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All grade levels may be allowed back on campus

By Cindy Yingst

The Columbia Press

Warrenton's youngest students begin attending on-campus classes on Monday.

Older students could follow a week later, Superintendent Tom Rogozinski told school board members at their meeting Wednesday night.

The COVID-19 metrics – an equation that the state uses to determine when students can return to in-person learning – have been improving.

The metrics require no more than 10 active cases per 100,000 population for all students to return. If there are more than 10 cases but fewer than 30, only students in kindergarten through grade three can return.

In Clatsop County, that means no more than four active COVID cases in a week. Three new cases were reported Wednesday.

But numbers have been low enough for a while to allow those in grades K-3 to return regardless.

"If the metrics stay below 10 (per 100,000) for one more week, students in kindergarten through grade 12 could come back Sept. 21," Rogozinski said.

Here's the current plan:

 Grades K-3 begin classes Monday, See Schools on Page 8



Above: Campers filled both the designated and overflow areas of Hammond Marina, with some parked outside camping boundaries (photo by Hugh McKenna).

Buoy 10 fishery was fast and frenetic

Left: The boat basin was a far quieter place this week (Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press).

By CINDY YINGST *The Columbia Press*

This year's Buoy 10 fishery was short on time and long on visitor problems.

Warrenton Police Chief Matt Workman described the popular two-week Columbia River salmon event as a bit of a free-for-all.

"It almost becomes a Vegas atmosphere," he said. "Some think they can do whatever they want while they're here."

Jane Sweet, Warrenton's harbormaster, described this year's short season as chaos compounded by staff shortages and a lack of adequate campsites.

"We were hit so hard so fast this year," Sweet told city commissioners Tuesday night. "Nobody knew what was happening." Buoy 10, the largest salmon fishery in the lower 48 states, had the shortest season in decades as fisheries managers predicted lower than normal returns. An estimated 438,300 fall Chinook were expected to enter the Columbia this year and only 181,000 coho adults.

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