

Cases: Virus cases are expected to rise as more things return to normal

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The county has reported 1,103 virus cases, 25 hospitalizations and 10 deaths since the pandemic began.

Despite a surge of virus cases in late June, which prompted the state to put the county under caution, and about 40 new virus cases over the past three weeks, the urgency to take precautions has appeared to wane since the state lifted restrictions at the end of June.

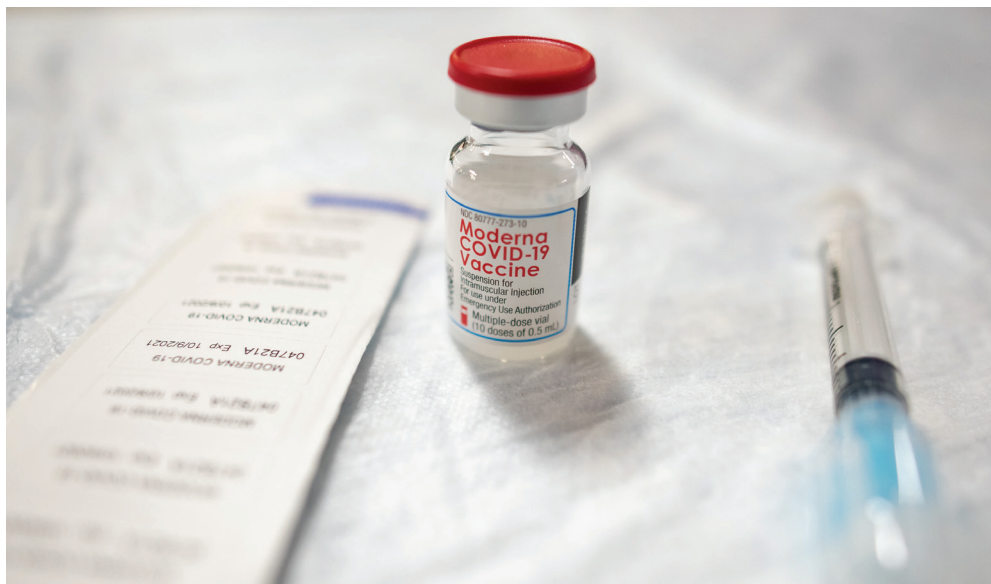
The county has transitioned to a more targeted approach to close in on the vaccination goal. New outreach will identify smaller communities across the county that may be experiencing accessibility barriers, Lulich said.

“These events are open to the community, but we are also meeting people where they live in case there could potentially be transportation barriers or with individual work schedule,” she said.

Lulich said her team has observed that many people were reluctant to get vaccinated because they wanted to see how others would respond to a vaccine. Others changed their view after someone in their personal circle tested positive for the virus.

She hopes people recognize that many of the health precautions the county has asked people to take are not necessarily unique to COVID-19.

“I just want to reiterate that many of the things we



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

More than 55% of Clatsop County residents have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

have in place for COVID are things we have had in place for years during flu season,” Lulich said. “You stay home if you’re sick, proper hand-washing, don’t go to

work if you’re sick. That is not new information, it’s just that people are paying more attention because we have a novel virus circulating in our community and around the globe.”

The Public Health Department expects virus cases to rise as more things return to normal. Officials believe the risk of exposure from new cases is as good a reason as any to get vaccinated.

“Even though Oregon has opened up, many restrictions are still in place,” Lulich said. “Being vaccinated, we know, can prevent infection most of the time. If someone does get infected, the risk of illness or hospitalization goes down when someone is fully vaccinated.”

Gardens: Revitalization will start with weed removal

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Many of the trees planted in the garden’s early days have grown significantly, Holen said, which means different levels of sunlight present challenges for what can and cannot be planted.

For these reasons, Holen describes it as an educational project. In addition to visitors learning about the history of the Flavel House, the famous maritime family, they could also learn about biodiversity and the kinds of gardens typical of the Victorian era.

McAndrew Burns, the executive director of the historical society, estimates the improvement could help the Flavel House draw as many as 75,000 visitors a year, almost double what they typically see.

Before the vision can be fully realized, however, the garden society needs as many hands on deck as possible.

“Stage one is getting people to show interest, getting them out here and just cleaning out the weeds,” Holen said. “Once you get the weeds out and get some mulching down and then you can stand back and think, ‘Now what do we need to do?’”

The revitalization will begin with weed removal and mulching before the winter. Work will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday evenings, and then from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday mornings. Placement of



Griffin Reilly/The Astorian

The revitalization project at the Flavel House begins this week.

WANT TO HELP?

The revitalization will begin with weed removal and mulching before the winter. Work will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday evenings, and then from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday mornings. Placement of new plants and composting could happen by next spring.

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“We’re really thankful for anyone coming or having the interest. We’re not

looking for a lifetime commitment,” Burns said. “But if you’ve got a couple hours and you want to come pull weeds and lay some mulch,

we’ll have some snacks and refreshments.”

