

IN BRIEF

Astoria reports virus case at public safety building

A person who works in the building that houses Astoria's fire and police departments tested positive for the coronavirus, city officials announced Thursday.

This is the fourth case the city has reported. It is not related to recent cases connected to the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

City Manager Brett Estes declined to offer more information about the case. The person is not a city employee but is associated with operations in the public safety building. Estes said concerns about any spread of the virus to others is "more internally focused."

The last time the person was in the public safety building was on Aug. 4. The city is working with the Clatsop County Public Health Department to notify other people who have been in close contact with the person.

Astoria High School reports virus case

A person associated with Astoria High School has tested positive for the coronavirus during summer camp programs organized on campus, school leaders announced Wednesday.

Superintendent Craig Hoppes declined to provide more details about the person but said they were recovering at home.

The positive case will not impact the delivery of the school district's summer camp programs, which started in July and end this week, but some people may have to quarantine, Hoppes said.

Cases of the coronavirus are once again on the rise across Oregon.

But Hoppes remains confident in moving toward an in-person school year beginning in September.

"I feel even with the number of cases that are rising we can mitigate the spread based on the health and safety protocols we used last year," he said. "I'm confident, on our part, that we can mitigate the spread."

In July, Gov. Kate Brown announced that students and staff at K-12 schools will be required to wear masks in school buildings.

— The Astorian

DEATH

Aug. 10, 2021

ROTH, Richard J., 80, of Astoria, died in Portland. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIALS

Saturday, Aug. 14

LYONS, Connie Gail (Smalley) — Celebration of life for family and friends from 1 to 3 p.m., Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St.

Sunday, Aug. 22

MATTILA, John —

Celebration of life at 2 p.m., Warrenton High School, John Mattila Field, 1700 S. Main Ave. "Trash Can Stew" will be served with bread and butter. Those attending are encouraged, but not required, to bring a potluck item.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

Moe Darling Mcleod, 57, of Ilwaco, Washington, was arrested on Wednesday morning for felony assault in the fourth degree, disorderly conduct in the second degree and criminal mischief in the second degree. The incident that led to Mcleod's arrest took place Sunday afternoon outside Safeway in Astoria and stemmed from comments from Mcleod's husband about an "Abolish ICE" sticker on the victim's vehicle. The victim filmed the

incident and shared it on social media.

Robbery

Cherilee McAnelly, 47, of Warrenton, was arrested Wednesday afternoon at 19th Street and Bugle Road in Warrenton for robbery in the first degree, theft in the third degree, assault in the fourth degree and resisting arrest. The charges stemmed from an incident involving McAnelly allegedly shoplifting and exhibiting violent behavior at Walmart, leading to a police pursuit. Officers used pepper spray in detaining McAnelly.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Knappa School District Board, 6:30 p.m., Knappa High School Library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.

Astoria City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

TUESDAY

Clatsop Community College Board of Directors, 10 a.m., special meeting and retreat, (electronic meeting).

Clatsop Care Health District Board, 2 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., workshop, (electronic meeting).

Seaside School District Board, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

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BEER UP

A crane moves a piece of equipment at Buoy Beer on Thursday.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Census shows population growth in Oregon

Clatsop County grew to 41,072 in 2020

By JAMIE GOLDBERG
The Oregonian

Population gains in the Portland metro region, central Oregon and the Willamette Valley drove Oregon's growth over the last decade, according to newly released 2020 census data.

Multnomah County's population grew by 10.9% to 815,428, with the county adding more than 80,000 residents over the last decade, more than any other county in the state. However, both Washington and Clackamas counties grew at a faster rate than Oregon's largest county. Washington County's population grew by 13.3% to 600,372, while Clackamas County grew by about 12.1% to 421,401.

Counties along the Oregon Coast continued to experience modest growth over the last decade as well, with Clatsop County growing at the fastest rate among coastal counties. Its population in 2020 was 41,072, a 10.9% increase from 2010.

Josh Lehner, an economist for the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, said the job market, quality of life and relative affordability in the Portland metro

region as compared to other major cities on the West Coast, like San Francisco and Seattle, continue to make it the biggest draw for people looking to relocate to Oregon.

However, he said the population gains varied throughout the decade, with slow growth coming out of the Great Recession followed by six years of increasing migration to Oregon and the Portland metro region, specifically, before population gains slowed in the final three years of the decade. Oregon added fewer than 32,000 residents in 2020 amid the coronavirus pandemic, the slowest growth in the last decade.

"We've had so many changes in the last 10 years," Lehner said. "We started the decade coming out of the global financial crisis, and then we had an acceleration and a big relatively robust and healthy pickup in terms of migration, and then it slowed at the end of the decade."

Deschutes County, which includes tourism hub Bend, once again experienced the biggest jump in population of any county in the state as its population increased by 25.7% over the decade to 198,253.

Damon Runberg, the Oregon Employment Depart-

ment's regional economist for the east Cascades, said the livability, natural beauty and recreation options in central Oregon continue to be a draw for those looking to relocate. He said recent retirees and young professionals who prioritize quality of life over more career opportunities have long driven the population gains in central Oregon.

However, in the last decade, Runberg said more small professional firms relocated to Bend and an increasing number of 25- to 35-year-olds who work remotely moved to the Bend area, bringing their jobs with them. The pandemic only accelerated that remote working trend.

"The Bend economy has had these major transitions in its history, from being a timber town to transitioning to tourism to a lot of growth over the last decade of more professional-type jobs, becoming more representative of a traditional metropolitan economy," Runberg said. "I think that trend is the one we're going to see continue going forward."

Population gains across

the state were also driven by migration to the Willamette Valley. Polk County's population increased by 16% to 87,433 over the last decade, while Benton County increased by 11.2% to 95,184, Linn County increased by 10.2% to 128,610 and Marion County increased by 9.7% to 345,920.

Polk County Commissioner Craig Pope said the county's lower cost of living has made it an attractive option for government employees who work in Salem or commuters who need access to Interstate 5. However, he said land use restrictions could prevent construction from moving forward unabated in the coming years, which could slow population growth.

"We've become very popular over the last decade, at least, because we've had available building space," Pope said. "A large portion of that growth has been in the west Salem area. Folks there are still able to be inside the urban growth boundary of Salem, so they can get services, but pay lower property taxes."

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New hours effective August 2, 2021:

Our open hours will be:

Monday 9-1 PM

Tuesday 9-5 PM

Wednesday 9-5 PM

Thursday 9-5 PM

Friday 9-5 PM

Saturday 9-1 PM.

Sunday Closed.