



# First COVID-19 death reported in Tillamook County

## Staff

The Tillamook County Public Health Department announced Tuesday, Jan. 5, that it was notified of the first Tillamook County resident to have died from the COVID-19 virus.

The individual died at their home Friday, Jan. 1. The individual had preexisting conditions, according to the

health department.

According to Oregon Health Authority, the individual, an 87-year-old man in Tillamook County, tested positive on Dec. 28. The presence of underlying conditions is being confirmed.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. For the family’s privacy, we will not be releasing any patient information,” said

Marlene Putman, Administrator, Tillamook County Health Department.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Tillamook County has recorded 327 cases of COVID-19. The risk posed by the COVID-19 virus is real and the recent spikes in the county and in the state show that the virus is surging.

COVID-19 is a highly infectious illness that spreads

like the flu. Local and state health officials continue to urge all Oregonians to take steps to protect those who are most vulnerable to complications from COVID-19. Those considered “high risk” include adults 60 and older, or anyone with a serious health condition, including lung or heart problems, kidney disease, or diabetes, or anyone who has a suppressed

immune system.

To help control the spread of the illness the public is urged to stay home as much as possible and avoid gatherings.

The health department asks all county residents to continue to take the necessary precautions and follow current public health guidance to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus:

- Follow guidance on face coverings.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Keep 6 feet of distance from those not in your immediate household.
- Stay home if you feel ill.

## CHURCH FIRE



## Fire at church under investigation

Rockaway Beach Fire Department responded to the report of a fire, with sprinklers activated, on Dec. 26 at St. Mary By the Sea Catholic Church. Units responded and upon arrival, found an extinguished fire.

“Two sprinklers in the building had been activated and kept the fire small,” Fire Chief Todd Hesse said. “The fire damage was minimal.”

Hesse said there was some water damage to the first floor and the basement.

There were no injuries.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, as of Thursday, Jan. 7.



Photos taken Thursday, Jan. 7, of what the church looks like after the fire on Dec. 26.  
Photos by Hilary Dorsey

## School District hopes for School-Based Health Center next school year

Hilary Dorsey  
Staff Writer

Neah-Kah-Nie School District was one of 11 school districts to receive an Oregon School-Based Health Center Grant. This is the second year of the grant. The school district hopes for the center to be open by the beginning of next school year.

According to Oregon Health Authority, School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are a unique health care model for comprehensive physical, mental and preventative health services provided to youth and adolescents either within a school or on school property. Each health center is staffed by a primary care professional who may be a doctor, nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant, other

medical or mental health professionals and support staff, such as a receptionist.

The future site of the health center would be Neah-Kah-Nie High School, which is co-located with Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School on a shared campus. The center would be available for all five schools in the district and would be centrally located. There is space available in the high school, part of which is near the entrance to the school, allowing easy access to families and community members for community health events.

Neah-Kah-Nie School District Superintendent Paul Erlebach said the school district received the competitive grant last year. Gail Nelson, CEO of Rinehart Clinic, had experience with a health-based center in a previous job and helped write the grant. Last year was Phase 1 of the project, this year is Phase 2, and Phase 3 will be completed next year.

The school district had to complete a needs assessment the first year of the grant,



Neah-Kah-Nie School District administrative offices.  
Photo by Hilary Dorsey

during Phase 1, Erlebach said.

“We talked with students, parents and staff and determined there was a need,” Erlebach said. “We looked at all locations throughout the district to find out where the best locations would be and where we could serve the most students.”

Erlebach said he has been to three School-Based Health Centers, which helped him understand the purpose of what the center does: improve access to

health for all students. Not every student’s parents can take students to the doctor.

The School-Based Health Center needs a medical sponsor. This sponsor provides the health service, while the school district provides the location. The sponsor also develops specific billing policies and practices, said Jonathan Modie, lead communications officer for Oregon Health Authority.

“No student will be

## Gov. Brown sets goal for ramping up to 12,000 vaccinations per day

Governor Kate Brown today issued a statement on COVID-19 vaccination in Oregon:

“Let me be clear: we must vaccinate Oregonians as quickly as possible. Oregon families, schools, and businesses are counting on rapid vaccine distribution. We all are.

