



R.J. Marx

Main entrance, Providence Seaside Hospital.

Covid: New statewide outdoor mask rules set

Continued from Page A1

The Clatsop County COVID Vaccine Task Force reported over 100 cases in the county between Aug. 14 and last Friday. The task force said that 14 patients were admitted to area hospitals during that time period. Ten were unvaccinated and four were vaccinated.

Some exceptions for visitors at Providence are in place for certain patients, including the emergency department, labor and delivery, pediatric inpatient and people with disabilities.

In these cases, visitors must be at least 16 years old, wear a mask fully covering their nose and mouth and remain in the patient room unless entering or exiting the medical center.

Everyone must wear a mask in the hospital and maintain a physical distance of 6 feet.

North Coast Family Fellowship

Pastor John K. Nagle, in a letter to parishioners at North Coast Family Fellowship, said last week that "a number of our staff members have contracted COVID."

Nagle said he was diagnosed as COVID positive, along with two staff members. "None of us are, at this moment, horribly ill, but we are definitely 'out of commission' for the next 10 days provided that our symptoms are gone for 24 hours prior to 'reentry,'" he said.

The church has limited access for all but essential staff and volunteers, he said. Sunday services were held online.

"The ultimate goal of these steps is to allow us to keep anyone else from getting ill and to get back to safe operations as soon as possible," Nagle said.

The church will not ask anyone if they have been vaccinated, according to their website.

"We realize that some of our people are prayerfully and conscientiously choosing not to take the vaccination," according to the site.

Hood to Coast

With the "Mother of All Relays" coming to Seaside this weekend, organizers say their top priority is "preserving participant and volunteer safety."

Nonvaccinated participants are asked to carry face-coverings and use them within six-feet of other participants. Runners and walkers will be provided with a face covering if they

do not have one. Random spot checks will be administered for a digital photo of vaccination cards.

"We're asking all participants, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks at the race starts, exchanges, and finish party," Dan Floyd, Hood to Coast Chief Operating Officer, said Tuesday. "We also ask them to wear face-coverings on the race course, if a safe-distance cannot be achieved. We have 200 miles of race course, so we believe a safe distance can be achieved for nearly all of the event."

Start waves take place every 5 minutes over 13 hours. Participants are required to wear a mask at the start, exchanges and finish.

The event will feature additional portable toilets, hand-washing stations, sanitizers and contactless team registration.

Masks will be required for volunteers, the Seaside Chamber of Commerce announced. The chamber will have hand-washing stations and cleaning supplies to keep the area sanitized.

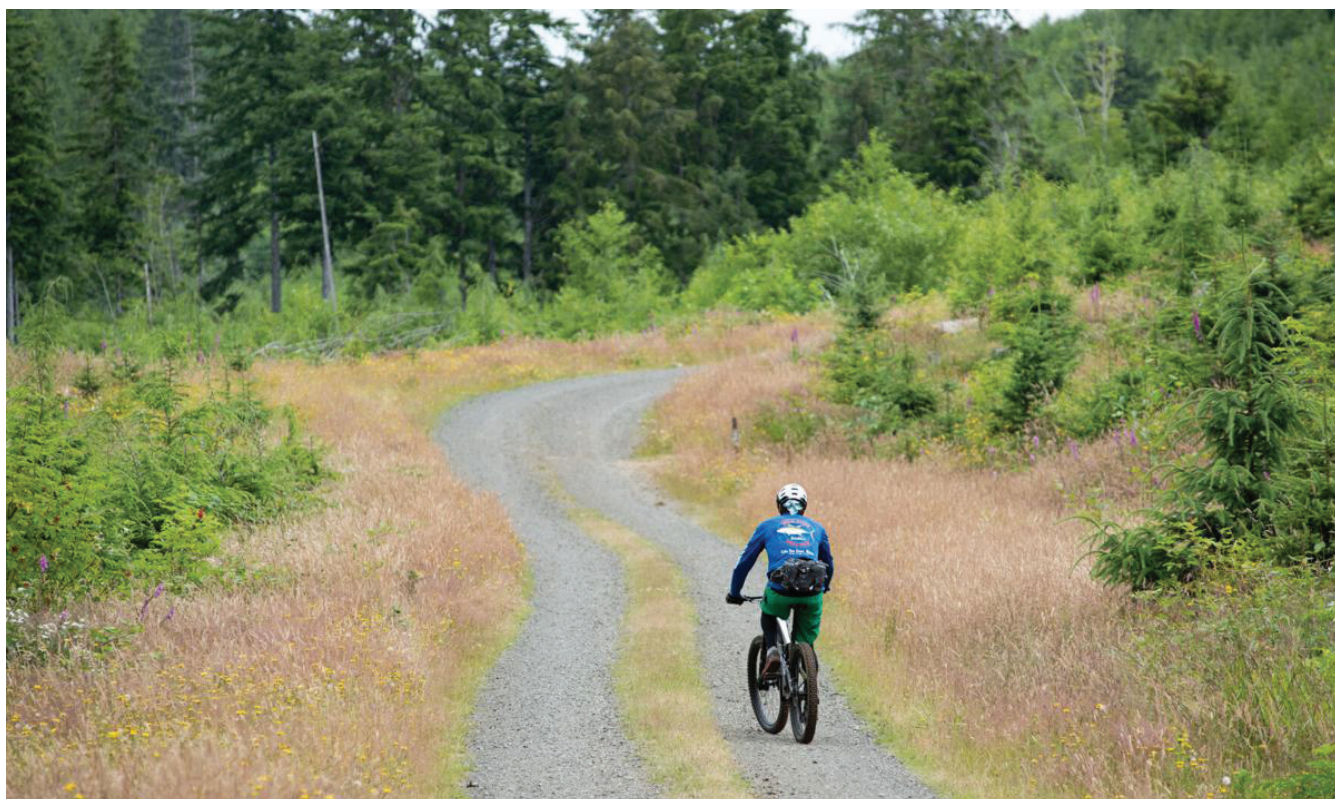
City, park district

There are no changes at City Hall, with in-person meetings and mask required. City Council and Planning Commission meetings are recorded and livestreamed.

