

SPORTS

Local teams honored for academics

The Astorian

Local sports teams performing well on the field also scored well in the classroom this fall, with numerous teams making the top 10 lists for grade point averages.

Warrenton football had the top grade point average (3.63) of all football teams at the 3A level, one of several Warrenton teams placing in the OSAA's top 10 academically.

The Warrenton volleyball team turned in a 3.88 GPA, which ranked fifth among all 3A volleyball

teams in the state. Warrenton boys cross-country — one of the top teams in the state on the course — tied for fifth in 3A cross-country with a 3.82 GPA.

The Knappa football team's 3.62 GPA was second-best for 2A football, and the Knappa boys cross-country squad had a combined 3.73 GPA for third in the state at the 2A/1A level.

Elsewhere, Astoria boys cross-country posted a 3.73 GPA for third in the state; and Astoria boys soccer was fourth with a 3.60 grade point average.

Astoria youth basketball programs begin

The Astorian

The Astoria School District will be facilitating the Astoria Youth Basketball program this year for grades one through six.

This school-based program will replace the Astoria city-league program for the 2021-22 school year. Register by Nov. 12.

Online links to register include: <https://forms.gle/euEF5G1y5kyJaL7c6> and <https://forms.gle/mpRvmTGcj1LRQDoq6>.

The program will run during November and

December, evenings and weekends. Program specifics will be based on grade-level. First through third graders will participate in an open-gym format with skill instruction; and students in fourth through sixth grades will be on organized teams and will participate in practices and games.

Participation in the program is free to all Astoria students.

The school district is looking for parent volunteers to coach or assist the teams. For more information, call 503-325-6441.



Matt Rourke/AP Photo

A syringe is prepared with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at a clinic at the Reading Area Community College in Pennsylvania in September.

US mandates vaccines or tests for big companies

By DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

Tens of millions of Americans who work at companies with 100 or more employees will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Jan. 4 or get tested for the virus weekly under government rules issued Thursday.

The new requirements are the Biden administration's boldest move yet to persuade reluctant Americans to finally get a vaccine that has been widely available for months — or face financial consequences. If successful, administration officials believe it will go a long way toward ending a pandemic that has killed more than 750,000 Americans.

First previewed by President Joe Biden in September, the requirements will apply to about 84 million workers at medium and large businesses, although it is not clear how many of those employees are unvaccinated.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations will force the companies to require that unvaccinated workers test negative for COVID-19 at least once a week and wear a mask while in the workplace.

OSHA left open the possibility of expanding the requirement to smaller businesses. It asked for public comment on whether employers with fewer than 100 employees could handle vaccination or testing programs.

Tougher rules will apply to another 17 million people working in nursing homes, hospitals and other facilities that receive money from Medicare and Medicaid. Those workers will not have an option for testing — they will need to be vaccinated.

Workers will be able to ask for exemptions on medical or religious grounds.

The requirements will not

apply to people who work at home or outdoors.

Oregon is one of 21 states and Puerto Rico that have their own workplace safety agency. Oregon's Occupational Health and Safety Division will have 30 days to write its own vaccine rules. They must be "at least as effective" as the federal rule, but need not be identical — and could be more restrictive.

On Thursday, the state did not commit to matching the national Jan. 4 deadline.

"It is too early yet to say how the timeline will take shape in Oregon," said Oregon OSHA spokesperson Aaron Corvin.

The state's homegrown workplace safety program means the federal rule won't have any effect in Oregon until Oregon OSHA's own rule is in place.

Biden framed the issue as a simple choice between getting more people vaccinated or prolonging the pandemic.

"While I would have much preferred that requirements not become necessary, too many people remain unvaccinated for us to get out of this pandemic for good," he said in a statement.

Biden said his encouragement for businesses to impose mandates and his own previous requirements for the military and federal contractors have helped reduce the number of unvaccinated Americans over 12 from 100 million in late July to about 60 million now.

Those measures, he said, have not led to mass firings or worker shortages, adding that vaccines have been required before to fight other diseases.

OSHA said companies that fail to comply with the regulations could face penalties of nearly \$14,000 per violation.

The agency will face enforcement challenges. Even counting help from states, OSHA has only 1,850 inspectors to oversee 130

million workers at 8 million workplaces. An administration official said the agency will respond to whistleblower complaints and make limited spot checks.

The release of the rules followed weeks of regulatory review and meetings with business groups, labor unions and others.

OSHA drafted the rules under emergency authority meant to protect workers from an imminent health hazard. The agency estimated that the vaccine mandate will save more than 6,500 worker lives and prevent more than 250,000 hospitalizations over the next six months.

The rules set up potential legal battles along partisan lines between states and the federal government. Several states and Republican governors threatened to sue, contending that the administration lacks the power to make such sweeping mandates under emergency authority.

OSHA's parent agency, the Labor Department, says it is on sound legal footing. The department's top legal official, Seema Nanda, said OSHA rules preempt conflicting state laws or orders, including those that bar employers from requiring vaccinations, testing or face masks.

Senate Republicans immediately launched a petition to force a vote to overturn the vaccine mandate, but with Democrats controlling the chamber, the effort is nearly certain to fail.

The rules will require workers to receive either two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine by Jan. 4 or be tested weekly. Employees testing positive must be removed from the workplace.