“By percentage of our population, Oregon has administered about the same number of vaccinations as other states, and distribution will continue to ramp up quickly. We have increased vaccinations from about 3,700 given in our first week to over 29,000 in the last week.

“But Oregon, like most of the country, is not moving fast enough. All states are grappling with the same logistical challenges, and while we are making steady progress, we must move even more quickly when every vaccination has the potential to save someone’s life.

“Today, I directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to achieve the benchmark of 12,000 vaccinations administered in Oregon per day by the end of the next two weeks. That will put us on track to deploy every vaccine we have in our hands each week. OHA will be working with health care providers, pharmacies, and local public health partners to streamline the distribution process to achieve that goal.

“This is an all-hands-on-deck effort, and I have directed OHA to partner as widely as possible to ensure we are using all available resources to ramp up Oregon’s vaccinations rapidly.”

## Marketing grants awarded to 16 tourism-related businesses

Like no other year, 2020 was hard on many tourism-related businesses. Lodging closed for nearly three months, restaurants were forced multiple times into takeout only or very limited capacity, small commercial fisheries and farms lost as much as 75 percent of their customer base, and retail went online or curbside service only. The economic impact to these industry sectors was significant.

That is when the Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA) reached out to Tillamook Coast Visitors Association (Visit Tillamook Coast), aiding local businesses with a \$100,000 match for the grant round of \$100,000 that the tourism organization offers each year.

“TCCA’s Hometown Resilience Fund has been so generous in so many ways, providing financial support and product donations to organizations in Tillamook County to help our businesses, nonprofits and social services,” said Nan Devlin, executive director of Tillamook Coast Visitors Association (TCVA). “This match to our annual marketing grant meant we could more fully help businesses recover and thrive in 2021.”

The Marketing Renewal Grant encouraged applicants to collaborate with other businesses on marketing efforts in 2021. Applicants submitted impact statements on how COVID had affected their businesses, and what they were doing to recover and sustain. A marketing plan with goals, tactics, and metrics, as well as a realistic budget, were also required in the submission. This helped the reviewers, the board of directors of TCVA, to score and rank submissions and make recommendations for funding.

Of the 16 grant applicants/recipients, all are collaborating with local tourism-related businesses, bringing the impact of the marketing grants to nearly 90 businesses in Tillamook County.

The recipients include: Blue Siren Shellfish, Offshore Grill, Oregon Coastal Flowers, Garibaldi Portside Bistro, Garibaldi Maritime Museum, Kayak Tillamook, The Winery at Manzanita, North Fork 53, Ocean Inn, Oregon Beach Ceremonies, Nehalem Bay Winery, Garibaldi Charters, Wild Manzanita, Oregon Coast Today, Lucky Beach Boutique, and Tillamook Chamber of Commerce. The list of projects can be viewed at [tillamookcoast.com/industry](http://tillamookcoast.com/industry)





# Public health group interprets COVID-19 data, provides strategies

**Hilary Dorsey**  
Staff Writer

The North Tillamook Public Health Information Group presented “COVID-19 Strategies for Tillamook County: Fighting a Pandemic from Behind” during a Tillamook County Board of Commissioners meeting Wednesday, Jan. 6. The group is composed of medical professionals who have interpreted local COVID-19 data.

“The Nehalem Bay Health District, and the North Tillamook Public Health Information Group, have an agreement to provide the very best available science and evidence-based information and resources to protect and enhance the health of individuals, primarily focused in the North Tillamook area,” Member Linda Kozlowski said.

According to the presentation,

new COVID-19 case numbers have increased exponentially since November. Dr. Victoria Holt said Tillamook County had a very low positivity rate until December. Tillamook County COVID-19 diagnosed case rates are now 70 percent higher than those of the county’s adjacent coastal counties – Clatsop and Lincoln – and nearly as high as at the metropolitan Portland counties.

Holt addressed the new COVID-19 variant that emerged in the United Kingdom and is circulating England and the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, another variant has emerged in South Africa, independently of the variant in the U.K. Holt said moving into February and onward, the county might see an increase in cases if a variant reaches Oregon.

