

# Restrictions: Vaccines are still available at local hospitals, clinics and pharmacies

Continued from Page A1

“We must also recognize that it has been exceptionally difficult for our Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian and Pacific Islanders and tribal communities. Disparities that existed before are even wider now.

“I am incredibly grateful of the work that our local health partners and community based organizations have done to reach Oregonians from communities of color to make progress closing the equity gaps and vaccination efforts. Unfortunately, COVID-19 is likely to be present in our lives for months and possibly years to come. The lasting impacts of the hardships Oregonians have worn during the pandemic will be with us even for longer.

“But we certainly see encouraging signs. Communities and economies do not recover overnight. As we transition to recovery, we must do everything we can to ensure we are equipped with the ability to remain nimble and resilient. We must be prepared to respond to the emerging needs of our workers, our businesses and our economy.”

Mark Kujala, the chairman of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, called the announcement welcome news.

“The work will continue as we focus our efforts on recovery,” Kujala said. “Thanks to our entire community for the sacrifice and dedication over the last year and a half.”

While Oregon is close to reaching its vaccination target, some counties, including Clatsop County, are still working to achieve vaccination goals.

Nearly 63% of people 16 and older in Clatsop County have received at least one dose of vaccine, according to the Oregon Health Authority. The county has set a broader target of vaccinating 70% percent of the population to try to achieve herd immunity against the virus. As of Friday, the county reported that 53.7% had been fully vaccinated.

The county recorded 1,063 virus cases as of Friday. According to the county,



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Most state restrictions tied to the coronavirus will soon end.

## BEGINNING JULY 12, THE COUNTY'S PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL OFFER VACCINATIONS AND TESTING MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AT ITS OFFICE IN ASTORIA.

25 were hospitalized and nine have died.

“It’s no secret that vaccine demand has tapered in recent weeks,” Patrick Allen, the director of the health authority, said. “But we continue to reach Oregonians every day with a vaccine.”

Moving forward, Allen said the responsibility for managing the virus will shift to counties.

“Going forward, it will be up to county commissioners who act as local health boards and local public health officials to intervene to slow the spread of COVID-19 in their communities,” he said. “They’ll be responsible for conducting case investigations and contact tracing, ongoing vaccination efforts at the local level and implementing other needed interventions, such as social distancing protections or any additional mask requirements.”

Margo Lulich, Clat-

sop County’s interim public health director, said the vast majority of people testing positive for the virus are unvaccinated. She said many of the cases are tied to households and workplaces.

“So the next step in our targeted outreach is with employers, meeting them where they are, going to them, making vaccines available at a time and a place that’s convenient for them,” Lulich said during a county Board of Commissioners work session on Wednesday.

The county’s vaccine task force will wind down mass vaccination events by July, moving to targeted pop-up clinics.

The last two mass vaccination events at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds and old Seaside High School are scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday. Walk-ins are welcome.

Beginning July 12, the

county’s Public Health Department will offer vaccinations and testing Monday through Thursday at its office in Astoria.

Clatsop Community Action is hosting a pop-up vaccination event at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center on Wednesday and will administer the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Consejo Hispano and the Oregon Health Authority will administer the Pfizer vaccine at the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce on the same day.

The Pfizer vaccine will also be given to people between 12 to 17 years old and their families on July 6 at the old Seaside High School.

Employers interested in hosting a clinic for employees are encouraged to contact the county’s Public Health Department.

Vaccines are still being offered by local hospitals, clinics and pharmacies.

# Airport: Project expected to wrap up by the fall

Continued from Page A1

This method cuts down on the cost of the project because they don’t need to remove the old material.

“Because of all the money we’re going to be able to save, we were able to widen the scope of the project,” McGrath said.

Martinez praised the collaboration with McGrath and Gary Kobes, the airport manager, on the project. He said he was glad to be able to accomplish more within the budget.

Trails End Recovery, of Warrenton, is a subcontractor working to crush the removed concrete and store it for hauling back to the site. Custom Excavating, another subcontractor, is transporting the removed concrete slabs and returning the crushed concrete to the site for filling and grading.

The Federal Aviation

Administration is fully funding the \$2 million project, which started in May and is expected to wrap up by the fall.

Separately, the Port is hoping to go forward with the development of a new Scouler fishmeal processing plant at the Airport Industrial Park in Warrenton. Local seafood processors would be able to take their scraps to Scouler, where they would be used for pet food and aquaculture.

But before that can happen, Warrenton is requiring the airport to fix a water infiltration issue. During heavy rains, wastewater from the airport would overwhelm the city’s water system. The Port hired Big River Excavating, which is replacing the old abandoned wastewater lines, some of which were wooden, with a new pressurized sewer system.

# Liberty Theatre: ‘There’s a sense of refreshment and excitement’

Continued from Page A1

Crockett returns as the permanent director at a time when the Liberty is preparing to reopen to the public and gearing up to launch the second phase of a multimillion dollar capital campaign.

