process for our constituents to engage in testimony on bills," said Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens. "We want transparency so people can have a voice in what is going on."

Hansell said he was taking part in virtual committee hearings on Thursday and will continue until the next scheduled Senate floor session on Wednesday.

"I plan to be there," Hansell said.

The emergency declaration extended Thursday gives the governor the legal power to issue executive orders on health and safety, including restrictions on businesses, schools, meetings and activities. It also now covers vaccine distribution.

Oregon has the second-lowest rate of infection in the nation, which Brown and Oregon Health Authority leaders have credited to strong measures to cut off the spread of the virus. While trends in the past month have shown a steep drop in COVID-19 cases, the health authority says the virus is still a major threat and spikes have been caused by earlier moves to loosen the rules to allow more social and business interaction.

"When I issued my first state of emergency declaration last March, there were 14 known cases of COVID-19 in Oregon," Brown said. "Today, we have now seen more than 150,000 cases

across the state, and, sadly, 2,194 deaths."

The walkout caught senators who arrived at the Capitol by surprise, with 18 Democrats gathering on the Senate floor, an activity that some lawmakers have worried could expose them to infection. All lawmakers were wearing face coverings on Thursday.

Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, the Legislature's longest-serving member, came to the podium after the roll call showed no Republicans had come to the floor.

"I did not know they would do this," Courtney told the senators. "Yes, there are hard feelings here and there, but nothing of this magnitude."

## 'SENATE REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO SABOTAGE OREGON'S DEMOCRACY AND UNDERMINE THE WILL OF VOTERS.'

Senate Democratic Leader Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego

Courtney called the Republican action "game playing" and said he wouldn't take part, opting instead to adjourn until Wednesday.

"They need to be here and do what they need to do to show their opposition on the floor and allow us to move forward," Courtney said.

The Republicans' move meant five bills that could have been moved into position for votes next week are now delayed. The 18 Democrats could not move ahead without some GOP help.

"We need two more to satisfy our constitution to have a quorum to do the peoples' business — all the people's business, not just our own," he said.

He asked the Republicans to return to the floor for the session next week. He then gavelled the chamber into adjournment.

"Very regrettable," a glum Courtney said.

## Previous walkouts

Republicans walked out

in 2019 and 2020 over cap-and-trade legislation that Democrats said they had enough votes to pass in both chambers. House Republicans joined in the 2020 walkout.

Knopp and then-Rep. Cheri Helt, R-Bend, did not join the 2020 walkout. Both lawmakers were locked in tight reelection campaigns in increasingly Democratic districts. Knopp narrowly won his district, while Helt was defeated by Rep. Jason Kropf, D-Bend.

Republicans attended three special sessions last year to deal with emergency legislation addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, its associated economic upheaval, wildfire recovery and police reforms.

## 'SENATE REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO SABOTAGE OREGON'S DEMOCRACY AND UNDERMINE THE WILL OF VOTERS.'

Senate Democratic Leader Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego

Knopp and Hansell confirmed the letter to Brown also called on her to open schools, open businesses and not redirect shipments of vaccine away from rural counties that have met priority vaccination goals and want to move onto other groups.

"The governor continues to keep schools closed, continues to keep businesses closed, despite science that shows they can open safely with appropriate health measures," Knopp said. "We hope this will open a dialogue about what is important to all Oregonians, not just the advocates who got them elected."

Hansell said the edicts from Brown and the Oregon Health Authority have his constituents confused and angry.

"I get emails from teachers saying 'please open the schools,' from parents who say 'please open the schools, this is driving our child to depression,' from seniors who can't understand why they

can't get a vaccination and the state took it away from Morrow County," he said.

## 'Sabotage'

Senate Democratic Leader Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego, slammed the Republicans for using the walkout again as a tactic, especially amid a pandemic.

"Senate Republicans continue to sabotage Oregon's democracy and undermine the will of voters," he said. "They have abdicated the oaths of office many of them took just weeks ago."

Democrats have introduced legislation to lower the quorum required to a majority and force any member who misses 10 calls to the floor without permission of the presiding officer to be punished by forfeiting their ability to run for reelection. Both would need voter approval to amend the constitution.

The slow pace nationwide of distribution of vaccines has extended the arguments over health and economic policy that began last spring.

Supplies of the two vaccines available have been slow to arrive in states. Since December, Oregon has administered about 860,000 shots. Both vaccines require two shots. Oregon has an estimated 2.8 million adults, which would require 5.6 million shots.

Medical workers, plus residents and staff in nursing homes, were the top priorities for vaccination. Brown opted to move 153,000 educators, staff and day care workers in front of vaccinating older residents. A court order required vaccinating about 13,000 inmates and staff at correctional institutions.

On Monday, the last of the age-related groups will become eligible, with all those 65 and over approved to receive inoculations. However, availability has proven elusive for many residents despite eligibility. The health authority has said its goal is for 75% of seniors to receive first doses by April, with second shots by May.

*The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

## Riverwalk: Growing momentum of development

Continued from Page A1

for people with disabilities. New wayfinding and interpretive signs will explain the history of Astoria and natural environments of the Columbia River.

"And then also, there will be signs that help people like, say, through the Uniontown area kind of understand what amenities are nearby in the neighborhood," Dart-McLean said.

The new Portland Loostyle bathroom will replace two port-a-potties at the eastern edge of Peoples Park, where the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association is fundraising to build the new Nordic Heritage Park.

Dart-McLean said the city doesn't yet know when the funds will be released. "It will be ... certainly not for a few months until we make much headway, and then I would imagine construction activities wouldn't be at least until late summer, early fall, at the very earliest," he said.

Sarah Lu Heath, the executive director of the downtown association, said the grant application came about in part because of the need for more public bathrooms downtown. Several indoor bathrooms, such as at City Hall and the Astoria Aquatic Center, have been unavailable during the coronavirus pandemic.



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

**Astoria was awarded a state grant for a host of lighting, signage and safety improvements along the Riverwalk.**

"The state had listed several goals that aligned with what we were trying to do, including creating transportation corridors that aren't on streets, and activities for seniors and low-barrier activities," she said. "And even bathrooms were called out as a need across the state."

The grant continues a growing momentum of development along the Riverwalk between downtown and Uniontown. The Bowline Hotel is being built out of a former sardine cannery on Eighth Street. Across the

Riverwalk from the hotel, Pilot House Distilling is remodeling a former warehouse into its new headquarters. Farther west, Fort George Brewery is redeveloping the former Astoria Warehousing complex into a new brewery and distribution center, with plans for a new taproom along the Riverwalk.

The city applied for another grant to expand bollard-style lighting along the Riverwalk between the Columbia River Maritime Museum and Pier 39. The Oregon Community Paths program, including a mix of state and possibly federal transportation funds, would fund the \$941,000 project.

If federal transportation funds were included, the match would cost less than \$67,000 from the city's Promote Astoria lodging tax fund and \$30,000 in-kind through city parks management of the program.

Dart-McLean said the Oregon Community Paths application will be reviewed in May.

# Volunteer

## Pick of the Week

### Riley and Dozer

**Bonded pair of 7 year old Lab Blends**

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(Read about the pet of the week on Facebook)

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