

County, state have record bad COVID weeks

The Columbia Press

Clatsop County had one of its worst weeks for new virus cases since the pandemic began. Twenty-one new cases of COVID-19 were reported during the week that ended Wednesday.

The new cases were scattered throughout the county and from all age groups, including two children and two women in their 80s.

It brings the county's total case count to 271 and includes one hospitalization. All other new cases are convalescing at home. Clatsop has had no deaths and 234 had recovered as of Wednesday.

The state has recorded 47,049 cases as of Wednesday, with a death toll of 705.

It was the second consecutive week in which daily case counts set record highs for the pandemic.

Since the pandemic and testing began, Clatsop County has had a 3.72 percent cumulative positive test rate. Statewide, the cumulative positive test rate is 5.29 percent, and nationwide, the rate is 6.25 percent.

The state changed its rules recently on school reopening metrics, which brought good news for Clatsop

County schools. The youngest students in the Warrenton-Hammond district have returned to in-person classes three days a week.

An outbreak of 39 cases was reported at the Fred Meyer Distribution Center in Clackamas.

QUARANTINE PAID LEAVE

Employees who've had to be off work due to quarantines or while waiting for COVID-19 testing can receive temporary paid leave benefits from the state if not compensated by their workplace.

More than \$2 million was dispersed and 2,000 people statewide have been approved for the program. However, money still is available.

Employees who work in Oregon can apply online for the COVID-19 Temporary Paid Leave Program at oregon.gov/covidpaidleave. The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services is administering the program.

To qualify, residents must work in Oregon and file personal income tax returns. They must have been directed to quarantine by a health care provider because of exposure to an infected person or COVID-related symp-

toms.

Because the available funds are limited, the program is available only to quarantine periods that were in place on or after Sept. 16. Applicants can claim only one quarantine period.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

The pandemic isn't just making you fat and anxious.

Pediatricians are seeing a rise in childhood obesity and mental health issues due to the pandemic, according to one study.

The percentage of children considered obese is expected to jump in 2020, after declining slightly in the past 10 years.

Mental health issues among children and teens range from sadness and stress to anxiety and depression.

The kids aren't all right, said Dr. Lisa Denike, chief of pediatrics for Kaiser Permanente Northwest. COVID-19 has fueled stress eating, inequities, and lack of fitness.

"We've seen kids gain 10-20 pounds in a year, who may have had a BMI (body mass index) as a preteen in the 50th or 75th percentile and are now in the 95th percentile, which is a significant crossing of percentiles into obesity," Denike said.

Enrollment opens for health plans

Pandemic-related job losses have increased the number of Oregonians eligible for help with health insurance. The Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace estimates thousands may be newly eligible.

In recent years, Oregon had made strides in reducing the uninsured rate, according to the state Department of Consumer and Business Services.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, 94 percent of all Oregonians had health coverage. Since the pandemic, hundreds of thousands have either lost jobs or experienced an income loss.

Insurance agents and community partners can help those applying for financial assistance and choosing private plans. Consumers can also browse plans and

find out how much savings they're eligible for by going to OregonHealthCare.gov/WindowShop.

Oregonians who do not get health insurance through their job or a program such as the Oregon Health Plan or Medicare may qualify for help paying for coverage at OregonHealthCare.gov.

Even if people are temporarily uninsured, they can sign up for help by the Dec. 15 deadline to get insurance for next year.

"A pandemic is no time to go without health insurance and the essential health benefits that come with it," said Chiqui Flowers, administrator of the agency.

Those making \$51,040 or less per year, and families of four making \$104,800 or less, may get help paying for coverage.

City of Warrenton Committee Vacancies

The City of Warrenton seeks people interested in applying for vacancies on the City's various committees. We have vacancies on the following boards:

- **Warrenton Budget Committee** - 2 positions (3 year term)
- **Warrenton Planning Commission** - 2 positions (4 year term)
- **Warrenton Community Center Board** - 4 positions (4 year term)
- **Warrenton Parks Advisory Board** - 2 positions (3 year term)
- **Warrenton Parks Advisory Board** - 1 vacancy (1 year term)
- **Warrenton Community Library Board** - 4 positions (4 year term)
- **Warrenton Urban Renewal Advisory Committee** - 3 positions (2 year term)

Applications are due by Nov. 30, 2020.

This is an excellent opportunity to participate in the important decisions affecting your community.

For more information and appointment qualifications go to the City's website at www.ci.warrenton.or.us, (click on the "Community" tab at top of the page and then "Citizen Involvement" from the drop-down menu). If you need additional information, please contact Dawne Shaw, City Recorder at 503-861-0823 or via email at cityrecorder@ci.warrenton.or.us.

Public safety calls

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1200 block 19th Street. Unfounded.

• Unpermitted burn, 4:11 p.m. Nov. 1, 100 block Southwest Birch Avenue.

MEDICAL CALLS

• Female who fell and has head injury, 4:56 p.m. Oct. 29, 33400 block Sunset Beach Lane.

• Female with diabetic issue, 8:21 p.m. Oct. 29, 500 block Seventh Court.

• Female lift assist, 2:02 a.m. Oct. 30, 100 block Cedar Avenue.

• Female fall patient, 3:52 a.m. Oct. 30, 2000 block Azalea Avenue.

• Recovery of body, 2:05 p.m. Oct. 30, Highway 101 off Youngs Bay Bridge.

• Female down, 9:30 p.m. Oct. 30, Nineteenth Street and Bugle Avenue.

• Unknown medical issue, 3:43 p.m. Oct. 31, 400 block North Main Avenue.

• Possible stroke victim, 6:27 p.m. Oct. 31, 1100 block South Main Avenue.

• Water rescue on sunken boat, 10:44 a.m. Nov. 1, Hammond Marina.

• Assist Medix with extraction, 7 a.m. Nov. 1, 1200 block Southwest Cedar Avenue.

• Assist Medix with extraction, 5:25 p.m. Nov. 1, 2200 block Dolphin Avenue.

• Female who's not feeling well, 8:22 a.m. Nov. 2, 200 block Southwest Second Street.

• Female having a seizure, 9:01 a.m. Nov. 3, 300 block Marlin Avenue.