

Free face mask distribution

A distribution of free KN95 face masks will be held at nine locations from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 16.

KN95 masks filter up to 95 percent of particulates and create an airtight seal around the face.

Warrenton: Fire station, 225 S. Main Ave.

Astoria: Aquatic center, 1997 Marine Drive.

Lewis & Clark: Fire station, 34571 Highway 101 Bus.

Gearhart: Fire station, 670 Pacific Way.

Seaside: Fire station, 150 S. Lincoln.

Knappa: Fire station, 43114 Hillcrest Loop.

Cannon Beach: City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Westport: Community Church, 49246 Highway 30.

Elsie: Fire station, 42644 Loyd Lane.

In addition, there will be two mask distributions from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, hosted by the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council. They are:

Astoria: CMH Field, 1800 Williamsport Road.

Seaside: High School, 1901 N. Holladay Drive.

Follow posted directions at the location and, when you reach the front of the line, put your car in park, stay in the car and hold up your fingers to indicate the number of masks needed.

For more information, call 503-325-8645.

County's virus cases climb to 55

Clatsop County tallied eight additional cases of COVID-19 in the past week.

At least two of the cases had jobs that put them in contact with many people – an employee at an Astoria marijuana dispensary and a staff member at Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District in Seaside.

Two of the cases involved a vacationing couple from Arizona, who have since returned to Arizona after quarantining at a local motel, Public Health Director Michael McNickle said.

McNickle himself returned to work Monday after being diagnosed with the virus and spending 14 days in isolation.

"I'm one of those lucky people who have the virus and don't seem to have any outward symptoms," he said.

The county has had no deaths from the virus.

"We're starting to see community spread, where

it just seems to be jumping around," he said. "Regardless of whether it's community spread or an outbreak, we treat them the same. It's all the same virus."

Clatsop County commissioners also extended an emergency declaration at their meeting Wednesday, allowing the county's proclamation to coincide with state's.

The state has had 224 deaths from its total of 10,817 cases, as of Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the state reported an outbreak of 22 cases at Columbia River Processing, a dairy foods plant in Boardman.

The plant is a subsidiary of Tillamook County Creamery. Cases linked to the plan include family and contacts of infected workers.

State and county public health officials are working with the business to address the outbreak and protect the health of the employees.

Ethics hotline promotes accountability

Citizens have a way to share their concerns anonymously about potential improper government conduct while doing business with Clatsop County.

The Ethics Hotline, established to promote and maintain public trust, gives citizens, contractors, other public officials and county employees a tool to report suspected violations of policies or standards.

The hotline is one element of a new policy adopted by county commissioners last month to promote ethical conduct and accountability among its workforce. The policy details the reporting process, as well as how investigations of complaints will be conducted, and protects those making complaints from retaliation.

The county also is developing training and educa-

tion materials for the Board of Commissioners, employees and advisory committee members focusing on state ethics rules, harassment and other forms of misconduct.

The hotline is maintained by a third-party contractor, EthicsPoint.

Concerns can be made through a link on the county's website, www.co.clatsop.or.us, or by calling a toll-free number, 844-986-1444.

Collaboration offers boot camp for businesses

Bookkeeping.

The center will receive \$7,500 in direct and indirect support to fund the digital series, which will be offered free beginning Tuesday, July 14.

"Building relationships with organizations like the SBDC links directly to our vision and mission as a financial cooperative," Wauna Credit Union spokesman Michael Murdoch said of the cooperative. "Moreover, the SBDC truly fosters our local econo-

mies, encouraging profits to stay close to home and providing invaluable support to our neighborhoods and communities."

In addition to the bootcamp, community members looking to hone their leadership skills can participate in the "Books & Brews" club (see item on Page 8).

For more information and to register for the Summer Small Business Boot Camp, visit www.bizcenter.org/Clatsop.

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