Companies won't be required to provide or pay for tests for unvaccinated workers, but they must give paid time off for employees to get the shots and sick leave to recover from side effects that prevent them from working. Requirements for masks and paid time off for shots take effect Dec. 5.

Employers covered by the requirements must verify their workers' vaccination status by checking documents such as CDC vaccination cards, records from doctors or pharmacies, or even an employee's own signed declaration.

Associated Press writers Paul Wiseman, Hope Yen, Tom Krisher, DeAnn Durbin, Stacey Plaisance-Jenkins, Matt O'Brien and The Oregonian contributed to this report.

OBITUARIES

Diane Mabel (Bushnell) Black Gearhart

Nov. 7, 1945 — Oct. 24, 2021

Diane Mabel (Bushnell) Black was taken by heart failure on Oct. 24, 2021.

Diane was born Nov. 7, 1945, in Aberdeen, Washington, to Leo Bushnell and Clara (Hubbard). She had a younger brother, Randy. All have passed away.

After living in the Tokeland/Grayland, Washington, area, the family moved to Warrenton about 1951. Diane went to Warrenton schools, graduating in 1963.

Diane married Rodney Black in 1968, and they had one son, Shawn, in 1972. Rod and Shawn survive.

Diane worked for J.C. Penney before her son was born, sold Avon, worked at a holiday store and, for 27 years, worked the front desk at The Tides By The Sea. She loved visiting with all of those who became her friends while working at The Tides.

She enjoyed puzzles, solitaire, crochet, rocks and looking for gold and watching wildlife. She donated what little she could to several charities and wildlife groups.

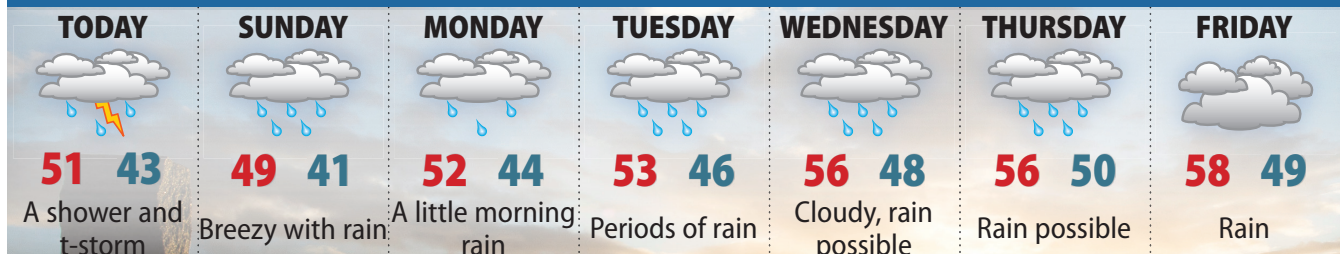
Diane and her family lived together in Gearhart for over 44 years. In addition to her husband and son, she leaves a nephew, Chet, his wife, Stephanie, and his children, Natalie and Ashton; a niece, Crystal, and her girls, Addison and Aubree; and extended family and a multitude of friends.

She wanted no service.

Please donate to the American Heart Association and the National Kidney Foundation.

Caldwell's Funeral and Cremation Arrangement Center in Seaside was in charge of the arrangements. Please sign the online guest book at caldwellsmortuary.com

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low 58/49
Normal high/low 56/42
Record high 69 in 1923
Record low 29 in 1961

Precipitation

Thursday 0.75"
Month to date 1.92"
Normal month to date 1.24"
Year to date 52.23"
Normal year to date 49.77"

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021

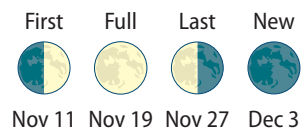
UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Low north before midnight, the Big Dipper is an "asterism" a group of stars that forms a "spoon."

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 8:04 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:54 p.m.
Moonrise today 10:29 a.m.
Moonset today 7:15 p.m.



TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
3:06 a.m.	7.6	8:43 a.m.	2.0	
2:29 p.m.	9.7	9:38 p.m.	-1.6	
Cape Disappointment				
2:40 a.m.	7.7	7:49 a.m.	2.2	
2:05 p.m.	9.7	8:41 p.m.	-1.9	
Hammond				
2:52 a.m.	7.9	8:11 a.m.	2.0	
2:17 p.m.	9.9	9:02 p.m.	-2.1	
Warrenton				
3:01 a.m.	8.0	8:27 a.m.	2.1	
2:24 p.m.	10.0	9:22 p.m.	-1.5	
Knappa				
3:43 a.m.	7.9	9:44 a.m.	1.8	
3:06 p.m.	9.9	10:39 p.m.	-1.3	
Depoe Bay				
1:54 a.m.	8.0	7:17 a.m.	2.4	
1:17 p.m.	10.1	8:13 p.m.	-2.1	

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	59/39/pc	65/41/s
Boston	52/38/s	55/41/pc
Chicago	58/43/s	64/48/pc
Dallas	68/46/s	75/51/s
Denver	74/44/pc	75/40/pc
Honolulu	85/75/pc	87/74/pc
Houston	69/45/s	74/51/s
Los Angeles	76/54/pc	70/54/s
Miami	78/59/c	76/62/s
New York City	53/42/s	55/44/pc
Phoenix	90/61/s	87/61/s
San Francisco	63/52/c	62/50/c
Wash., DC	57/43/pc	58/44/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

