

IN BRIEF

Several contested races in May election

The May 18 election in Clatsop County features several contested races for local education and recreation boards.

The Clatsop Community College Board features three contested races.

Local businesswoman Trudy Citovic and real estate agent Christina Secord are challenging Robert Duhmig, the board chairman and a member since 2014. Suzanne Iverson, a retired farmer and former college employee, is challenging David Zunkel, appointed to the board in 2019. Patrick Preston, a retired representative for disabled veterans, is challenging Sara Meyer, elected in 2019. Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, who has been on the board since 2000, is running unopposed.

Electrician David Schaeffling Jr. and substitute teacher Christa Jasper are vying for a spot on the Knappa School Board being vacated by Craig Weaver. Michelle Finn, a corporate recruiter with Bank of America, is running unopposed for the position vacated by Tammy Goozee. Cullen Bangs, a member of the school board since 2009, is running unopposed.

All five positions for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board covering South County are contested.

Part-time transportation administrator Al Hernandez is challenging Sue Coddington, a nurse appointed to the board in 2020. Retired salesman John Huismann is challenging Celeste Bodner, the executive director of Seaside-based FosterClub appointed to the board in 2020. Wheel Fun Rentals co-owner Patrick Duhachek is challenging longtime board member Michael Hinton. Erika Marshall-Hamer, the interim director of global human resources for Mercy Corps appointed to the board in 2020, is being challenged by sales associate Jackie Evans. Retired businessman Stephen Morrison is challenging Katharine Parker, a board member since 2019 and head secretary at Seaside High School.

The Port of Astoria Commission, Sunset Empire Transportation Board, Clatsop Care Health District, Astoria School Board, Warrenton-Hammond School Board, Seaside School Board and Jewell School Board each feature several uncontested races.

Groups call for bird monitoring volunteers

Bird monitoring on the North Coast will proceed despite the coronavirus pandemic.

People interested in participating in the annual effort to collect information about seabirds like tufted puffins and brown pelicans can learn more through a March 30 webinar hosted by Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve and Portland Audubon.

"This year, we are planning for more volunteer involvement while following protocols to keep everyone safe," said Joe Liebezit, staff scientist and avian conservation manager at Portland Audubon.

— The Astorian

Forest pesticides found downstream in coastal waters

Pesticides used on forests and in other applications have been found by researchers in watersheds along the Oregon Coast, raising concerns that aquatic species may be exposed to a toxic mixture of chemicals in the region.

Researchers from Portland State University found traces of a dozen unique pesticides — a combination of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides — in water samples and bivalves collected in downstream rivers and estuaries.

The study found that the mixing of these compounds once they enter aquatic ecosystems could have a negative impact on shellfish and other creatures living downstream — including harm to their hormonal processes and their reproduction and development.

— Oregon Public Broadcasting

DEATHS

March 17, 2021

DELPHIA, Richard Lucian, 91, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

RUND, Sandra Jean, 77, of Astoria, died in Portland. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

March 16, 2021

MALINEN, Cheryl Jean, 77, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

McNEILL, Donald Thomas, 69, of Seaside, died in Portland. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., (electronic meeting).

TUESDAY

Astoria Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Seaside Airport Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

the Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)

Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

DailyAstorian.com

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

Circulation phone number:
800-781-3214

Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP

All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Astorian become the property of The Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©

Entire contents © Copyright, 2021 by The Astorian.



Printed on recycled paper

Subscription rates
Effective January 12, 2021

MAIL

EZpay (per month).....\$10.75
13 weeks in advance.....\$37.00
26 weeks in advance.....\$71.00
52 weeks in advance.....\$135.00

DIGITAL

EZpay (per month).....\$8.25



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

From left, Commissioner Courtney Bangs, Commissioner Mark Kujala, Sheriff Matt Phillips, Commissioner Pamela Wev, jail commander Tom Teague and Commissioner John Toyooka break ground for the new Clatsop County Jail at the former North Coast Youth Correctional Facility on Thursday in Warrenton.

Astoria High School reports virus case

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

A volleyball game in Banks was canceled after a person associated with the Astoria High School volleyball program tested positive for the coronavirus.

Craig Hoppes, the superintendent for the Astoria School District, could not provide more details about the case, but said he believes one more of the Astoria team's games may be affected while people quarantine.

The Banks Post reported that two virus cases among athletes on North Coast sports teams — the Astoria volleyball team and the Seaside High School football team — resulted in the cancellation of games against the Banks teams originally scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

Seaside has had two different confirmed cases among student-athletes recently, according to Jeff Roberts, the principal at Seaside High School. The first case was reported earlier this week.

"At this point there have not been any further cancellations in our athletic or academic schedule," Roberts

Seventh county resident dies from coronavirus

The Astorian

A seventh Clatsop County resident has died from the coronavirus.