Restoring the Flavel House gardens could provide Astorians with more than just increased tourism and a taste of horticultural education, organizers say. It could give people a deeper sense of pride after a difficult period.

“It wouldn’t belong to you. It wouldn’t belong to me. It would belong to our community,” Holen said.

The success of past proj-

ects to rejuvenate the Flavel House, such as a cleanup that took place ahead of the museum’s inclusion in a recent horror film, gives Burns hope for the gardens.

“People take a lot of pride in it,” he said. “Whenever it needs a little help, like painting or now, with the grounds, I think the community comes together and realizes it’s one of the most important parts of what people in Astoria see.”

Sabahi: Doesn’t plan on leaving

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Looking back, he said he has no regrets. He is glad he now has time to enjoy his many hobbies, most notably entomology, astronomy, videography and photography. Most of all, he is eager to add to his already extensive list of travels, which includes the remote parts of the Amazon and Mount Kilimanjaro.

But as for where home lies, he doesn’t plan on leaving Astoria anytime soon.

Sabahi recalled a time during a visit to Honningsvåg, the northernmost tip in Norway, when he said he came to a realization.

“I was just walking the streets and I thought, ‘My God, this reminds me of Astoria,’” he said. “The hills, the houses, the trees and even the water ... I’ve come all this way to see a town that is very remote which reminds me of Astoria.”

“It made me feel good. I feel like I’m vacationing when I’m here at home.”

Stubby: ‘He was a strong advocate for civility and decorum’

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Lyons’ family moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1942, when Stubby was 7.

As a 20-year-old Marine, Lyons spent 14 months in Korea as a military officer in the demilitarized zone.

His teaching and coaching career began at 35, first in Nevada, then Washington state.

Arriving in Seaside in 1980, he served as assistant for Auld before taking the football head coach role.

In 1994, the Gulls won their second championship, defeating Brookings-Harbor High 27-14 in Eugene — a score posted on the Broadway Field scoreboard for the memorial on Saturday.

“Now we all have memories of coach Lyons, for that is his gift to us,” said Casey Jackson, who was a running back with the Gulls’ 1994 team.

“Coach Lyons now lives within each and every one of us,” Jackson said. “He lives in our hearts and in our souls. So I encourage you all to keep his spirit alive by reliving those memories and sharing them to others.”

Lyons’ words provided inspiration to his athletes.

“If I ever felt defeated and wanted to quit, he simply just said, ‘Tape an aspirin to it,’” Jackson said. “Those locker room speeches taught me to never give up. I learned how to be somebody and get fired up. In 1994, we were the champions from the coast — let us never forget who loves



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Scenes from Stubby Lyons’ life were on display at the memorial.

you most. I love you, coach. Rest in peace.”

Former Gulls’ football star Kyle Camberg said he did not come to the memorial because of Lyons’ wins and losses. “I’m here because of how much he cared about all of us,” he said. “He really had a special gift for getting kids to turn out and feel like they’re a part of something bigger than themselves and that they had a family.”

If you could play a little bit, he certainly recruited you, Camberg said. “And if

you didn’t have a single solitary athletic bone in your body, he found a spot for you doing something else. It didn’t matter if you were the star, or somebody that didn’t get in the game or the manager, you were part of the family,” he said. “And that’s a huge thing: really being part of the family.”

Along with coaching, Lyons taught “everything” at Seaside High School, Camberg said, English, U.S. history, personal finance, a law class.

Connie Benson, a lawyer, said Lyons taught her “first-ever law course.” “And he taught that class with as much passion as he brought to the football field,” she said. “And he helped me to see that the law was

exciting and fun.”

Benson, whose passion was dance, said not only athletes found motivation from Lyons.

“Coach worked to remind them that they had gifts, and were truly wonderful, even if they weren’t making the game-winning touchdown,” she said. “Where he found the time, I have no idea. But it’s a driving force that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

Lyons retired from teaching in 1999 and entered a period of community service and civic involvement.

A lifetime member of the Marine Corps League, Elks, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, he won election to the City Council in 2000.

“He was a strong advocate for civility and decorum,” Barber said. “He served as council president for several of his 14 years on the council. And he, by the way, was recognized for his leader-

ship not just here in Seaside but statewide by the League of Oregon Cities. In 2003, he was presented their education and community service award during their annual meeting — a really high recognition of his service. He was a prime mover in many areas of improvement in the city.”

After the remembrances, the hundreds of family members, former students and visitors heard taps played by Dain Cowan.

“This is certainly a case of the world being a lesser place without you in it,” Lance Lyons, Stubby’s son, said in his remarks. “But today we finally get to hopefully take a small step forward in that and honoring you and your amazing life as you so well deserve. Today, you come back home, to Broadway Field, a place where it all began, a place where your legacy started. This place right here was your sanctuary.”

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