

IN BRIEF

Dozens of virus cases reported in county over the weekend

The Oregon Health Authority reported 73 new cases over the weekend in Clatsop County. Since the pandemic began, the county has recorded 1,548 virus cases and 11 deaths. The health authority has reported 242,843 cases and 2,949 deaths statewide.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

Aug. 14, 2021
VAN OSDOL, Donald Wayne, 68, of Knappa, died in Knappa. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 13, 2021
ARNOLD, Joseph, 91, of Seaside, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

MUNSON, Pamela, 72, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom

Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 12, 2021
WEBER, James, 63, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 10, 2021
WARD, John Douglas, 83, of Cannon Beach, died in Seaside. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIALS

Saturday, Aug. 21
OLSON, Gordon — Celebration of life at 11 a.m., Maritime Memorial Park, 10 Bay St.

PEDERSEN, Gary — Celebration of life at 2 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Astoria, 1103 Grand Ave.

SPRING, Michael P. — Potluck celebration of life 2 p.m., Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St.

THOMAS, Arlene Rae (Jones) — Funeral service at 11 a.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

Saints, 350 Niagara Ave. Thomas, 84, of St. George, Utah, formerly of Astoria, died Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021, in Rosburg, Washington. She was the former owner of the Astoria Beauty College. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements. An online guest book may be signed at caldwellsmortuary.com

Sunday, Aug. 22
CARTER, Annette — Celebration of life and potluck at 5 p.m., Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St.

ON THE RECORD

Attempted assault
• Seth Timothy Morgan, 26, of Astoria, was indicted Thursday for coercion, menacing that constituted domestic violence, attempted assault in the fourth degree constituting domestic violence and harassment.

Weapons charges
• Keith Donald Julius Schaefer, 38, of Lafayette, was indicted Thursday for unlawful use of a weapon, assault in the fourth degree and harassment.

Criminal mischief
• Timothy T. Goodman, 63, of Kennewick, Washington, was arrested Aug. 9 at the Desdemona Club in Astoria for criminal mischief in the third degree and offensive public conduct.

• Mark Steven Beatty, 36, of Seaside, was arrested Thursday night on Bond Street in Astoria for harassment and criminal mischief in the second degree.

Hit-and-run
• Angel Ramirez-Gonzalez, 40, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday for a hit-and-run that occurred Friday. He was charged with property damage, driving uninsured and driving without privileges.

Theft
• Danielle C. McMahon, 24, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the second degree.

• David G. Kirschbaum, 21, and Meghan Elizabeth Wahl, 21, both of Hood River, were cited Thursday for theft in the second degree and criminal mischief at Walmart in Warrenton.

DUII
• Stefan B. Whitehead, 29, of Warrenton, was arrested on Aug. 9 at S.E. 12th Place in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants. He was also cited for driving uninsured.

• Melvin Ernest Gruelle, 74, of Petersburg, Alaska, was arrested Wednesday afternoon on state Highway 53 for DUII.

• Jessica M. Ganschow, 30, of Astoria, was arrested Thursday night at the Premarq Center in Warrenton for DUII and reckless driving.

• Joel Lester Williams, 36, of Portland, was arrested Sunday on U.S. Highway 101 at Avenue S in Seaside for DUII.

• Levi Clinton Van Cleef, 30, of Castle Rock, Washington, was arrested Sunday at the 10th Street access in Gearhart for DUII.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Union Health District of Clatsop County Board, 9 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.
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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Jeff TerHar

Evan Cory serves up some beach volleyball action in the men’s open final Saturday night during the Seaside Beach Volleyball tournament. He and teammate Logan Webber topped the team of Travis Mewhirter and Adam Roberts for the championship. The women’s open title went to Megan Nash and Brittany Tiegs, who defeated Emily Hartong and Macy Jerger. This year marked the tournament’s 39th year after being canceled because of the pandemic last year. More than a thousand teams from across the U.S. participated in the event.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

State and local officials — including state Sen. Betsy Johnson, left — cut the ribbon and officially opened the North Coast’s first bag drop center for bulk bottle and can redemptions at Fred Meyer in Warrenton on Friday. Customers will now be able to redeem bottles for cash, get an extra 20% if they spend the money at Fred Meyer or donate to charity. The program is run by BottleDrop.

Hospitals in southern Oregon buckling under surge of virus

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

Patients left on beds in hospital hallways, their monitoring machines beeping away as too few doctors and nurses attend to an overload of emergencies. People diagnosed with cancer or heart disease desperately needing treatments, but being turned away.

Hospital staffers and public health managers in southern Oregon say it’s never been this bad. And it’s apt to get worse as the delta variant of COVID-19 spreads through a region where fewer than half the residents have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

“This is the worst condition our hospitals have seen, likely ever. I don’t know that anyone could recall a time where we’ve had this much pressure on our health care system,” Josephine County Public Health Manager Michael Weber told reporters Thursday.

The health care leaders got on a Zoom press conference with reporters to describe the dire situation, and to beg people to get vaccinated and wear masks.

“I implore you to wear a mask and get vaccinated, not just for your own protection,

not just for your family, but for your neighbors and for the care and support of your medical teams,” said Leona O’Keefe, deputy Josephine County health officer.

Doctors, nurses and other health care workers who are on the front lines are becoming overwhelmed as the caseload surpasses even last year’s peak of COVID-19 hospitalizations.

“It’s heartbreaking. People are exhausted. You can see it in their eyes,” said Dr. Jason Kuhl, chief medical officer for Providence Medical Center in Medford. He described how patients who need care are forced to wait on gurneys in hallways, creating an obstacle course of beds and a cacophony of beeping monitoring machines.

Amanda Kotler, a registered nurse who is vice president of nursing at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center in Medford, described seeing nurses who have hit the wall, emotionally and physically, as they try to care for patients, some of whom are dying.

“Imagine the physical exhaustion of being in PPE for 12-, 16-, 20-hour shifts. It’s hot. You’re caring for patients. You’re struggling to keep them alive,” Kotler said in the joint Zoom news

conference.

The patients can’t have visitors and family support, so nurses wind up facilitating phone conversations with their loved ones, “often when they’re saying goodbye,” she said.

Oregon Health Authority director Pat Allen said that Oregon’s record-setting COVID-19 hospitalization rate is filling hospitals statewide.

“Our ICUs are full. Our doctors and nurses are exhausted and rightfully frustrated because this crisis is avoidable. It is like watching a train wreck coming and knowing that there’s an opportunity to switch tracks, yet we feel helpless while we watch unnecessary loss

of life,” said David Zonies, associate chief medical officer at Portland’s Oregon Health & Science University.

The hospitals are so overflowing in Jackson and Josephine counties, which lie along the California border, that health officials there have asked the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Emergency Management for a field hospital and more nurses.

Rudy Owens, a health authority spokesman, said in an email that the state agency is working with federal agencies to try to obtain mobile hospitals.

This surge is hitting like a tsunami, and comes after people thought the worst was over.

Celebration of Life for



James B McDermott

August 21st 11 am to 1 pm
at the Warrenton Shilo Columbia Room

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

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