The Oregon Health Authority described the person as a 66-year-old man who tested positive on Jan. 3 and died on Jan. 8. The health authority said he had underlying conditions. No other information was immediately available.

The county reported six new virus cases over the past few days.

On Friday, the county reported one new case.

A man in his 70s living in the southern part of the county was recovering at home.

On Thursday, the county reported five new cases.

The cases include two women in their 40s living in the northern part of the county. The others live in the southern part of the county and include a male between 10 and 19, a woman in her 20s and a man in his 30s.

All five were recovering at home.

The county has recorded 804 cases since the start of the pandemic. Eighteen were hospitalized and seven have died.

told The Astorian.

Hoppes announced Thursday afternoon that there had been a positive case at Astoria High School. School district administrators notified students and staff who may have come

into contact with the person, Hoppes said.

Hoppes declined specify whether the person is a student or works on staff, but said the person had not been on campus this week.

In a letter sent to parents

informing them of the situation, Hoppes encouraged people to stay home when ill and follow other public health guidelines, such as wearing face coverings and frequent hand-washing.

"We know this is a difficult time for everyone and our hearts go out to those who are ill," Hoppes wrote.

Though the school district had allowed some limited in-person instruction for certain classes or students with additional needs late last year, the bulk of middle school and high school students had only returned to classrooms in March.

Hoppes and school board members cautioned that a return to school could mean virus cases among staff or students. While the school district can ask people to conform to strict protocols on campus, they have no control over what people do outside of school, Hoppes has said.

The school district began the school year remotely and started the push to reopen across grade levels this year. School board members were encouraged to see recent studies that suggested in-person school did not increase the spread of the virus, and that schools are rarely superspreaders.

New vaccination timeline depends on supply

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County's coronavirus vaccine task force has begun vaccinating seniors 65 years and older and is looking ahead to vaccinating the remaining priority groups as more vaccines become available.

Gov. Kate Brown on Friday rolled out the state's new vaccine distribution plan after the Biden administration directed all states to lift eligibility requirements for everyone 16 and older by May 1.

Oregon did not plan on lifting all eligibility restrictions until July.

"Upon learning of the news, I directed the Oregon Health Authority to review Oregon's vaccination timelines," the governor said during a press conference. "Equity has been at the forefront of our COVID-19 response and vaccine distribution. As we open up eligibility to all Oregonians on May 1, I remain committed to the equitable distribution

of vaccines for seniors, front-line workers and Oregonians with underlying health conditions. My team is in touch with the White House for more specifics about when vaccine shipments to states will increase.

"The Oregon Health Authority tells me that, provided supplies come in from the federal government as anticipated, we expect to have enough doses for every Oregonian who wants a vaccine to have the opportunity for at least a first dose by the end of May."

There is no guarantee Clatsop County will receive enough vaccine doses to complete priority groups before the new deadline.

Throughout the rollout, the county's vaccine task force has not received enough doses to keep up with the state's timeline or with demand.

The task force has stressed that vaccine eligibility does not necessarily mean availability.

"We can't predict today

how many individuals in the various priority groups will be vaccinated by May 1 — as always, everything is dependent on vaccine deliveries," a spokesman for the task force said in an email.

"Our expectation is that as vaccine supply increases, local hospitals, clinics and pharmacy outlets will be able to play a much bigger role in the vaccination effort, particularly in serving the general public."

As the task force moves through vaccinating people 65 and older, appointments will be made for those 69 years old first, then 68 and so on.

Under the state's new timeline, people between 45 and 64 with underlying health conditions, migrant and seasonal farm workers, seafood and agricultural workers and

food processing workers will be eligible by March 29.

People living in low-income senior housing will also be eligible by the end of the month, as well as people experiencing homelessness, people displaced by wildfires, wildland firefighters and women who are pregnant.

By April 19, people classified as front-line workers by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be eligible, including people living in multigenerational households and people between 16 and 44 with underlying health conditions.

As of Friday, 12,431 doses have been administered in the county and, 4,176 people are fully vaccinated. The county's goal to reach herd immunity against the virus is vaccinating 27,533 people.

VOLUNTEER
PICK OF THE WEEK



Baxter Black
is our Pet of the week
He is an American Shorthair

Enjoy this living piece of sculpture along with adding poetry and playfulness to your life.

Sponsored by Bayshore Animal Hospital

CLATSOP COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
1315 SE 19th St., Warrenton • 861- PETS
www.dogscats.org Noon to 4pm, Tues-Sat

Call Anytime

Free Fast Estimates

Jeff Hale Painting

- Residential
- Commercial
- Cedar Roof Treatments
- Exterior Repaint Specialist

Over 25 years local experience

503-440-2169

Jeff Hale, Contractor

LICENSED INSURED CB#179131