“We don’t really know about

how widespread the new variant is in this country,” Holt said.

The number of virus tests conducted each week has been around 300 and has increased to about 400 tests in December, the group’s data states. Tillamook County’s recent testing is still less than half that of metro Portland counties and about 20 percent less than adjacent coastal counties.

Dr. Margaret Steele said being alarmed by the numbers, the group wanted to recommend things we can do as a community to get ahead of the situation. These strategies include universal use of face masks and hand hygiene; physical distancing and limiting contacts by limiting gatherings, avoiding travel, avoiding nonessential indoor spaces and avoiding crowded outdoor settings; and increased testing, diagnosis and isolation, and contact tracing and quarantine.

“The traveling public did a lot of traveling over Christmas and New Year’s holidays,” Steele said.

As part of the recommendation for universal mask-wearing, Steele said the county could issue policies or directives for mandated mask-wearing, provide public information about choosing and wearing masks, and provide masks for visitors and customers. This would reinforce the state’s mask mandate. The city of Manzanita has placed signs mandating mask-wearing along city streets.

Possible county actions for limiting contact include providing physical barriers and visual reminders in businesses to promote adherence to physical distance, Steele said.

“We developed a flyer on gathering safely, which is posted on the City of Manzanita [website], the North County Health District

and the BBQ website,” Steele said.

“It’s also translated into Spanish.”

Possible county actions for testing and follow-up include ensuring the health department has adequate resources to provide contact tracing and timely follow-up of close contacts and encourage and support efforts to assist those who are isolating and quarantining.

According to the presentation, the state and country will not reach the 85 percent level of immunity until at least the second half of 2021 and there is a need to continue mitigation strategies until herd immunity is reached.

The North Tillamook Public Health Information Group can be reached at citizenhealthandsafety@gmail.com

*Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net*

# Prepare for flooding, landslides as wet winter set in

With a wet, cold winters expected and burn scars prevalent from the 2020 wildfires in Oregon, it is important to be ready for flooding and landslides. Heavy rain can trigger mudslides and debris flows in steep terrain, and the risk is higher in wildfire burn areas.

Debris flows are rapidly moving, extremely destruc-

tive landslides. They can carry boulders and logs in a fast-moving soil and water down steep hillsides and through narrow canyons.

To find the latest information on weather watches, warnings or advisories in Oregon you can visit the National Weather Service.

If your home, work or driving route is in a watch

area, here are some helpful pointers:

- Stay alert and track the flood watch by radio, TV, weather radio or online.
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Listen to unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together. A trickle of falling

mud or debris may precede larger landslides. If you think there is danger of a landslide, leave immediately.

- Watch the water. If water in a stream or creek suddenly turns muddy, or if the amount of water flowing suddenly decreases or increases, this is a warning that the flow has been af-

ected upstream. You should immediately leave the area because a debris flow may soon be coming downstream.

- Travel with extreme caution. Assume roads are not safe. Be alert when driving, especially at night. Embankments along roadsides may fail, sending rock and debris onto the road.

To prepare for floods, landslides or any emergency, it is important to have an emergency kit with necessary supplies. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management recommends being 2 Weeks Ready with enough supplies to last at least two-weeks. Be ready and stay safe.

# Oregon commercial crab fishery opens December 16 south of Cape Falcon

Fresh Oregon crab is back on the menu – the commercial Dungeness crab fishery will open on most of Oregon’s

coast as of Dec. 16, 2020. Dungeness crab will be ready to be harvested just in time for the holidays from Cape

Falcon south to the California border.

Prior to the opener, crab vessels will set gear from Dec. 13 onwards, using the “pre-soak” period of time to set gear in anticipation of the first pull of ocean crab pots on Dec. 16. The recreational crab fishery is already open along the entire Oregon coast.


The area north of Cape Falcon will remain closed to commercial crabbing to coordinate an orderly start with the Washington coastal Dungeness crab fishery. Results from recent domoic acid testing of crab viscera (guts) conducted by the state of Washington were elevated, and Washington delayed their

coastal fishery until further testing is conducted.

