

On The Record

Oregon reports 2,437 new COVID-19 cases, 21 new deaths

There are 21 new COVID-19 related deaths in Oregon, raising the state's death toll to 3,394, the Oregon Health Authority reported Thursday evening. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reported 2,437 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19, bringing the

state total to 294,392. OHA's most recent update on COVID-19 breakthrough cases, released today, found that 80.7% of the 13,798 reported COVID-19 cases between Aug. 29 and Sept. 4 occurred in people who were unvaccinated. There were 2,657

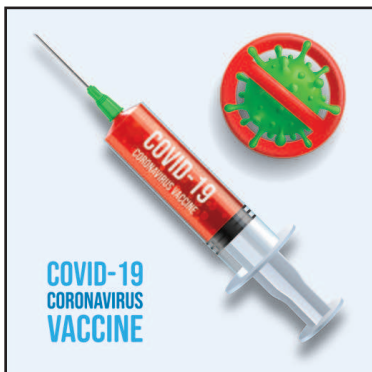
breakthrough cases, accounting for 19.3% of the week's cases. As of Thursday, Lane County reported 22,372 confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19, with 106 people hospitalized and 133 in intensive care. There are 841 people in the county consid-

ered infectious. In the 97439 zip code, there are 541 confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19. As of Thursday, 2,658,741 people in Oregon have had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and 2,423,777 people have completed a

COVID-19 vaccine series. To learn more about COVID-19 and vaccination efforts in Oregon, visit healthoregon.org/coronavirus and covidvaccine.oregon.gov, as well as lanecounty.org/coronavirus and lanecounty.org/vaxclinics.

LOCAL VACCINE CLINICS SCHEDULED

A free drive through COVID-19 vaccination clinic will be held on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Siuslaw Middle School, 2525 Oak St. in Florence. Walk up vaccinations will also be available. The clinic will be offering the Pfizer vaccine for ages 12 and older, and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine for ages 18 and older.



Appointments are not required to receive a vaccination, but, if desired, an appointment can be scheduled at www.LaneCounty.org/VaxClinics.

of immigration status or health insurance.

For questions or concerns about the vaccine, contact Lane County's COVID call

center at 541-682-1380. This clinic is a collaboration with Lane County Public Health and The ARC of Lane County. The clinic is free and open to all people living in the central coast area.

For Siuslaw residents who can't make it to a clinic or pharmacy offering this no cost vaccine, Lane County Public Health can also help with transportation or arrange for in-home vaccinations. Contact them at 541-682-1380.

In addition, The City of Florence and Lane County

Public Health are hosting a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic on Thursday, Sept. 16, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St.

Appointments can be scheduled online, but are not necessary. The clinic will be a walk-through clinic and have Pfizer and Moderna 1st, 2nd, and 3rd doses, as well as Johnson & Johnson single doses.

Full details on the clinic, how to schedule an appointment, and information on receiving third doses can be found at www.lanecounty.org/vaxclinics.

Agencies conduct missing person investigation at Devils Churn

On Thursday, Sept. 9, at approximately 2 p.m., Oregon State Police Troopers and emergency personnel responded to a call for a subject who had fallen into the ocean at Devils Churn, a U.S. Forest Service Day Use Park, located on High-

way 101 near milepost 167.

Preliminary investigation revealed Steve Allen, 67, of Walnut Creek, Calif., attempted to jump across Devils Churn and fell into the ocean. Fellow visitors attempted to rescue Allen,

but were unable to retrieve him from the water.

Allen was last observed by rescue agencies unresponsive prior to losing sight of him.

The U.S. Coast Guard and other responding agencies suspended their search

at approximately 6:40 p.m. Allen is presumed to be deceased.

Oregon State Police was assisted by Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Newport Fire Department, Yachats Fire and Rescue and the U.S. Coast Guard.

'Remembering Madison' with Daughters of the American Revolution

Joel Marks, retired adjunct history professor of the OLLI program at Southern Oregon University, will present another enlightening program for the Oregon Dunes Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Friday, Sept. 24, meeting will feature the U.S.'s most diminutive president, founding Father James Madison. Though he was only 5'4" tall and weighed a mere 100 pounds, Madison crafted the basic framework and guiding principles and is recognized as the father of our Constitution.

