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Research explores a way to fight off invasive green crab

A threat to native shellfish

By HANNAH WEINBERGER
Crosscut

Biologist Bobbie Buzzell knew, intellectually, that the Lummi Nation had an invasive species problem on its hands last year.

But it wasn't until she and her Lummi Natural Resources Department colleagues started making weekly trips to the landfill in September with a short-bed pickup truck fully loaded with 10,000 frozen green crabs trapped from the Lummi Sea Pond near Bellingham, Washington, that she truly visualized the extent of the problem.

"It was a little overwhelming and daunting because that's a lot to pull out in a short amount of time. Especially given what had happened the year before," Buzzell said.

In 2020, they pulled about 2,500 of the fast-multiplying invaders out of the Lummi Sea Pond, one of the tribe's most important seafood growing areas. The following year, they pulled out nearly 86,000, with 70,000 captured in September and October alone. The Lummi Indian Business Council declared a state of emergency in November.

"We couldn't keep up with it," Buzzell said.

But keeping up with invasions of this species is essential to protecting Washington state's waters and the native fish and shellfish living in



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
European green crab are considered a threat to Washington state's native shellfish.

them. And an important part of that is identifying European green crab populations before they have a chance to establish themselves in shoreline ecosystems, as they have in Massachusetts. The crabs and their larvae first landed on the East Coast in the 1800s in the ballasts of boats, and have since hitched rides along El Nino currents to the West Coast.

"Failure to act now and control existing green crab populations could have devastating impacts on shellfish production, and the livelihoods of shellfish farmers and harvesters in Washington's rural coastal regions,"

said Bobbi Hudson, the executive director of the Pacific Shellfish Institute.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency for green crabs in January, as people monitoring the invasion saw the crab populations grow and spread to more areas.

The crabs have been found along Washington shorelines — in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor by 1998 — and have been spreading slowly inland since 2016. "There's not an infestation in Puget Sound and we want to keep it

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CORONAVIRUS

County to offer second booster

Pandemic response shifts into a new stage

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian

Clatsop County will start offering second booster doses of coronavirus vaccines in early April.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, anyone 50 and older can get a second booster. Immunocompromised people 12 to 17 can get a second Pfizer booster, while immunocompromised people 18 and older can get a second booster dose of Pfizer or Moderna. And any adult vaccinated and boosted with Johnson & Johnson can get a Pfizer or Moderna shot for their second booster.

After a booster dose, immunity begins to wane after about three months, Margo Lalich, the interim director of the county Public Health Department, said.

"We also know that the virus is continuing to change, and so there's an unpredictability and an unknown as we continue to work, live and play through the pandemic," Lalich said.

Moderna and Pfizer boosters will be available:

- 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center's drive-thru clinic starting this week. An appointment is required.

- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays at the Bob Chisholm Community Center in Seaside starting April 12. Walk-ins are welcome.

- The Public Health Department's clinic in Astoria by appointment only.

Vaccines and boosters, which are also available at several local retailers, decrease the severity of COVID-19-related illness and the likelihood of hospitalization and death.

While 73.9% of county residents have received their initial vaccination — among the highest vaccination rates in the state — booster rates continue to straggle.

As of late March, 64.4% of people 65 and older had received a first booster; 46.2% of people 50 to 64 had received a booster; 27.9% of people 20 to 49 had received a booster; and 17.6% of people 18 to 19 had been boosted.

The health department is rolling out an online survey to gauge the public's attitudes toward boosters and the pandemic generally.

Questions will ask about people's sense of urgency to get a first or second booster dose; what their primary source of information is in choosing whether to get vaccinated; if news of the omicron variant's spread in the U.S. made them more or less likely, or neither, to stay current on their vaccinations; and how they feel about the state of the pandemic.

What the pandemic response looks like

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All about make-believe and ache relief

Tinker's two careers create art, help patients

By PATRICK WEBB
For The Astorian

Danyelle Tinker leads a double life.

She eases medical patients' aches and pains. And she helps people pretend to be someone they're not.

Tinker works two jobs, continuing her career as a massage therapist and staging community theater as executive director of Ten Fifteen Productions in Astoria.



Her path followed a familiar pattern for new residents.

She and her husband, Desi Lowder, were tired of apartment living in their native Portland, frozen out by rocketing house prices. "The city had changed so dramatically that it didn't feel like home anymore," she said.

Then Lowder saw a nursing assistant opening advertised at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria.

Tinker, 44, has been dancing and acting on stage since she was

6. She graduated with a degree in theater arts from Western Oregon University in 2000.

She acted with regional troupes, and in 2013 was a co-founder of the Twilight Theater Co. in north Portland's Kenton neighborhood, where she served as the executive managing director.

The couple's 2018 move to the North Coast came as a permanent storefront Astoria theater space was moving from the conceptual stage among directors associated with Pier Pressure Productions.

She appeared at the Coaster Theatre in Cannon Beach in 2019 in "The Savannah Sipping Society," and a second virtual production during COVID-19 restrictions. "I had aspirations of only

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Patrick Webb/For The Astorian

In a variety show 'Almost Baroque,' staged in Astoria in December, Danyelle Tinker made her Astoria stage debut joining longtime area actor Jim Dott in a scene from Molière's 'The Misanthrope.'



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