All crab tested from all Oregon’s crab harvest areas have been well below alert levels and all Oregon crab product on the market is safe to eat. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) will continue to regularly test crab and shellfish to ensure levels

in all areas remain below alert levels.

For more information about Oregon’s shellfish marine biotoxin monitoring, call ODA’s shellfish safety information hotline at (800) 448-2474 or visit the ODA shellfish closures web page



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# Kramer Joins Hoffman board of directors



Candace Kramer of Manzanita has been elected to the board of directors of the Hoffman Center for the Arts in Manzanita.

In 2006 Candace and her husband Drew Prell restored a Manzanita cottage that had been built in the 1940s by a Norwegian shipbuilder. To engage with the local community, they ran a Supper Club, bringing locals, old timers, and vacation homeowners together in the “Gather” dining garage space.

They frequently donated their cottage for lodging to writers who came to town for the Hoffman Center’s popular Writers Lecture Series.

Kramer was a designer for Neil Kelly Remodelers and for the past 16 years has worked for Windermere Realty Trust as a Broker in Residential and Multi-Family Real Estate in Portland.

“We are really pleased to have someone with Candace’s professional background and passion for supporting the arts join us,” said Hoffman board President Mary Roberts. “She will be an important member as we look forward, plan and implement the future of this important community asset.”

# Mudd Nick Foundation provides needed funding for winter break meal program

Over the Neah-Kah-Nie School District’s winter break, lunchtime meals were made available to all students through a partnership with the Nehalem Bay Methodist Church, Bay City Methodist Church, First Student and Camp Magruder.

Funding to purchase the food for this program was provided by the Mudd Nick Foundation, and a grant plus matching funds received by Camp Magruder covered the cost of its staff who prepared all the meals.

Dedicated volunteers assembled to set up and fill the lunch bags, and students received a combination of sack lunches and reheatable meals. First Student delivered the meals via two bus routes to designated stops throughout District 56 during the lunchtime hour.

In total, approximately 900 meals were delivered between December 21 2020 and January 1, 2021. The Mudd Nick Foundation is grateful to board member, Renae Scalabrin for shepherding this endeavor.

This winter break meal program was similar to the initiative for which the Mudd Nick Foundation provided funding from May through August. Ms Scalabrin stated, “An underfed child cannot learn properly. Supporting food programs for students during this time of crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic aligns with the Mudd Nick Foundation’s mission of serving and supporting the full development of the students in District 56.”

## NKN

Continued from Page 1

turned away for lack of ability to pay,” Modie said. “Oregon-certified SBHCs are required to bill Medic-

aid, and most will also bill private insurers if the student has insurance.”

Types of services provided by SBHCs include well-child exams; sick visits; minor injury treatment; vision, dental and other health screenings; immunizations; substance

use disorder screening and assessment; mental health counseling; reproductive health services; prevention and wellness messaging; and health-related classroom presentations.

Phase 2 of the project is a grant used for renovation purposes and construction projects. Some office space will be renovated at the high school.

“Primarily, we need a reception area, an exam room, a lab and a bathroom, and an office,” Erlebach said. “We’re working with an architect to design this phase.”

Neah-Kah-Nie School District is looking to put together a School-Based Health Center Advisory

Committee, who would help make decisions in the construction planning process. The committee includes students, staff, school board members and others. The advisory committee would also develop a mission statement, a timeline, and make necessary decisions. They may also seek additional funding.

Those interested in joining the committee should contact Paul Erlebach at paul@nksd.org or call 503-355-3501 for more information and for an application.

*Send comments to: headlightreporter@countrymedia.net*

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# Final round of King Tides Project is here

This winter's final series of "king tides," which means that this will be the final round for the 2020-21 edition of the Oregon King Tides Project. Every winter for the past decade, a growing army of volunteer photographers has documented the highest point reached by these highest of tides.

The camera-wielding volunteers are participating in the King Tides Project, the Oregon branch of an international grassroots effort to document coastal areas flooded by the highest winter tides. Here in Oregon, the King Tides Project has been developed and coordinated by the CoastWatch Program of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, and the Oregon Coastal Management Program, a branch of the Department of Land Conservation and Development. From modest beginnings in 2010, the project has grown to the point that more than 100 volunteer photographers contributed more than 400 photos to the project's archives last winter. Anyone with a camera or cell phone can participate.

