



INSIDE

Astorian

148TH YEAR, NO. 154

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021

\$1.50

CORONAVIRUS

County under caution after virus cases increase

County will remain at lower risk

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County will remain at lower risk for the coronavirus on Friday despite a spate of virus cases.

While the county meets the criteria for moving into high risk, the state has granted a caution period.

The county has been at lower risk since early June.

Gov. Kate Brown said that because Oregon is close to reaching its goal of administering at least one dose of vaccine to 70% of adults, this is the last week risk-level movements will be announced.

Nearly 63% of people 16 and older in Clatsop County have received at least one dose of vaccine, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

"Fewer than 45,000 more Oregonians need to receive a first dose to achieve a 70% statewide adult vaccination rate," Brown said in a statement Tuesday. "Vaccines are the best way for Oregonians to protect themselves, their families and communities against COVID-19. It's because so many Oregonians have stepped up to get vaccinated that we will soon be able to lift health and safety restrictions. Get your shot today, and you may just win \$1 million through the Take Your Shot, Oregon campaign."

Mark Kujala, the chairman of the county Board of Commissioners, urged people to get vaccinated.

See Caution, Page A6

Knappa health curriculum suspended

Some parents pressure the school board for review

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

A state middle school health and sex education curriculum used in the Knappa School District is on hold again.

In a 3-2 vote, the school board opted Monday to suspend the use of the curriculum pending a review in the fall.

A curriculum committee, assembled by Superintendent Bill Fritz, had reviewed the curriculum earlier this month at the request of the newly-formed Knappa Parents Organization. The committee briefly suspended the program, only to reinstate it last week.

The school board's reversal of the com-

See Sex ed, Page A2



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Tanner Delay, 7, races Jordan Poyer, a safety with the Buffalo Bills, across CMH Field on Monday night. Poyer, an Astoria High School graduate, showed his warmup with the help of some of the kids, signed autographs, took pictures and talked about his journey from Astoria to the NFL.

Poyer returns to Astoria with a message

'It's OK to ask for help'

By GARY HENLEY
The Astorian

Making his first visit to Astoria in two years, Jordan Poyer spent the weekend with family, playing some golf, signing autographs and also going through a one-hour workout, just to show fans his daily routine and a little what it's like to be an NFL safety.

To highlight his stay, Poyer made a special one-night-only appearance in front of his hometown fans, with free admission Monday night at CMH Field.

After the workout and autograph session, Poyer's message to his fans, young and old, was a little about football, a lot about life.

"This turnout was more than I expected," he told the gathering. "This is the community that embraced me, and the community where I was out here running in the streets since I was 5 years old."

And the funds raised through a golf tournament and autograph session: "We sold a jersey yesterday for \$10,000. This is absolutely crazy."

And, Poyer immediately brought forth his message for the night: "It's OK to ask for help."

Last spring, Poyer revealed past struggles with alcohol addiction, but announced in March that he was one year sober.

"A lot of you may or may not know my story, going through what I did," he said. "Alcohol had the best of me. I was going through a lot, no excuse at all. I'm proud I got out of it, and I've been sober for a year-and-a-half now."



Beckam Beresh sits on Jordan Poyer's shoulders while taking a photo with his baseball team.

"I really changed my life with support of my wife and my beautiful daughter. And it's always a blessing to come back to where I'm from."

His coach and athletic director at Astoria High School, Howard Rub, said, "He has a message for people of all ages that it's OK to ask for help. As simple as it is, it's an important message. And we're excited that he's using Astoria and our venue to help talk about it."

"That's just who he is. He understands the importance of giving back,

and he realizes that he had people here looking out for him when he was growing up."

An alternative to camp

Poyer hosted a golf tournament Sunday at the Astoria Golf & Country Club, where dozens signed up and raised money and raffled off items for Astoria High School in the process.

With the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic, Poyer's annual one-day summer camp at CMH Field for local youth was canceled for the second straight year, which sparked the idea of a golf tournament and autograph session and workout.

"Since I wasn't having a camp, it was nice just having everybody come out and see what I've been doing every year since high school," Poyer said. "Let them see the drills I go through on a daily basis, the work I put in ... with everything going on in this world, I just wanted to bring the community together."

The average length of a career for players in the National Football League is just 3.3 years.

Poyer — a seventh-round draft choice in 2013 — is about to triple that number. Buffalo's starting safety is entering his fifth year with the Bills, and 2021 will mark his ninth overall season in the NFL.

He turned 30 in April, but hasn't considered when he might retire. In fact, Poyer says the best may be yet to come.

See Poyer, Page A6



Danny Lehman

The Pride of America cruise ship will dock at the Port of Astoria starting July 1.

Port to host cruise ship this summer

An agreement valued at \$350,000

By EMILY LINDBLOM
The Astorian

The Pride of America is planning to spend the summer in Astoria.

The Port of Astoria announced it has signed an agreement with Norwegian Cruise Line to host the vessel for 69 days, from July to September.

Will Isom, the Port's executive director, said it's a fairly signifi-

cant deal for the Port.

"In rough financial terms it's \$4,000 per day in dockage plus another approximately \$900 in security fees, so all told gross it's right around \$350,000 in revenue to the Port to host them," he said.

Isom added the timing is fortunate. Depending on what happens with the late summer and fall cruise ship season, the Port is not scheduled to host any other vessels until later in September, at which point the Pride of America would be gone.

Norwegian Cruise Line origi-

nally sent the vessel berth request to the Port in May.

The Pride of America is much larger than the Regatta, the cruise ship that docked in Astoria from October to April as cruises were on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic. While the Regatta is about 600 feet long, the Pride of America is 920 feet.

See Port, Page A6

