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Astorian

149TH YEAR, NO. 30

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

\$1.50

Competing plans for new political districts

Virtual hearings start this week

By GARY WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

State legislative leaders have released competing plans for new political districts to be used beginning with the 2022 elections.

Hopes for a quick consensus to meet a looming Sept. 27 deadline to get a proposal to the Oregon Supreme Court were immediately hit by a partisan cross-fire over the first drafts of maps that would be used for the next decade.

"Our current districts have diluted the voices of Oregonians for two decades to advance one political party and incumbent politicians," said state Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis, R-Albany, co-chair of the House Redistricting Committee.

Rep. Andrea Salinas, D-Lake Oswego, the committee's other co-chair, objected to the accusation, especially during the first look at proposals.

"These maps aren't final," Salinas said. "None of them are."

In all, lawmakers showed three plans for the 60-district House, three plans for the 30-district Senate and two plans for the six congressional districts.

None of the maps were released to the public until minutes before an 8 a.m. joint meeting Friday of the House and Senate redistricting committees. Because of COVID-19 concerns, the meeting was held online. A series of 12 planned public hearings — dubbed "the roadshow" — that were going to be held across the state will also now be virtual amid a spike in pandemic infections.

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Labor Day marks the kickoff of the 2022 election season • A2

Buoy Beer closing kitchen indefinitely

Issues with the pilings underneath

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

Buoy Beer Co. is closing its kitchen indefinitely.

David Kroening, the president and one of the founders of the company, told The Astorian on Friday that issues with the dock and pilings beneath the kitchen in the restaurant will require construction.

"As it is with all the docks on the Astoria riverfront, they're all 100-plus years old," he said. "You have to monitor them as you go."

Buoy will continue to serve beer, wine and cider as the company makes improvements to the dock.

"It's a hard thing to shut down the kitchen right now," Kroening said. "There has been a lot of change and adapting over the years and our team has done a great job at it."

"To have to change our model for the time being, it's tough to swallow."

Kroening added that Buoy is hoping to bring in a food truck while the construction takes place. In the meantime, the brewery will be offering limited snacks and welcoming outside food.

The restaurant was shifting hours due to construction unrelated to the dock, but Buoy will now return to being open seven days a week.

"We just hope to continue to give people the Buoy experience," Kroening said.



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Booster shots for COVID-19 are planned.

County officials plan booster shot rollout

Mass vaccination events will return

By ERICK BENGEL
The Astorian

Clatsop County plans to hold mass vaccination events once federal authorities approve booster shots for people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

The county's tentative plan was to open the clinics later this month, but "I would not be surprised if the launch date is delayed a little bit," Margo Lalich, the interim public health director, said.

The Biden administration set a Sept. 20 deadline to begin making boosters available, but experts at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have said the agencies may not have the information by then to determine when and whether the extra jab is necessary.

The booster shot discussion is happening as the more contagious delta variant circulates on the North Coast and across Oregon, leading to a spike in virus cases and hospitalizations.

The likely locations for the booster clinics will be the Clatsop County Fairgrounds and Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center in Warrenton.



The Clatsop County Fairgrounds will again host mass vaccination events against COVID-19.

Camp Rilea is becoming a coronavirus response hub: tests, vaccinations, boosters, as well as the Public Information Call Center, will all be on site. Tom Bennett, a county spokesman, said the county is seeking volunteers for the call center and vaccination clinics.

The booster is meant to extend a vaccinated person's ability to fight off the virus, as the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines

may wane over time. Breakthrough infections — cases of vaccinated people getting the virus — do occur but are less likely to lead to hospitalization and death.

For most people, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends a booster at least eight months after receiving the second shot of Pfizer or Moderna or the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

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THE BOOSTER SHOT DISCUSSION IS HAPPENING AS THE MORE CONTAGIOUS DELTA VARIANT CIRCULATES ON THE NORTH COAST AND ACROSS OREGON, LEADING TO A SPIKE IN VIRUS CASES AND HOSPITALIZATIONS.



Patrick Webb/Chinook Observer
Ira Kitmacher, an Ocean Park retiree, believes the philosophies used during his career mediating disputes and teaching managers can be applied to help heal a fractured society.

For a mediator, civility is key

Ocean Park retiree has passion for writing

By PATRICK WEBB
Chinook Observer

OCEAN PARK, Wash. — It might take the wisdom of Solomon to heal the nation.

Ira Kitmacher wants to play his part.

The Ocean Park author is busy promoting his book of Northwest ghost stories, published in July.

But already he is embarked on his next project — revising a how-to book he wrote several years ago offering biblical insights to solve modern disputes.

Kitmacher, 60, is a retired attorney who held high-level posi-



tions in human resources with the federal government and is called as an expert witness in cases involving labor laws. He has taught classes in the Bay Area, at Portland State University and at Georgetown University, as well as virtually in the bachelor's in organizational management degree program at Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen.

When he and wife, Wendy, a U.S. Department of Labor executive, retired to Ocean Park a few years ago, he felt he had time to

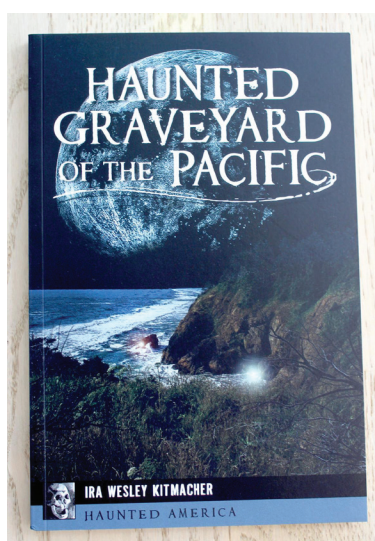
delve into his passion — writing. His work draws on skills honed in his professions. "I enjoy doing research and organizing information," he said.

The result is "Haunted Graveyard of the Pacific," a 144-page road trip that takes the reader from Tillamook to British Columbia, via Cannon Beach, Astoria and Long Beach, examining spooky legends.

Kitmacher admits he is a ghost skeptic. "I am not a full believer, but I am fascinated by stories," he said. "I have a love of history and hauntings."

However, he points to inventor Thomas Edison's quote, "It's obvious that we don't know one millionth of one percent about anything."

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Ira Kitmacher wrote 'Haunted Graveyard of the Pacific.'