The first two "king tides" have passed, but volunteers are needed for the third round, beginning Monday,

Jan. 11, and extending through Wednesday, Jan. 13. The exact time of the tidal peak will change each day and will vary with location; on Monday, it will take place near 10 a.m. on the central coast. For information about how to find tide tables, and much else about the project, go to the website, <https://www.oregonkingtides.net/>.

An online warm-up session for the final round of the project is coming up at 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7. CoastWatch and the Oregon Coastal Management Program will host a panel discussion featuring geomorphologist Peter Ruggiero, coastal ecologist Sally Hacker, and economist Steve Dundas. Their topic: "Optimizing the ecosystem services of Pacific Northwest Coastal Beaches and Dunes." For more information, or to register, go here: <https://oregonshores.org/events/talks-climate-beaches-and-dunes>.

Thus far this winter, some 60 photographers have documented the first two rounds of high tides with more than 200 photographs. But much more need to be done to provide visual evidence of the reach of high tides along the entire Oregon coast.

To see priority areas where there are gaps in coverage, to go to <https://www.oregonkingtides.net/participate/> and scroll down to "Where."

Every year in early winter, high tides on the Oregon coast are higher than usual. These extreme high tides, commonly called "King Tides," occur at a few specific times during the year when the moon's orbit comes closest to the earth, the earth's orbit is closest to the sun, and the sun, moon and earth are in alignment, thereby increasing their gravitational influence on the tides.

The goal of this citizen science project is to encourage Oregonians and visitors to submit photos they take of the king tides to help track sea level rise over time and reveal its impacts on the Oregon coast. Photographers are also encouraged to take photos at average high tides from the identical vantage points of their "king tides" shots, for purposes of comparison. The hundreds of photos they take reveal current vulnerabilities to flooding. Even more important, they help us visualize and understand the coming impacts of sea level rise (such as flooding and erosion) to



King tide on the Rockaway Beach shore. Photo by Lawrence Soto.

coastal communities.

Anyone can participate by taking a photo during the peak period of a king tide, anywhere on the outer coast or along estuaries or lower river valleys. Photos that show the highest stand of the tide with reference to a man-made structure or natural feature reveal the reach of the tide most clearly. Participants then submit their photos through the project

website ([www.oregonkingtides.net](http://www.oregonkingtides.net)).

The information gathered can help to guide land use regulations that can be an important component in strategies to decrease tidal impacts to coastal infrastructure, such as appropriate oceanfront or riverine setbacks, moveable development, and stormwater management. Planning for coastal hazards and sea level

rise impacts now will help to prevent haphazard management decisions in the future.

To get a better view of the project, browse the King Tides photo albums by season: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/orkingtide/albums>. You don't have to be a scientist to understand and help to document how sea level rise may impact places in our own communities.

## Driver license, vehicle tag grace period extended

Oregon residents with a vehicle registration, permit or driver license expiring between Nov. 1, 2020, and April 30, 2021, have up to three months after their expiration date without being cited by law enforcement for an expired license or tags.

The Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon law enforcement agencies agreed to the new grace period as DMV catches up with a backlog due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Under the agreement, Oregon law enforcement officers will exercise more discretion for recently

expired licenses and registration before choosing whether to write a citation. Law enforcement can verify the status of a driver or vehicle registration electronically during a traffic stop.

A law enforcement moratorium under Senate Bill 1601 from an Oregon Special Legislative Session last summer will expire Dec. 31. Under that legislation, a police officer cannot issue a citation for the following DMV products if they expired between March 1 and Dec. 31, 2020:

- Driver license and identifica-

tion cards

- Passenger vehicle registrations
- Commercial vehicle registrations
- Trip permits and temporary registrations
- Disabled parking permits

### DMV offices open by appointment

DMV offices are open by appointment – mostly those that require in-person visits such as driver license and other identification card-related services. In some parts

of Oregon, the first available appointment may be two months out, so do not wait until the last minute to schedule your appointment.

