

Transit agency wants essential status from state

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Sunset Empire Transportation District has installed plexiglass barriers around drivers, blocked forward seats to separate them from passengers and sanitized buses every four hours. So far, the measures have avoided any coronavirus cases among the agency's 26 drivers.

But Jeff Hazen, the transit district's executive director, and other transit officials around Oregon are asking that front-line staff be some of the first essential workers to receive vaccines after people in health care and nursing homes.

Since the early days of the pandemic, public transportation has played a criti-

cal role in transporting essential front-line workers to their jobs in health care, education, utilities and at grocery stores," Hazen wrote to the Clatsop County Public Health Department. "At (Sunset Empire), our employees have been heroes moving heroes. Public transit workers have worked throughout the pandemic to move our community and to help our economy recover."

Michael McNickle, the county's public health director, said local public health officials follow the recommendations passed down from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the Oregon Health Authority. Local public health officials are still waiting to hear from the state on who to vaccinate first, he said.

"There's an astounding

amount of silence from OHA on that piece," McNickle said.

Front-line health care workers are first in line for vaccines, along with residents and staff at long-term care facilities. A committee advising the CDC recommended that people older than 75 and front-line essential workers be next in line. The committee included emergency responders, corrections officers, postal workers, farmers, grocery store workers and transit workers as essential.

"Several states designated transit workers as essential early on in the outbreak, but Oregon did not make the same designation," Hazen wrote to his board of directors.

Andi Howell, the president of the Oregon Transit

Association's board and the transit director for Sandy, sent a similar letter to Gov. Kate Brown imploring the state to follow national guidelines.

"I and my peers who manage transit operations have seen on a daily basis the anxiety and fear experienced by our transit employees as so many have tested positive at a rate much higher than the general population," Howell wrote. "This is a result of being continuously exposed to large groups of transit-dependent riders in close proximity within a confined space."

"In addition, they have also had to deal with the added stress of being forced to assume the role of 'mask police' and have been on the receiving end of hostile comments from those who see mask wearing as government overreach."



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Who gets vaccinated when will ultimately depend on how quickly vaccines can be distributed, McNickle said.

"If we don't get enough, they're going to have to re-prioritize within those priorities again," he said. "I'm hoping there will be enough vaccine that they won't have to continue refining their priorities."

MEMORIAL

Dec. 18, 2020

HURNER, Christine Ann, 67, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



Dec. 6

1:24 p.m., Turnaround: Intoxicated males creating a disturbance decline to identify themselves. They left the area.

11:56 p.m., 12th and Prom: A person is warned of overnight camping.

Dec. 7

7:50 p.m., 900 block Avenue J: An argument reported between a woman and her brother was verbal in nature only.

9:14 p.m., 1200 block S. Roosevelt: A woman reported two transients she said made her uneasy as she was entering a store; police talk to the transients who say they will move along.

Dec. 8

7:46 a.m., Alpine Street, Aldercrest: A person sleeping under a tree on private property is advised he is trespassed.

Dec. 9

1:58 a.m., 500 block S. Edgewood: Transients in the area reported trespassing on private property are advised of the complaint and told to stay off private property.

4:28 a.m., Avenue A: A transient reported sleeping in a parking structure is checked on. They say they will move on.

7:59 a.m., 900 block N. Wahnana: Subjects reported suspicious seem surprised when informed of the complaint because they don't think they're doing anything odd.

11:12 a.m., 1800 block S. Roosevelt: Officers assist relaunching into flight a seagull stunned by a car.

1:39 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.

3:18 p.m., 900 block S. Holladay: A caller reported trespassing a subject trying to pick up his wife's final paycheck. Police arrived to facilitate the transfer of the check and the subject and former employee were trespassed indefinitely.

Dec. 10

9:27 a.m., 700 block S. Wahnana: Caller reports angry person in the parking lot. Officers contact subject and the issue is resolved.

9:28 a.m., 1900 block Lewis and Clark Road: Emergency medical response.

3:47 p.m., 1200 block Beach Drive: Caller reports woman going from house to house, entering unlocked doors and insisting her mother was inside. Police are unable to locate.

4:47 p.m., Mill Ponds: A disturbance is reported. Parties involved agree to leave each other alone.

Dec. 11

10:18 a.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: A transient is trespassed from a local business.