The theater officially reopens at a block party in August. Performances will happen outside, but the theater itself will be open for tours again. A multiday minifestival featuring the Hermitage Piano Trio and other classical performances will follow.

“Then we’re off to the races,” Crockett said.

Throughout the summer, the Liberty will host various summer school camps for the Astoria School District, as well as the touring Missoula Children’s Theatre in July.

The coronavirus pandemic remains a challenge. With Oregon’s slow and shifting approach to reopening, booking shows has proven difficult and expensive for venues across the state.

But Crockett and Stellmon feel the Liberty is emerging from the pandemic stronger.

As difficult and frightening as the pandemic was — Crockett found herself at the beginning of a major season, canceling shows while all staff were later furloughed for a time — it provided time to reconsider what the organization was doing and why, Crockett said. A pause.

Now, said Stellmon, “I think there’s a sense of refreshment and excitement and ‘let’s get going.’”

# Pronouns: ‘I resign. You know why’

Continued from Page A1

“Frankly, I don’t care what a person’s sexual proclivities are, whether they’re gay, bi, or whatever. But I don’t like being forced to read such pronoun drivel. And I’m sure this liberal wokeness is most likely permeating our little library,” Brandon wrote in the email, which was obtained by The Astorian through the state’s public records law.

“Now, I’m in a quandary. I’d normally write a letter to the editor of The Columbia Press complaining about the weird grammar style and how ‘wokeness’ should not supersede proper grammar. I know it’s the ‘cool’ liberal style to write like that. But it has no place in a community paper.

“Yet I’m on the library board and barely got seated due to my out-of-city status. And one of the reasons I wanted to be on the board was to keep drag queen story hours from entering our library and infecting our youth.”

A small group of conservatives protested a Drag Queen Story Hour at the Astoria Library in 2019, alleging the event was harmful to children. Brandon was appointed to the Warrenton Community Library Board by the City Commission in 2020.

“Not only is it grammatically incorrect to refer to a person as they, it is also scientifically incorrect. I do not believe that any person with an important position as is the case with a youth coordinator for the library, should be allowed to operate

*‘FRANKLY, I DON’T CARE WHAT A PERSONS SEXUAL PROCLIVITIES ARE, WHETHER THEY’RE GAY, BI, OR WHATEVER. BUT I DON’T LIKE BEING FORCED TO READ SUCH PRONOUN DRIVEL. AND I’M SURE THIS LIBERAL WOKENESS IS MOST LIKELY PERMEATING OUR LITTLE LIBRARY.’*

Mary Ann Brandon | a former Warrenton Community Library board member who recently resigned

according to a lie,” Bridgens wrote in response to Brandon. “This kind of precedent would surely be followed with the drag queen story hour, or even worse.

“Shouldn’t TRUTH be the umbrella under which a library — or any business — operates? Especially when it comes to indoctrinating children! I surely hope our little library does not fall victim to perversion indoctrination.”

After learning about the email exchange, City Manager Linda Engbretson informed Bridgens that all city boards would be required to take anti-harassment and discrimination training to better protect the city and individuals against liability.

“Regardless of employees’ politics or ideology, the City of Warrenton is not in the business of discrimination nor will it tolerate any harassment or discrimination against our employees,” Engbretson wrote. “The city can be put at great liability for any such actions.”

Later that day, Brid-

gens sent an email to Engbretson and other city officials regarding the library employee. She shared a link to a Huffington Post article about Queer Rock Camp in 2015 that featured the employee.

“Is this in the best interest of our Warrenton children?” she asked.

Brandon has resigned from the library board. She could not be reached for comment, but told the library board chairwoman in her notice: “I resign. You know why. Sorry I wasted your time ...”

In an email to The Astorian, Bridgens said, “I believe it’s appropriate for city employees/appointees to be reminded of the importance of being respectful to all other employees/volunteers.

“An anti-harassment/discrimination seminar would be worthwhile,” she said. “City employees/appointees should also be mindful of the importance and influence their role may have on our Warrenton community.”

## CLATSOP CARE HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER

An update from your local nursing home

As a not-for-profit community supported organization, it's very important to us to keep the community informed of what's happening in our facility. That's why we've decided to share updates each week in the local paper.

### VACCINATION AT WORK

In an ongoing effort to protect our community and the community at large, Clatsop Care Center is offering anyone who comes in contact with our facility the opportunity to be vaccinated.

We're proud to say that over 80% of our staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. All employees and their families are eligible to receive the vaccine.

### WORK WHERE YOU'RE VALUED

For over 40 years, Clatsop Care Center has been guided by these values: **Dedication, Compassion, Community.**

We selectively hire and train our staff, and actively engage them within the care environment. They take pride in providing the highest quality care to our residents and clients.

We're currently hiring CNA's, housekeeping staff, & support staff. Learn more about our sign-on bonus, benefits, and other opportunities at [www.ClatsopCare.org](http://www.ClatsopCare.org).



Thank you for your continued support!

for more information, please visit [www.ClatsopCare.org](http://www.ClatsopCare.org)

CLATSOP CARE  
HEALTH DISTRICT