

the Astorian

149TH YEAR, NO. 9

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021

\$1.50

Most new county virus cases involve the unvaccinated

Public health director calls it a 'slow, uphill climb'

By GRIFFIN REILLY
The Astorian

Most new coronavirus cases in Clatsop County involve people who are unvaccinated against COVID-19, a pattern found across Oregon and the United States.

Of the last 11 reported virus cases in the county as of Friday, nine were unvaccinated, according to the Public Health Department.

The pattern is playing out on the North Coast as most government restrictions to contain the virus have been lifted and locals and visitors are engaged in summer activities.

Mass vaccination events in the county have ended and the pace of vaccinations has slowed over the past several weeks.

"It's going to be a very slow, uphill climb for our county," said Margo Lalich,

the county's interim public health director. "And I don't know if we'll get there."

Clatsop County set a goal of having 70% of the population — 27,533 people — vaccinated to try to achieve herd immunity against the virus. As of Friday, 55.2% — 21,772 people — had been fully vaccinated.

The county announced that Friday's weekly update from the vaccine task force would be the last. Instead, the county said it would share vaccine updates and related information on the county's website and on social media.

The Oregon Health Authority, which tracks county vaccination rates among people 18 and over, lists Clatsop County as having 65.5% with at least one dose of vaccine and 60.8% as fully vaccinated. The rates place Clatsop County in the top third of Oregon counties for vaccinations.

See Cases, Page A6



Photos by Griffin Reilly/The Astorian

The Flavel House Garden Society hopes to revitalize the gardens at the Flavel House Museum.

'It would belong to our community'

Master gardener leads drive to restore Flavel House gardens

By GRIFFIN REILLY
The Astorian

While out with her dog, "Persi," Pam Holen decided to stroll through the grounds of the Flavel House Museum. The master gardener, restless from months of cabin fever during the coronavirus pandemic, became overwhelmed with a vision for polishing one of the jewels of Astoria.

Holen's newly formed Flavel House Garden Society will begin a revitalization project this week to bring the gardens back to their former beauty during the Victorian era. She hopes the project can attract a sustainable team dedicated to seeing out

what could be a grueling endeavor.

"There's a lot of balls in the air when you do a project like this," Holen said. "This is not going to be the perfect Victorian garden next summer. It's going to take time, that's why we need sustainability."

The garden society operates under the wing of the Clatsop County Historical Society, the nonprofit dedicated to preserving the region's history.

With gardens that existed since the 1880s, extensive research is necessary to identify what types of plants may flourish year-round and bloom at different times so the grounds can attract seasonal visitors.

See Gardens, Page A6



Jeff TerHar

The Broadway Field scoreboard on Saturday was set to the final score of Seaside's state football championship in 1994. The team was coached by Stubby Lyons.

Seaside football coach honored at memorial

Lyons' motto was 'Fire up!'

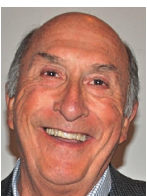
By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — It was appropriate that the crowd for Raphael "Stubby" Lyons' memorial assembled at Broadway Field, the playing fields the late coach helped to create.

"He had a key role in the renovation of this field," Mayor Jay Barber said on Saturday morning. "Stubby and his wife, Sharee, have impacted so many lives over their years

of teaching and community service, and especially supporting and caring for the children and youth of our community."

Barber was among the many speakers to recall the career of a man who made a difference to thousands of Seaside High School students. Lyons died on Dec. 25 at 86.



Stubby Lyons

Former coach Jim Auld called the day a celebration. "Just a reminder, the sorrow and sadness and the mourning, that was six and seven months ago," he said. "This is a celebration."

See Stubby, Page A6



The gardens at the Flavel House date back to the 1880s.



Sarah Bello

Dr. Hugh Sabahi retired as a radiologist at Columbia Memorial Hospital in June.

Retiring doctor will miss people the most

Sabahi spent 25 years at Columbia Memorial

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

Dr. Hugh Sabahi knows exactly what he will miss the most.

"The people," he said. Sabahi crossed paths with many people during his 25 years as a radiologist at Columbia Memorial Hospital. He said he is grateful for the diligent technologists he worked alongside, as well as the front desk and secretarial staff, whom he considers integral to the team.

But it was the interactions with patients and the thank-you



cards that often kept him going during 60 to 80-hour work weeks.

"It's that appreciation that makes you feel good," said Sabahi, who retired in June.

Before he arrived in Astoria in 1996, Sabahi spent eight years in the Midwest while paying off medical school debts. But he soon realized the dry, farm-filled landscape wasn't suitable enough to fulfill his passion for mountain biking and

exploring the outdoors.

When he saw an opening at Columbia Memorial, it was an easy decision.

"That's perfect," he recalled. "No traffic. Get to live on the coast. It really was a no-brainer."

Sabahi took on numerous roles at the hospital, including the professional staff president on the Board of Trustees, the radiation safety officer, the imaging department's medical director and a position on the tumor board.

He said he took on the responsibilities "to be more active in playing a role in the direction that the hospital takes. Being more involved in the hospital — not just politics — but helping shape the future of the hospital."

Sabahi is credited for helping to bring technology that advanced Columbia Memorial's imaging department. In particular, he was an advocate for getting 3D mammography machines and offering low-dose CT lung cancer screening.

"I wanted to stay up to date," he said. "Medicine changes rapidly, and technology changes rapidly. That's actually one of the things that attracted me to radiology."

See Sabahi, Page A6