Did you know, if you have a Madison in your purse or wallet, it is a very rare \$5,000 bill. Some are still in circulation; a bill in very good condition went for more than \$100,000 at an auction in 2010.

Constitution Week is recognized Sept. 17 to 23. This observance was initiated in 1955 by DAR and signed into law in 1956.

"There are two documents of paramount importance to

American history: the Declaration of Independence, which forged our national identity, and the United States Constitution, which set forth the framework for the federal government that functions to this day," said DAR President General Denise Doring VanBuren.

"While Independence Day is a well-recognized and beloved national holiday, fewer people know about Consti-

tution Week, an annual commemoration of the living document that upholds and protects the freedoms central to our American way of life."

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Oregon Dunes Chapter meets monthly September through May. The DAR, with more than a million members, is a non-political, volunteer women's service organization dedicated

to keeping America strong by promoting patriotism, preserving history and supporting education programs.

The public is invited to attend and learn more about the fourth president of the U.S. To attend, contact Chapter Registrar Karen Childs at 541-997-7154 for details.

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Wildlife habitat improvements benefit future developments

Some of the well-known benefits of wetlands include buffering from flooding and storm surges, providing excellent habitat for wildlife, improving water quality, providing recreation opportunities and storing carbon.

Many years ago, wetlands all over the world were commonly drained, filled and built up for humans at the expense of wildlife and waterways. We now know that wetlands are crucial to a healthy environment and our economy. Estuaries, where ocean tides mix salt water with fresh water, are especially important for fish and other wildlife.

It's expensive to restore those wetlands. Mitigation banking is one way to offset the costs while balancing conservation, development and property rights in a responsible and sustainable way.

Dr. Alex Gonyaw, Senior Fish Biologist of the Klamath Tribes explains, "Mitigation banks [are] where we make "deposits" of restored habitat land from which we can make "withdrawals" when projects impact or disturb wetland areas."

This is just what was done on the Siuslaw River at Cushman, where nearly 150 acres of wetlands were diked and drained in the 1940's to use for pasture. Beginning around 2000, Don Wilbur and his family began Oregon's first estuarine mitigation bank. Many agencies and scientists were involved, and helped develop Oregon's rules for estuary mitigation. Wilbur Island Mitigation Bank received its final approval in 2012.

Now the whole island, approximately 300 acres, is providing prime habitat for coho as well as steelhead, osprey, ducks, eelgrass & other wildlife while making developments in the Florence and surrounding areas more viable.

The benefits for the environment are many: Restoration happens in advance of impacts, so the water quality, fish, other wildlife and climate are already benefitting from it. It emphasizes the best available science and focuses on results. A large project consolidates resources to allow large areas of permanently-protected habitat, with far more benefits than a small patchwork of projects.

For a developer, mitigation reduces uncertainty, design and construction costs, agency oversight and permit processing time. It maximizes use of the developable property, and transfers all responsibility for protection and monitoring to the mitigation banker.

In cases where a special species or habitat would be impacted, mitigation would not be approved; it is only used to replace similar or less valuable marshes. On the Siuslaw as well as in most areas of the country, estuarine wetlands have been disproportionately impacted, so this mitigation may also be allowed to replace some freshwater wetlands.

Having invested decades of care and \$1 million, the Mitigation Bank is now ready for the next owner, and has vast, long-term income potential. The land protections are guaranteed forever, and also allow other low-impact activities such as education, camping, and duck hunting under certain conditions. This is an opportunity of a lifetime that will benefit generations to come.

More information can be found at donwilbur.com/services-offered.

Celebration of Life

Anthony Edward Willis
9/6/1926 - 3/18/2021

Please Come Join all of Tony's friends
September 17 at 4:00 pm at The Firehouse Restaurant in Florence.

We will be viewing his sculptures and toasting to this special man...

Please R.S.V.P., required no later than 9/15 by 5:00 pm. Contacts:
Linda McPhedran - 541-997-5397
Mary Lou Brown - 541-902-7674
Michael Ksen - 541-997-4206 or 760-333-8815

Thank you....let's not forget Tony....

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 * 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Panel Discussion with Bob Welch & William Sullivan

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 * 7 p.m. (Free/tickets required)
Keynote Speaker - Melody Carlson

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 * Book Fair * 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
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William Sullivan
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THANK YOU!