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Managing the region as a working playland



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

ABOVE: A rider begins the climb up a logging road to find a mountain bike trail in a section of Lewis & Clark Timberlands near Klootch Creek County Park. **BELOW:** The Julia Butler Hansen Refuge is home to the threatened Columbian white-tailed deer.

Leaders balance relationship between outdoor recreation, industry, habitat management

'WE'RE COMMITTED TO KEEPING OUR LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T PUT OUR TIMBERLANDS AT RISK.'

By **EMILY LINDBLOM**
The Astorian

As a working playland, the North Coast is full of opportunities for hiking, biking, fishing and hunting while also being home to major industries, including forestry and fisheries.

Several companies, organizations and government agencies have found ways to form a relationship between outdoor recreation, industry and habitat management.

Klootch Creek County Park southeast of Seaside is the site of the former largest Sitka spruce tree — still a draw for tourists as a 17-foot-diameter trunk and two massive fallen pieces. It also acts as an access point

to Lewis & Clark Timberlands, managed by Greenwood Resources.

David Dougherty, area forester with Greenwood Resources, was driving out in the woods one day when he came across a mountain biker looking for trails to ride on, to no avail. Dougherty understood there was a lack of mountain biking trails in the area, and he gave his card to the biker, who happened to be part of the North Coast Trail Alliance.

“We set up a meeting and from there we’ve had a successful relationship between the different partners, the North Coast Trail Alliance, Lewis & Clark Timberlands and Clatsop County parks,” Dougherty said.

See Playland, Page A6

Chad Washington
| stewardship and
community engagement
coordinator for
GreenWood Resources



Statewide mask mandate returns

Masks are required at indoor public places

By **GARY WARNER**
and **GRIFFIN REILLY**
Oregon Capital Bureau and The Astorian

The delta variant of the coronavirus is spreading so fast that it will hit most of Oregon’s unvaccinated population before the six weeks needed to be fully immunized if they were inoculated now.

“We are looking at a giant wave that is all taking place over the next four weeks,” said Peter Graven, a top data scientist at Oregon Health & Science University.

Graven presented a forecast Tuesday showing about 1,100 people with COVID-19 will need hospitalization by the time the current wave of infections peaks in early September. Oregon could be as many as 500 staffed hospital beds short of what will be needed to treat patients hospitalized for any reason.

Oregon on Wednesday reported 665 COVID-19 cases at hospitals, setting a new record for the pandemic. The current wave has already set new records for infected patients in intensive care beds. On Wednesday, there were 172.

About 90% of those hospitalized are unvaccinated, Graven said.

Responding to the rapid rise in new virus cases and hospitalizations, Gov. Kate Brown said she will bring back a statewide indoor mask requirement starting Friday. The governor will also require all workers

See Masks, Page A6

County virus cases climb

Website reports a dozen outbreaks

By **GRIFFIN REILLY**
The Astorian

Clatsop County has reported a dozen local outbreaks of the coronavirus as virus case counts continue to climb.

The Oregon Health Authority recorded 40 new virus cases for the county on Wednesday, 12 new cases on Tuesday and 55 new cases over the weekend.

Since the pandemic began, the county recorded 1,398 virus cases and 11 deaths as of Wednesday.

On the county’s COVID-19 Public Information Hub, the county listed a dozen outbreaks, up from a handful last week.

The county, as of early Wednesday, had not provided any details about the outbreaks. The county has also not provided details to help explain the surge of local virus cases over the past several weeks beyond echoing state and federal public health officials, who have blamed the increase in Oregon and across the United States on the delta variant spreading among the unvaccinated.

See Cases, Page A6

Sailor wants to save aircraft carrier

Nix envisions USS Kitty Hawk coming to Astoria

By **PATRICK WEBB**
Chinook Observer

OCEAN PARK, Wash. — A retired sailor campaigning to save the USS Kitty Hawk from the scrapyard is pressing ahead seeking support.

Veteran Bill Nix divides his time between homes in Ocean Park and Underwood on the Washington state side of the Columbia River Gorge.

He was billeted on the super-carrier during a varied career that included civilian service as a police officer, legal clerk, judge and parole officer, in addition to his active duty and lengthy reserve service with the U.S. Navy and Army.

“It was a really good ship,” said

Nix, a Navy photographer who served two tours in Vietnam and retired as a master-at-arms and chief petty officer.

He believes it could attract 325,000 visitors a year if preserved and docked permanently in Astoria as a conference center and museum. “It’s in fairly good condition,” Nix said. “It hasn’t deteriorated.”

However, the USS Kitty Hawk Veterans Association has reluctantly ended its campaign to save

See Carrier, Page A6



An Ocean Park man is trying to save the USS Kitty Hawk from being scrapped.