As DMV catches up with the backlog, more services will become available by appointment. They do not yet know when walk-in services can resume, but some appointments for vehicle title and registration are available now. Visit [www.OregonDMV.com](http://www.OregonDMV.com) for a complete list of services available by office.

See if you can get what you need at DMV2U

Many services are available online at [DMV2U.Oregon.gov](http://DMV2U.Oregon.gov) and more will be added soon. Those available now include:

- Renew your vehicle registration
- Access your DMV profile
- Schedule an appointment
- Replace a lost, damaged or stolen license or ID card
- Pay a reinstatement fee
- Report your change of address
- Report the sale of your car
- Calculate vehicles fees to mail in title and registration applications

## Fulcrum small business relief accepting applications

The North County COVID-19 Business Relief Campaign put together by Fulcrum Community Resources and Manzanita Visitor's Center has been operating since April. We have received a healthy

response from small businesses and people who are self-employed in Manzanita, Nehalem and Wheeler applying for help. We have been extremely blessed with many generous donations throughout this campaign,

which has allowed us to distribute multiple rounds of checks totaling over \$90,000 to applicants in our three villages. The Business Relief Committee extends a heartfelt thanks to all of our donors to this point.

After the success of the recent Riverbend Players virtual holiday fundraiser, we are once again in the position to offer some financial assistance. We are now accepting applications from all small businesses and self-employed individuals in Manzanita, Nehalem and Wheeler. If you have applied in the past, please submit a new application.

The application is short and easy to complete and is available in both English and Spanish. The form can be found on the Fulcrum website: [www.fulcrumresources.com](http://www.fulcrumresources.com) or by emailing [barbaraandchuck@nehalem-tel.net](mailto:barbaraandchuck@nehalem-tel.net).

As the pandemic continues, the need continues to outweigh available funds. If you are in a position to lend a hand, there are two ways you can donate to this effort:

By check: Please make check out to Fulcrum Community Resources with North County Business Relief in the memo line. You can send it to Fulcrum

Community Resources, PO Box 136, Nehalem, OR 97131. Or you can go into the Manzanita branch of Columbia Bank and let them know you want to make a deposit to Fulcrum Community Resource's account.

Online: Please visit the website of the Manzanita Visitors Center at <http://exploremanzanita.com/donate/>

• Another way you can help businesses is to buy local gift certificates now for use in the future. Check out the website of your favorite places. Or if you need help getting their contact information send an email to Dan Haag at the Manzanita

Visitors Center, one of our partners in this endeavor, at [info@exploremanzanita.com](mailto:info@exploremanzanita.com)

Fulcrum Community Resources is a 5013c nonprofit so your donations are tax deductible. Its mission is to Foster the transition of the Nehalem Bay community to a sustainable future. Visit us at [www.fulcrumresources.org/](http://www.fulcrumresources.org/). A committee consisting of Fulcrum Community Resources board members and other locals will distribute the funds as equitably as possible among the businesses who apply for relief.



## Nehalem Senior Lunches set for Tuesday and Thursday

Nehalem Senior Lunches is available at Nehalem Bay United Methodist Church each Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 to 12:30. Currently we

offer only pick up or delivery to home bound individuals. Meals are prepared on site by Douglas Dickey and a donation of \$4 is suggested.



### Customer Assistance Program

Lending a helping hand to our neighbors in need.



The Tillamook PUD Customer Assistance Program (CAP) helps pay the electric bills of those in need during challenging times.

CAP is funded by customer contributions that are matched dollar for dollar by Tillamook PUD.

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# Business: Oregon's coffee shop economy explained

**Sarah Cunningham**  
Guest Article

Coffee shops throughout Oregon provide customers with their daily coffee, lattes, cappuccinos, and other drinks that help wake them up in the morning and keep them awake throughout the day.

According to the National Coffee Association of the USA (NCA), which has tracked coffee consumption through annual surveys since 1950, 83% of Americans 18 years and older say they drink coffee and 64% drink it daily.

With such a large majority of Americans drinking coffee, it's no surprise to find several coffee establishments in cities throughout the state, and sometimes multiple shops on the same block.

