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County records 11th virus death

Virus case counts spike across state

By GRIFFIN REILLY
The Astorian

Clatsop County has recorded an 11th death from the coronavirus as virus cases spike across Oregon.

A 69-year-old man died on July 27 at Holyoke Medical Center in Holyoke, Massachusetts, after initially testing positive for the virus on July 9, according to the Oregon Health Authority. No other information was provided.

The health authority reported 26 new virus cases in the county on Friday and 31 new cases on Thursday. Four new cases were reported on Wednesday.

Since the pandemic began, the county recorded 1,294 virus cases as of early Friday.

The county Public Health Department said there are a handful of local outbreaks, but, as of early Friday, did not provide any details, such as how many virus cases are tied to each outbreak and whether they are linked to workplaces, events or social gatherings.

The county has also not detailed whether any particular factors have influenced the sudden rise of local virus cases over the past several weeks. Statewide,

See *Virus death*, Page A6

Park district wants fresh look at Broadway Field

Title IX settlement provides new wrinkle

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — The city owns the land. The school district uses the fields. The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District maintains them.

The park district's board believes it is time to take a look at expenses and forecasts for Broadway Field and whether a new deal should replace an intergovernmental agreement from 2012.

See *Broadway Field*, Page A6



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Harm reduction coordinator Jenna King organizes boxes of supplies for the needle exchange near Safeway in Astoria.

Needle exchange helps create a 'stigma-free zone'

County outreach to manage addiction

By ERICK BENGEL
The Astorian

Just before 2:30 p.m. on a recent Thursday, a white cargo van rolled onto 32nd Street behind Safeway, stopping near the Astoria Riverwalk.

Out climbed two Clatsop County workers: Jenna King, the Public Health Department's harm reduction coordinator, and Nadine Campbell, a nurse with the department. They opened the rear doors, set up a folding table and a sign that read, at the top, "Harm Reduction" and, at the bottom, "Syringe Service Program."

Soon a small woman approached the table and, with Campbell's assistance, filled out a questionnaire. The visitor turned in some used syringes and left with fresh ones, along with



Used needles are disposed of in a sharps container.

supplies for filtering drugs and using them safely.

That day, the needle exchange set a record for the most syringes the county has collected in a single day: 27,980 across exchange sites in Astoria, out-

side the Premarq Center in Warrenton and near Providence Seaside Hospital. The number given out was slightly less.

Launched in fall 2017 with the unanimous blessing of the county Board of Commissioners, the needle exchange aims to minimize the risks, particularly the spreading of disease, associated with illegal drug use.

Needle exchange programs, which arose in communities nationwide a few decades ago in response to drug addiction and disease transmission, acknowledge an uncomfortable reality — this behavior is going to happen — and endorse the view that society should help curtail the related dangers. Parallels are often drawn to the practice of passing out condoms in high schools, rather than relying on abstinence-only sex education, to avert sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancies.

See *Needle exchange*, Page A6

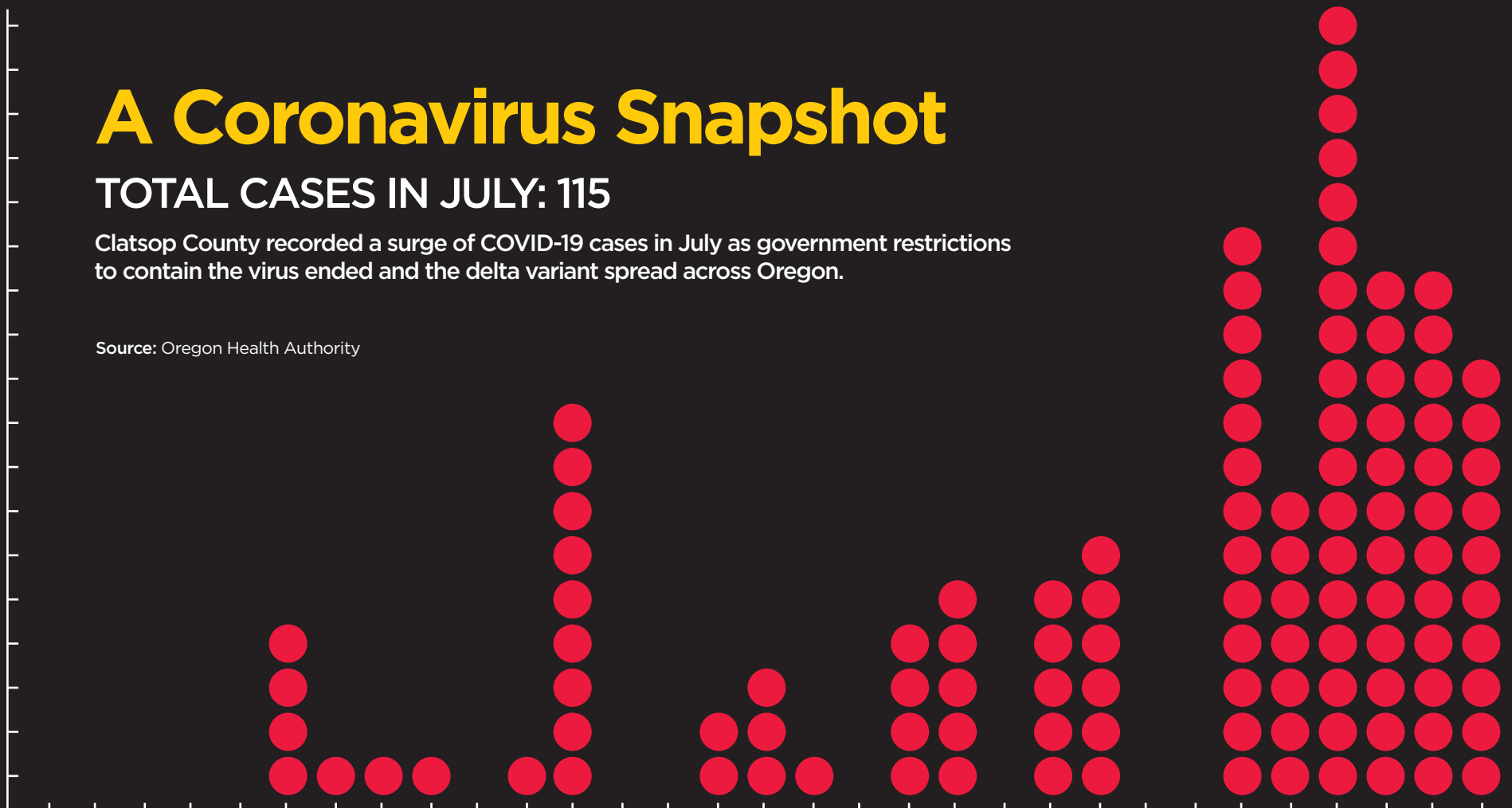
A Coronavirus Snapshot

TOTAL CASES IN JULY: 115

Clatsop County recorded a surge of COVID-19 cases in July as government restrictions to contain the virus ended and the delta variant spread across Oregon.

Source: Oregon Health Authority

NUMBER OF CASES



JULY 2021