Gov. Kate Brown announced this week new statewide outdoor mask requirements to help stop the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant, effective Friday. Masks will be required in all public outdoor settings where physical distancing is not possible, regardless of vaccination status. The Oregon Health Authority also strongly recommends masking for outdoor gatherings at private residences when maintaining physical distance is not possible with individuals from different households.

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District will require employees to receive vaccinations against the coronavirus, with the exception of those who have religious or medical exemptions.

Youth programs reopened Monday after closing last Friday due to a staff member who tested positive for the coronavirus. A positive test among staff brought a closure to preschool classrooms this week, with a tentative reopening in early September.



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

A rider begins the climb up a logging road to find a mountain bike trail in a section of Lewis & Clark Timberlands near Klootch Creek County Park.

Managing the region as a working playland

By EMILY LINDBLOM
The Astorian

As a working playland, the North Coast is full of opportunities for hiking, biking, fishing and hunting while also being home to major industries, including forestry and fisheries.

Several companies, organizations and government agencies have found ways to form a relationship between outdoor recreation, industry and habitat management.

Klootch Creek County Park southeast of Seaside is the site of the former largest Sitka spruce tree — still a draw for tourists as a 17-foot-diameter trunk and two massive fallen pieces. It also acts as an access point to Lewis & Clark Timberlands, managed by Greenwood Resources.

David Dougherty, area forester with Greenwood Resources, was driving out in the woods one day when he came across a mountain biker looking for trails to ride on, to no avail. Dougherty understood there was a lack of mountain biking trails in the area, and he gave his card to the biker, who happened to be part of the North Coast Trail Alliance.

"We set up a meeting and from there we've had a successful relationship between the different partners, the North Coast Trail Alliance, Lewis & Clark Timberlands and Clatsop County parks," Dougherty said.

North Coast Trail Alliance and Lewis & Clark Timberlands collaborated to create the approximately 6-mile Klootch Creek mountain biking trail system, which opened in 2019. The trails are on the timberlands while an entrance is on the nearby county land.

Dougherty said the timber company isn't required



There are 6 miles of mountain bike trails just behind Klootch Creek County Park.

to have recreation opportunities on its land, but it feels it's important to do so.

"We want people to get out there to enjoy the timberland and connect with nature and see some of the things we're doing," he said. "We also want to be part of the community. We don't want to be completely blocked off and hidden from the world."

Chad Washington, the stewardship and community engagement coordinator for Greenwood Resources, said the timber company adopted the park to maintain it and pick up garbage.

"We certainly embrace local recreation on our timberlands and I think it's important for people to be on the landscape and close to forestry," he said. "We're committed to keeping our lands open to the public as long as it doesn't put our timberlands at risk."

During hunting season, Lewis & Clark Timberlands gets thousands of visitors on its property from all over the U.S. Members of the public are expected to get a free permit to access the land when it's open.

The area is closed to the public during fire season.

Washington said the conditions are especially dry right now after the heat dome Oregon experienced at the end of June. Tender new growth has died on some of the trees, creating extra fuel if a fire were to ignite there.

"We need the land to be a saturated sponge and now we have a dry sponge with a little misting at the top," Washington said.

Deer and elk in the area often feed on young trees, so Lewis & Clark Timberlands allows hunting on the property.

"By providing hunting opportunities, it provides free range meat for the public and helps mitigate the damage those animals do to our young trees," Washington said. "That's a mutually beneficial activity."

Public entities also manage land for recreation in addition to their main purpose. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages Julia Butler Hansen Refuge on both sides of the Columbia River specifically to conserve habitat for the threatened Columbian white-tailed deer. But it also allows for waterfowl hunting in a separate part of the

refuge. Jake Bonello, the assistant refuge manager, said the Columbian white-tailed deer is only found west of the Cascade range.

"Their numbers have dwindled to very low numbers and by the time this habitat was discovered, it was one of the last remaining habitats for them," Bonello said. "It's important we can protect and conserve as much habitat as possible for them."

The refuge, between Longview, Washington, and Westport, offers one trail that is open year-round and other trails that are open seasonally. Hunting and fishing is allowed in the exterior areas that can be accessed by boat, while the interior of the refuge is closed to hunting in order to protect the deer.

Bonello said the recreational opportunities are all about engaging with the public.

"There are no recreational fees here, everything is provided for the sake of education and outreach and getting people outdoors," he said. "Education and outreach is important just to get as many people on board with the efforts to protect the Columbian white-tailed deer."

One of the best ways to do that, he added, is for people to go out to the refuge and see the deer in person.

Thank you for banking Locally

Safe and Convenient

Online/Mobile Banking

Free Mobile Deposits

Drive-up Banking

Deposit Taking ATM

Bank of the Pacific
BankofthePacific.com

You can help shape Oregon's future.

Share your opinion. Earn money.

Join the OVBC Panel.

panel.oregonvbc.org

HEALTHCARE THAT BENDS FOR YOU

COLUMBIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

columbiamemorial.org/telehealth