

IN BRIEF

Nineteen new coronavirus cases reported in county over the weekend

The Oregon Health Authority reported 19 new coronavirus cases in Clatsop County over the weekend. Since the pandemic began, the county has recorded 1,683 cases and 12 deaths. The county reported that 23,094 people — 58.5% — were fully vaccinated against the virus as of Friday. The county has set of a goal of having 27,533 people — 70% — vaccinated to try to achieve herd immunity. In a weekly update on local hospitalizations from the virus, the county reported 14 from Aug. 14 to Friday, the same number as the previous week. The county said 10 of the people hospitalized were unvaccinated and four were vaccinated.

Virus cases disclosed at North Coast Family Fellowship

SEASIDE — Pastor John K. Nagle, in a letter to parishioners at North Coast Family Fellowship, said last week that “a number of our staff members have contracted COVID.” Nagle said he was diagnosed as COVID positive, along with two staff members. “None of us are, at this moment, horribly ill, but we are definitely ‘out of commission’ for the next 10 days provided that our symptoms are gone for 24 hours prior to ‘reentry,’” he said. The church has limited access for all but essential staff and volunteers, he said. Sunday services were held online. — *The Astorian*

DEATH

Aug. 20, 2021

WILSON, Lanny D., 77, of Astoria, died in Portland. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIALS

Saturday, Aug. 28
FALCK, Raymond Stanley (Ray) — Graveside service at 1 p.m., Ocean View Cemetery, 575 S.W. 18th St. in Warrenton.
Sunday, Aug. 29
FORNEY, Norman R. Jr. — Celebration of life from 1 to 4 p.m., Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St. in Warrenton.
HEINER, Dan William — Celebration of life and ice cream social at 2 p.m., Clatsop County Fairgrounds, 93003 Walluski Loop.

CORRECTION

Incorrect grade — Silqet Ra’s daughter will attend first grade this school year. An A1 story on Saturday about child care challenges on the North Coast incorrectly said she would attend kindergarten.

ON THE RECORD

Theft
• Edgar Emmanuel Ortiz Vera, 23, of Salem, was arrested Aug. 15 at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the first degree and criminal mischief in the third degree.
Criminal trespass
• Eduardo Jose Alonzo, 33, of Warrenton, was arrested Sunday night for criminal trespass in the first degree and theft in the second degree at Walmart in Warrenton.
Disorderly conduct
• Andrew Alton Larsen, 41, of Hammond, was arrested Sunday morning at the South Jetty Dining Room and Bar on Pacific Drive in Hammond for disorderly conduct in the second degree, harassment in the third degree, resisting arrest and criminal trespass in the first degree.
DUII
• Steven Craig Osterlund, 60, of Gearhart, was arrested Sunday morning on McCormick Gardens Road in Gearhart for driving under the influence of intoxicants, criminal trespass in the second degree and criminal mischief in the second degree.
• Joshua Ray Shipley, 20, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday morning at S.E. Galena Avenue and E. Harbor Drive in Warrenton for DUII, hit-and-run and failure to perform the duties of a driver.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Arts Council of Clatsop County, 11 a.m., 800 Exchange St., Suite 430, Astoria.
Astoria City Council, noon, special meeting to consider vaccination requirement for child care providers, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.
Astoria Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
WEDNESDAY
Astoria Parks Board, 6:45 a.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).
THURSDAY
Sunset Empire Transportation District Board, 9 a.m., (electronic meeting).
Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower Ave.

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LASTING LIGHT

The North Head Lighthouse rises from the mist at Cape Disappointment State Park.
David Campiche

Public can experiment with new political maps

Boundaries redrawn after 2020 census

By GARY WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

It’s a new video game that comes with a big prize. It’s not streaming on Twitch or played on an Xbox console.

It’s on OLIS, which is not a gaming company, but the Oregon Legislative Information System.

The point of the game is to design a new political map of Oregon — a patchwork of blue and red.

