

County task force in position for vaccine rollout

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The slow rollout of coronavirus vaccines has left health care leaders in the uncomfortable position of telling people at risk from the virus they will have to wait.

Chris Laman, the director of pharmacy and cancer center services at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, who is leading Clatsop County's vaccine task force, said the most common questions come from seniors with underlying health conditions who want to know if they can get vaccinated.

"Unfortunately, the answer is just 'no,'" he said. "As vaccines become more available, we'll be able to move down the list and get to you."

"It's not the task force's job to identify who the next group is," he said. "We're going to use the (Oregon Health

Authority) guidelines to guide how those decisions are made. It's not the task force arbitrarily making decisions about who the next person is to get the shot."

Nearly all of the vaccines in the county have been administered — 1,847 as of Friday — and the county Public Health Department, hospitals and other organizations charged with distribution are anxiously waiting for more doses.

Mixed messages from the federal and state governments on when new shipments will arrive — and who will be next in the priority line — have caused confusion and some resentment.

Mark Kujala, the chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, who works for the Columbia Memorial Hospital Foundation, said he is frustrated by the lack of communication.

He said the most important



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Chris Laman, the director of pharmacy and cancer center services at Columbia Memorial Hospital, is leading a county vaccine task force during the coronavirus pandemic.

thing for people to know is that "once we receive vaccines we've got a framework in place to distribute them efficiently."

The county, in partnership with Columbia Memorial and Providence Seaside Hospital, created the vaccine task force to manage the rollout locally.

The task force was formalized in January, with Laman in the lead role. He said more organizations have started to get involved, including Coastal Family Health Cen-

ter, local pharmacies and the Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization, which oversees the Oregon Health Plan in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties.

Laman said the hospitals and Coastal Family Health Center have given their doses to the Public Health Department "so that the task force can be in complete control of who's getting vaccinated, where the events are happening and making sure that everything is coordinated and

rolled out in a good manner.

"Our county is ahead of many counties in terms of the fact that we have a task force," he said. "We have a way to register. We've got a way to follow up with people. We have the plans in place to be able to roll this out as soon as we get the vaccine."

Vaccinations started with health care, emergency response, long-term care and other care home staff. The task force will use the remaining vaccines for the more than 400 people left on the priority list in the first phase, which includes in-home care services, dentist offices and group foster homes.

Some essential county staff, elected officials and social service agency staffers have also been vaccinated.

A county spokesman said some county commissioners were vaccinated because they make up the county's governing body — an integral part of

keeping the county functioning and directing services and programs. The spokesman said it was also a way to reassure the public that the vaccine is safe.

Columbia Memorial and Providence Seaside will receive some second doses this week for hospital staff.

As vaccines become available, the task force will notify the public on Wednesdays, with information about when and where the next vaccination event will take place, who is eligible and how to register.

The process will look the same when second doses become available.

The next phase includes about 1,200 teachers and other educators.

After a delay Gov. Kate Brown blamed on the Trump administration, seniors are expected to be placed into four tiers for vaccination: those over 80, those over 75, those over 70 and those over 65.

OBITUARIES

Marion "Frank" Kelley

Prescott, Arizona
May 12, 1939 — Jan. 4, 2021

Marion "Frank" Kelley, 81, passed away on Jan. 4, 2021, at the Arizona Pioneers' Home in Prescott, Arizona. Frank was born in Prescott to Ira and Mary (Catron) Kelley.

He worked most of his life as a bartender, gaining quite the reputation for his skills and sense of humor wherever he worked. Even if he hadn't seen you in years, and might not have remembered your name, he would have remembered your beverage choice.

He loved both the beach and the desert, finding his spiritual grounding in whichever was nearer to him.

Frank was proud of the fact that he had come full circle, living the last years of his life in the same city he was born in.



Frank is survived by his wife of 57 years, Patricia; sisters, Rita Wuehrmann, Victoria Whited and Christina Vickers; brother, David Kelley; daughters, Shannon Hostetler and Mary Kerleé; granddaughter, Brianna Hostetler; and grandsons, Michael and Mason Hall.

Suzanne Englund Fleck

Newberg
July 3, 1939 — Jan. 3, 2021

Suzanne "Suzie" Englund Fleck, 81, of Coquille, passed away on Jan. 3, 2021. A family graveside service was held Jan. 9, and a celebration of life gathering will be planned for later this year.

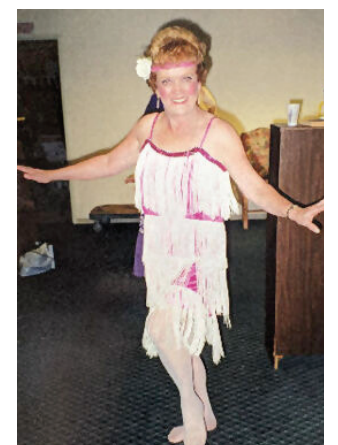
She was born in Astoria on July 3, 1939. Suzie graduated from Astoria High School in 1957. She then attended the University of Oregon, where in 1961 she received a bachelor's degree in health/physical education and recreation, and was a member of the Tri Delta sorority.

She was married to James Franklin Fleck on Jan. 21, 1961. Suzie held many positions in her career, working with youth, adults and the elderly, centering around activities and recreation. She retired from her final position as activities director at Heritage Place assisted living in Bandon in 2005.