1:53 p.m., Beach and Avenue N: A person is warned of unlawful lodging.

5:16 p.m., Forest Drive: Property crimes are reported.

5:41 p.m., Third and Downing: A man reported intoxicated and lying on the ground is found by police in an empty lot. Police request assistance from Medix and the man is transported to the hospital.

5:56 p.m., Pocket Park: Transients are reported possibly setting up camp.

8:18 p.m., Highway 101: Caller reports another driver tailgating and nearly running them off

the road at the Gearhart merge. Police locate the subject vehicle and learn the complaint is mutual. The subject is advised to follow less closely.

10:01 p.m., U.S. Highway 101 and Sixth Avenue: Caller reports man yelling in the roadway. Police intercept subject who is known to have mental health issues. He said he was yelling and running away from the caller who has an aggressive dog.

Dec. 12

5:04 a.m., 900 block Broadway: A transient is warned of unlawful lodging.

9:50 a.m., 900 block Third Avenue: A dog bite is reported.

10:45 a.m., 10th and Necanicum: A person is arrested on a warrant.

4:08 p.m., 1300 block Stillwater Court: Property crimes are reported.

5:25 p.m., 300 block Broadway: Property crimes are reported.

6:16 p.m., Outlet Mall: A transient camping in a doorway is trespassed and advised to move along.

8:08 p.m., 200 block Broadway: Police respond to a report of a teen not wearing a mask and refusing to leave when asked. It's determined the teen has a medical issue and does not wear a mask.

9:14 p.m., 1100 block Avenue A: A disturbance is reported.

Dec. 13

1:15 p.m., N. Holladay: Subjects who showed up intoxicated at a hotel are advised they are at the wrong hotel. Police offer them a courtesy ride to their correct accommodation.

4:13 p.m., Avenue N and Beach: A transient setting up camp is advised of local ordinances and agrees to pack up and move on.

5:12 p.m., Avenue K and Dunes: Subjects reported having a campfire too close to beach grass agree to move their fire.

6:42 p.m., Cove and Sunset Boulevard: A subject reporting allowing their dog to roam loose in the neighborhood collected their dog and left the area prior to police arrival.

6:47 p.m., 800 block Fourth Avenue: A person reported sleeping in an alleyway tells police they don't need help and requests they be left alone.

7:43 p.m., Avenue A: A missing person is reported.

Dec. 14

4:31 a.m., 1200 block S. Roosevelt: While on patrol, police noticed a parked car running in a parking lot. The driver was asleep inside. The person said they were fine, didn't need medical assistance. No further action was taken.

8:26 a.m., 900 block Avenue S: A report was made for a broken door of a business.

11:44 a.m., S. Lincoln: Police responding to a report of a disturbance are given no assistance or information relating to the event by one of the involved parties; the other party left the area prior to police arrival.

3:12 p.m., 400 block Broadway: An iPhone found by a good citizen is turned into police for safekeeping.

5:37 p.m., Ocean Way restroom: An intoxicated person reported in the men's restroom left before police arrived.

10:24 p.m., 200 block S. Holladay: Property crimes are reported.

Dec. 15

10:27 a.m., Cove: Property crimes are reported in the wooded area.

3:18 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: Police contact the operator of a commercial trailer parked on the street for too long. The driver is advised he needs to get a permit.

8:44 p.m., 1900 block N. Holladay: A missing person is reported.

10:12 p.m., 1900 block N. Holladay: Caller reports elk in the roadway. Officers on arrival see no elk.

Dec. 16

5:25 p.m., Avenue A: A caller requests a transient subject be trespassed from a resort property. Police locate the described individual and advise him of trespass.

10:33 p.m., 900 block Irvine Place: Police check on a subject reported "acting strange." The subject declines to interact with police and indicates no help is needed.

Dec. 18

8:29 a.m., Beach and Shilo Inn: Police and emergency personnel respond to a report of two kids playing in the water/report of a need for water rescue. They are unable to locate anyone in the ocean or of that description.

8:53 p.m., 2400 block U.S. Highway 101: Police respond to a report of a woman screaming; the woman says she doesn't need help and is just venting.



Dec. 3

12:18 p.m., U.S. Highway 101 and North Y: Motor accident with injuries reported.

5:20 p.m., 800 block First Avenue: Emergency medical response.

Dec. 4

1:59 p.m., 800 block S. Holladay: Emergency medical response.

