# County moves to make masks mandatory

*The Columbia Press*

County officials will ask the governor to include Clatsop in the requirement to wear face masks in businesses, which she imposed on seven other counties last week.

"From what I've been reading, if the whole nation had been wearing face masks from the beginning, we'd have a much lower count," County Commissioner Sara Nebeker told fellow commissioners Wednesday night. "We have a divided population who thinks it's a political thing and that's really very sad because it's science."

Elected officials from Warrenton, Cannon Beach, Astoria and Gearhart all have spoken with county officials, encouraging them to make the anti-COVID-19 mask requirement effective countywide, County Manager Don Bohn said.

"It will take the onus off the business owners," said Matt Stanley, manager of the Astoria Co-op, which is requiring shoppers to wear masks in the store. "Unfortunately, there's a very vocal minority who make it seem like there's a lot of people who don't want this. ... I hope you guys support this. It's the right thing to do."

#### COUNTY LENDS A HAND

Members of Clatsop County Public Health Department's "Swab Squad" testing team went to Newport last week to conduct a community testing. Lincoln County has had at least 10 outbreaks of COVID-19, many of them involving members of the Latino community.

Several members of the Clatsop team speak Spanish and the group tested 328 contacts of known cases in six hours.

#### SPORTS PROGRAMS

Outdoor athletic programs in the Warrenton-Hammond School District began Monday, June 22.

"If your athletes are anything like my children, they



Members of Clatsop County Public Health Department were in Lincoln County last week to help facilitate testing for COVID-19.

are chomping at the bit to have the opportunity to work out and get back to some normalcy," Warrenton High School Athletic Director Ian O'Brien wrote in a letter to parents.

Coaches will take it a bit easy initially because many students haven't been working out during the past few months, he said.

The workout opportunities aren't required, but are designed to help athletes prepare for fall, winter and spring sports.

To receive more information or guidelines for each sport, contact O'Brien at obrieni@warrentonk12.org.

#### LOCAL AND STATE PARKS

Warrenton's playgrounds opened Friday, June 19.

Users still will be required to maintain a 6-foot distance from others and avoid congregating in large groups.

Oregon State Parks have been reopening slowly since early May, but nearly every park is experiencing reduced levels of service due to a $22 million budget gap.

Some state parks won't reopen until after Labor Day, including Saddle Mountain State Natural Area.

Check park status at stateparks.oregon.gov.

#### OREGON'S POSITIVE CASE COUNT

Oregon's COVID-19 positive test rate is 3.3 percent, according to a testing update released by Oregon Health Authority.

There had been 27,671 tests administered as of late last week, with a cumulative 3.3 percent testing positive, considerably lower than the national average of 10 percent.

The number of tests performed has steadily increased each week, and the number of positive cases and the test positivity rate have increased significantly over the past two weeks.

Recent large outbreaks around the state also have contributed to the increases.

In early June, Oregon reached the threshold of testing 2 percent of the population each month, a national benchmark set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
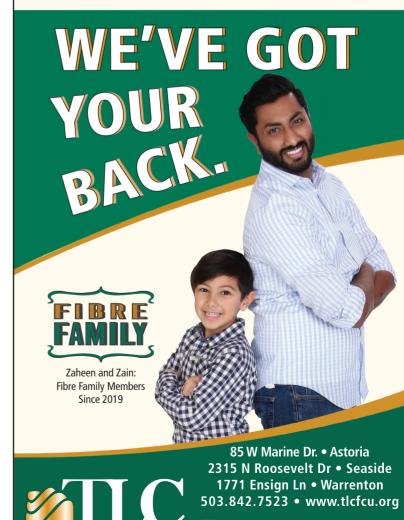
#### DMV UP AND RUNNING

The Department of Motor Vehicles has reopened and is taking appointments.

A moratorium on citations for expired driver licenses, permits, ID cards and vehicle registration was extended through Oct. 1.

The grace period is intended to allow Oregonians to keep driving while awaiting a DMV appointment as the agency works through a substantial backlog.