She had a passion for swimming, singing, fishing, traveling, playing her accordion, dancing, family, friends, playing dress-up with grandkids and was an avid University of Oregon Ducks football fan.

She is preceded in death by her father, Axel Englund; mother, Freda Englund; and husband, James Fleck.

No one had more fun than she did. She was our sunshine.



OBITUARY POLICY

The Seaside Signal publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



Jan. 8
10:44 a.m., 1100 block N. Roosevelt: Caller advises a baby has been left unattended in a parked car. On arrival, police see the baby is being watched by an 11-year-old child. The caller is advised.
4:33 p.m. 300 block S. Roosevelt: Subjects are trespassed from a business.
Jan. 9
3:17 a.m., 900 block Avenue S: A person is arrested on a warrant.
4:08 a.m., Public Parking: A subject sleeping in the garage is advised to move along.
12:08 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to register as a sex offender.
12:26 p.m., 1200 block Avenue A: A disturbance is reported.
Jan. 10
12:35 p.m., 900 block S. Holladay: Police receive a call from a business regarding a customer refusing to wear a mask. The situation is resolved prior to police arrival.
2:45 p.m., Avenue K and Prom: A person is arrested on a warrant.
Jan. 11
8:38 a.m., 1300 block N. Holladay: Property crimes are reported.
9:10 a.m., 500 block S. Roosevelt: Property crimes are reported.
9:16 a.m., Saltline Hotel: Property crimes are reported.
9:16 a.m., Fifth and Prom: Caller reports graffiti on bench. Graffiti is also reported on a bench at Fifth and Columbia.
9:54 a.m., 300 block S. Columbia: A person is arrested on a warrant.
12:07 a.m., 900 block Second Avenue: Sex crimes are reported.
3:56 a.m., 200 block S. Roosevelt: A man reported urinating in a drive-through is trespassed from the business.
5:08 p.m., 400 block N. Holladay Drive: A man reported

standing in the street with his underwear pulled down is cited for disorderly conduct.
Jan. 12
7:51 a.m., 300 block S. Columbia: Property crimes are reported.
9:16 a.m., 2100 block S. Franklin: Caller reports unknown man knocking on her door two days in a row. The man declined to identify himself. Police canvassed the area with negative results.
9:25 a.m., Cove: Caller reports man parked on the grass by the Sailor's Grave. The car is gone prior to police arrival.
1:24 p.m., 700 block 12th Avenue: Caller reports a subject in a moving van attempting to enter his gated property. The driver left prior to police arrival. Police searched the area looking for the described van with negative results.
4:06 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports shoplifter in Safeway. The subject left the premises prior to police arrival. It is not known what, if anything, was stolen. The subject is located soon after and is trespassed from the store.
Jan. 14
9:31 p.m. Turnaround: Caller reports motorcycles racing around the Turnaround area. Police are unable to locate.
10:30 p.m., 300 block S. Wahanna: Sex crimes are reported.



Jan. 7
7:11 a.m., N. Wahanna Road: Fire alarm.
Jan. 8
3:48 p.m., Forest Drive: Fire personnel assist another agency.
Jan. 9
8:05 a.m., Avenue G Bridge: Water rescue.
Jan. 10
1:09 a.m., 400 block S. Downing: Emergency medical response.
1:23 p.m., 2600 block Sunset Blvd.: Fire investigation.

1:53 p.m., 8300 block S. Wahanna: Assist another agency.
8:04 p.m., 200 block Broadway: Emergency medical response. Another agency is assisted.
Jan. 12
3:06 p.m., 1900 block N. Holladay: Fire alarm.
9:09 p.m., 900 block Avenue G: Emergency medical response.
10:15 p.m., 1000 block Avenue I: Emergency medical response.
10:37 p.m., 1900 block N. Holladay: Emergency medical response.
Jan. 13
12:57 a.m., Ocean Way restrooms: Emergency medical response.
3:20 p.m., 1400 block S. Roosevelt: Emergency medical response.
4:21 p.m., 900 block Avenue H: Emergency medical response.
Jan. 14
1:18 a.m., 1000 block S. Holladay: Fire alarm.
6:50 a.m., N. Prom: Emergency medical response.
3:13 a.m., 600 block E. Sixth Street: Structure fire.



Rollover accident
Troopers went to U.S. Highway 26 and Wunsch Road Jan. 6 at 11:48 a.m. for a report of a rollover crash. On arrival they saw a blue Volkswagen Tiguan resting on its top; the driver wasn't injured and refused medical transport. As she appeared impaired she was arrested for driving while under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. Susan Ella Myers, 64 of Long Beach, Washington, was taken to Seaside police headquarters for processing. She was released on her own recognizance and returns to court March 9.
Lost control
Police responded to a crash Jan. 7 at 4:35 p.m. on U.S. Highway 101 southbound by Perkins Lane.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR




KMUN recently replaced our industrial air conditioning unit at the Megler Mtn. transmitter site. Even in the winter, temperatures inside the equipment building can quickly reach 90F or higher. Keeping the broadcast equipment cool is essential to staying on the air.

This upgrade was made possible by the members, foundations, and other community entities who donated to this third and final year of Radio For Good.

THANK YOU for your continued support!



PO Box 269 Astoria kmun.org 503-325-0010