3:36 p.m., Social Security Beach: Water rescue.

Dec. 5

12:51 p.m., Avenue A: Emergency medical response.

Dec. 7

6 a.m., 2300 block Mill Creek Lane: Emergency medical response.

12:31 p.m., 1100 block N. Roosevelt: Fire alarm.

12:28 p.m., Haystack Rock, Cannon Beach: Water rescue.

Dec. 8

11:24 a.m., 1300 block Kyla Lane: Emergency medical response.

2:07 p.m., 900 block N. Holladay Drive: Emergency medical response.

Dec. 9

10:42 p.m., 1100 block Broadway: Fire and police are on scene for a gas/smoke/chemical situation reported in a building.

Dec. 10

12:47 p.m., 1500 block N. Roosevelt: Fire alarm.

5:35 p.m., 2100 block Beach Drive: Emergency medical response.

Dec. 11

2:01 a.m., 800 block Avenue M: Emergency medical response.

11:48 a.m., S. Wahnana: Emergency medical response.

2:02 p.m., S. Lincoln: Emergency medical response.

Dec. 13

10:18 a.m., 1700 block Thompson Falls Road: Emergency

medical response.

1:50 p.m., 1300 block S. Roosevelt: Fire investigation.

Dec. 14

9:16 p.m., 400 block S. Holladay: Emergency medical response.

10:16 p.m., N. Holladay: Emergency medical response.

Dec. 16

8:55 a.m., Arcadia Beach: Water rescue.

Dec. 18

9:04 p.m., 300 block Fourth Avenue: Emergency medical response.

11:22 p.m., 400 block S. Downing: Emergency medical response.



Driving under the influence

Police responded Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., to a report of a car slid off the roadway. On U.S.

Highway 26 at mile post 6, eastbound, they saw the car. The driver and sole occupant appeared extremely intoxicated. Carolyn Elizabeth Chauncey, 66, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants. She was transported to Clatsop County Jail where she willingly provided a .19% blood alcohol content three hours after the report was made. Her car was towed by Gary's Towing.

Icy roads result in rollovers

State troopers responded to a rollover accident on U.S. Highway 26 at milepost 5 Dec. 12 at 7:47 a.m. A 52-year-old man driving a Chevy pickup lost control on ice and crashed into a ditch. He was uninjured and the truck removed by Classic Towing.

On Dec. 12 at 8:15 a.m., another driver met with ice and lost control on U.S. Highway 26 at milepost 2, landing in the westbound ditch. The 54-year-old Seaside man driving was not injured and called for his own tow.

Two-car crash

Police responded Dec. 15 to a

crash on U.S. Highway 101 and Glenwood Village Lane. One driver traveling southbound turned from U.S. Highway 101 immediately in front of another driver traveling northbound. The driver of the first car, a 78-year-old woman from Seaside, was injured and taken to Providence Seaside Hospital. Affordable Towing removed both cars from the scene.

Crashed

A single car crash happened Dec. 17 at 6:46 p.m. on U.S. Highway 101 near milepost 17. Police say a white Ford SUV traveling southbound unexpectedly left the highway and crashed into a tree. The driver, a 67-year-old man from Seaside, was transported by Medix to Providence Seaside Hospital for evaluation. Classic Towing towed the SUV.

Disabled truck

A 39-year-old man who told troopers he felt suicidal was transported to Providence Seaside Hospital Dec. 17 at 9:58 p.m. after troopers responded to a report of a vehicle stuck in sand on Sunset Beach. Sons of Beaches recovered his disabled truck and secured it at the beach entry.

Thank you for bringing Christmas cheer home for the holidays!

Your generosity helped raise over \$83,000 to expand cardiac services on the north coast.

Special thanks to our sponsors

SAFeway
Foundation

AVAMERE
SEASIDE

Bank of the Pacific

SUZANNE ELISE
ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY

Gregg & Laura
Freedman

First
Interstate Bank

Nicolle
Landwehr, CFP

LEWIS & CLARK
BANK

PACIFIC POWER

Bob & Honey
Perkel

TICOR TITLE™

Fibre Federal
CREDIT UNION

To view the trees or donate, go to
ProvidenceFoundations.org/seasidegala.

Seaside
Safeway | Providence
Festival
of Trees

PROVIDENCE
Seaside
Hospital Foundation