The grand prize is political sway in Oregon for the next 10 years.

Normally this once-a-decade resizing of political districts has the Legislature drawing maps, the Legislature voting on maps and the governor signing off on maps. The public role is in hearings.

If all goes swimmingly — somewhat of a historical rarity — there is a new political atlas for the next election.

This year, mapmaking is going pro-am as amateur cartographers can get on the OLIS video game to draw their own political dream maps. They’ll get the same recently arrived, deeply detailed census tract information and software program as lawmakers use.

“Oregonians can begin drawing new lines using the gold standard data,” said state Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis, R-Albany, co-chair of the House Redistricting Committee.

The starting point is www.oregonlegislature.gov/redistricting. After creating an account, taking a tutorial and preparing a lot of patience to deal with the wonky program, mapmaking can begin.

As a template, the districts with a 37-22 Democratic majority in the House and 18-12 edge in the Senate can be called up for reference. So can the U.S. House map of the delegation’s four Democrats and one Republican.

A few valley curves, a straight-edge county line, following a river path, or running up against a mountain range will be challenging. But with enough effort and time, voila! your own version of the political landscape of Oregon.

The full slate of work includes:

- Six congressional dis-



Brian Hayes/Statesman Journal

Oregon will redraw political boundaries based on new census data.

districts of 710,000 people each

- 30 Senate Districts of 127,700 people each
- 60 House Districts of 63,850 people each

The computer will tell you whether your maps meet geographical requirements and demographic goals.

Tripping points

One of the biggest tripping points is Oregon’s requirement that two House districts be completely “nested” inside each Senate district. So, for example, House districts 59 and 60 fit completely inside Senate District 30.

There also are federal voting rights laws. Oregon’s state directives say districts must be contiguous, be of equal population, utilize existing geographical or political boundaries, not divide communities of common interest and be connected by transportation links.

The full set of do’s and don’ts, rules, laws and other mapmaking stuff is on the website.

When done, the map can be submitted to the Legislature for consideration. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Sept. 7.

A note of receipt of the map will be sent by email. Whether maps found to have flaws will be noted in time for resubmission is still undecided.

“It depends on how many maps we receive,” said Allison Daniel, a legislative policy and research analyst.

Those that make the cut by checking all the boxes for size, shape, location, equity and other items will pop up on the legislature’s redistricting website.

After a whirlwind series of public hearings, the committee will deliberate on what plan to bring to the full Legislature when it meets in a special session beginning Sept. 20. The hope is the House and Senate can

Will Portland continue to be chopped up into slices to maintain districts that stretch out further from the center of the city? Republicans point out Portland is just short of the 710,000 mark for its own congressional district — a prospect that would make the GOP more competitive elsewhere.

Biggest scramble

The biggest scramble will be over the congressional seats. Where to put the sixth seat the state was awarded for its population growth. All five incumbents are running for reelection — who will have to give up what territory to form the new district?

The Cascades are a mighty tall wall to get over for any change. Bend is a growing Democratic island in a Republican landscape. But unless mapmakers can justify straddling the Cascades, it’s likely stuck in the 2nd Congressional District, a slam-dunk for the GOP.

The spoiler is that all this mapmaking could end up counting for nothing. Most recent redistricting plans ended up stuck in gridlock in the Legislature, with the jumble ending up in the lap of the secretary of state or the courts.

Democrats had hoped by controlling both chambers of the Legislature and the governor’s office, this was the year to get it all done. COVID-19 tossed a chance for a relatively undramatic redistricting into the trash bin.

Whoever ends up drawing the final maps, there’s one group hanging on every twist and turn of the process: the candidates. The window to file for office opens Sept. 9. The deadline to get on the ballot is March 8.

It’s doubtful that any of the legislative seats will be more than guessing games until somewhere in between those two dates.

Candidates and voters will have to wait until autumn to see what the political landscape starting in spring 2022 will look like.

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