Coffee shops, however, provide customers with more than a latte or mocha. Coffee shops are places where people typically meet with a business partner or old friend, access public WiFi, listen to an open-mic session, study for an exam, or read a book.

Thus, coffee establishments provide a gathering place and potential economic benefits greater than the price of a vanilla latte.

## Growth through 2019, uncertainty ahead

Employment and wage data are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System, or NAICS, and coffee shops and stands are classified in the snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars industry. This industry includes other estab-

lishments serving items such as donuts, pretzels, ice cream, and frozen yogurt.

In 2019, there were 1,575 establishments in this category with an annual average employment of 16,131.

About half of these establishments were located in the Portland metro area (i.e., Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties). While 2020 annual employment data is not yet available, the number of establishments dropped to an average 1,465 and employment dropped to 12,300 over the months of April, May, and June 2020 as businesses struggled due to COVID-19 related business restrictions.

Though snack and non-alcoholic beverage bars is a small industry, comprising less than 1% of total statewide employment, it has seen consistent growth from 2010 through 2019. Growth in both the number of establishments and employment in the industry has outpaced the average rate of growth for all industries. From 2001 to 2019, the industry's employment more than doubled in Oregon, whereas total employment for all industries increased by 22%. Similarly, the number of establishments increased by 118% compared with 56% for all industries. Growth at snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars has also outpaced the larger food services and drinking places industry. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has halted industry growth in this sector, with second quarter 2020 employment levels 24% below levels

during the same period in 2019 at 12,300.

Despite social distancing-related limitations on where we can drink coffee, our appetite for the drink has not been curbed by the pandemic. According to the National Coffee Association of the USA, six out of 10 Americans are still drinking coffee daily. Where we are drinking, however, has changed slightly, with 20% fewer Americans drinking coffee away from home.

Oregonians not only love drinking coffee; we love roasting it too. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Oregon has the second highest number of coffee and tea manufacturing establishments in the nation after California and the second highest location quotient for average annual employment in the sector after Hawaii. Though some coffeehouses roast their own beans, there are several coffee roasters throughout the state from Portland down to Ashland, and east in Sisters, Bend, and Pendleton.

The coffee and tea manufacturing industry in the state steadily increased from nine business units employing 440 individuals in 2001 to 82 units employing 1,159 in 2019. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of coffee and tea manufacturing establishments dropped slightly to 80 in second quarter 2020. Employment in the sector dropped by 13% compared with second quarter 2019 to 1,002 jobs.

## Workers and wages

The average annual wage



for employees in the snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars industry in 2019 was \$19,463, which was significantly lower than the statewide all-industry average of \$55,019. It's probably no surprise that workers in the industry earn lower wages as the pay scale for many jobs, such as baristas, often begins at minimum wage and many employees work part-time schedules. However, workers in the industry, especially younger workers, can obtain other benefits, specifically work experience. Compared with other industries, coffee shops tend to employ a larger share of younger workers.

Workforce age data for just the snack and nonalcoholic beverage bars industry is not available, but it is for the larger food services and drinking places sub-sector. In

2019, 14 to 24 year olds comprised approximately 30% of the food services and drinking places workforce compared with 11% for the total workforce. These younger workers in the industry can learn work skills and gain valuable work experience that will allow them to be successful in other occupations. For instance, they can learn how to work in a fast-paced environment, receive payments, provide customer service, and acquire "soft" skills such as showing up to work on time, working in a team, and communicating with customers.

Working in the manufacturing side of the coffee industry may provide a much higher wage than working at a coffee shop. The average annual pay in the coffee and tea manufacturing industry in 2019 was \$45,205, which

is more than twice than the average for coffee shops, but lower than the all-industry average of \$55,019.

## Summary

Coffee shops, as well as coffee roasters, are small but have grown steadily through 2019. Despite COVID-19-related losses in 2020, employment in these sectors is likely to bounce back once social-distancing-related measures are lifted and coffee shops once again offer an atmosphere conducive to meeting with co-workers, business partners, or friends.

*Sarah Cunningham is an economist with the Oregon Employment Department. She may be reached at 503-871-0046.*

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