



Courtesy Oregon Health Authority

Air Force veteran Nancy Sprauer of Sisters receives her COVID-19 vaccination at a VA Clinic in Bend.

Vaccine supply can't match demand

The Columbia Press

Clatsop County recorded just three new cases of COVID-19 in the past seven days ending Wednesday.

It brings the total case count to 783 since the pandemic arrived here a year ago. Eighteen people had been hospitalized and six had died. All others had recovered or are recuperating at home.

Statewide, there had been a total of 156,287 coronavirus cases with 2,252 deaths.

In addition to a drop in cases locally, there is more good news this week.

More than 1 million vaccines have been administered statewide, Oregon Health Authority reported Wednesday.

People 65 and older are eligible to receive the vaccine, as are first-responders, educators and those working in health care. Clatsop County is struggling to keep up with the demand, however.

"Eligibility" does not necessarily mean "availability," health officials point out.

Some have questioned why local vaccine clinics aren't yet open to people declared eligible by the state. The answer: supply.

Those 80 and older were declared eligible on Feb. 8. Eligibility was extended to those 75

Getting a vaccine

Visit the county's website at co.clatsop.or.us/public-health or call the Clatsop County Public Health Department at 503-325-8500.

and older on Feb. 15, to those 70 and older on Feb. 22, and to 65 and older on March 1.

However, due to the limited vaccine supply delivered to Clatsop County, there are many residents 80 and older who have yet to receive their first dose.

The local Vaccine Task Force – a partnership of the Clatsop County Public Health Department, Columbia Memorial Hospital and Providence Seaside Hospital – is prioritizing vaccinations for seniors by age.

When all residents 80 and older who want the vaccine have received at least a first dose, then vaccinations will open to those 75 and older, followed by those in the younger age groups.

A week ago – on Feb. 26 -- 6,555 shots had been given in Clatsop County, and 2,371 residents were fully vaccinated.

The Task Force had scheduled four clinics this week to deliver 1,300 shots – including 600 second doses.

Westport site of newest county park

The Columbia Press

Clatsop County is about to get a new and improved county park with boat ramps, boarding docks and other recreational facilities.

Westport County Park off Highway 30, about 25 miles east of Astoria, was made possible by the donation of 27 acres from Georgia Pacific's Wauna Mill.

In January, the Oregon State Marine Board approved a \$640,000 grant for boating facilities at the park.

And on Feb. 23, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners kicked in \$250,000 for its required grant match and hired two companies that will build seven boarding docks and precast concrete boat ramp planks, which must be delivered by contract before June 30.

Clatsop County has been working with the Marine Board for more than a decade on improvements to the Westport boating facility, which is the site of the southern terminus of the last regularly operating car ferry on the lower Columbia River. The hourly ferry runs between Puget Island near Cathlamet, Wash., and Westport.

Four years ago, the Marine Board gave the county a grant to obtain necessary permits from federal, state and local authorities.

Planned improvements include restrooms, a floating kayak launch dock, a gangway, boarding docks, short-term boat tie-up docks and a paved parking lot.

The county has operated the boat ramp since 1972. The current ramp consists of a two-lane ramp with wooden boarding floats and is at the end of its life.

The area has been popular



Cindy Yingst/The Columbia Press

The ferry approach to Westport County Park, which will soon get a complete makeover.

during the spring Chinook salmon fishery and is used by anglers and duck hunters in the fall. But just 1,800 boaters use the facility annually.

While the boat ramp and dock have been there for decades, the area's potential hasn't been fully realized because of limited parking and the poor condition of the current facilities. The land donation has changed everything.

KG Manufacturing of Red-

mond will build the seven 6-by 20-foot aluminum boarding docks for \$106,924.

Oregon Precast of Prineville will build the concrete boat ramp planks for \$82,975.

The docks and ramp planks will be delivered to a nearby county maintenance yard so that there are no delays waiting for materials when the federal in-water work window opens later in the year.

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