

# the Astorian

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## CORONAVIRUS

# County declares emergency

Crab festival off, museums close

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

Clatsop County declared an emergency over the coronavirus as the threat of an outbreak disrupted life on the North Coast.

The declaration, through May 1, enables the county to take emergency actions and helps qualify for state and federal aid to combat the spread of COVID-19. Emergency actions could involve curfews, limits on public gatherings, mutual

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Clatsop County Emergency Management will be sending updates about the outbreak via Clatsop Alerts. People can text "CLATSOPCOVID" to 888777 to receive updates.

aid agreements and redirection of county funds.

County Manager Don Bohn said "there's a lot of coordinated muscle movement with this whole endeavor," and that the county is taking direction from the Oregon Health Authority and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We're not only dealing with the broader public issues, we're also dealing with how we want to conduct county business during this interim period," Bohn said at a special session of the county Board of Commissioners on Monday afternoon.

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Lucia Chambers thoroughly wipes down tables and chairs at the Blue Scorchers Bakery & Cafe on Monday morning.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

## Columbia Memorial Hospital concerned by coronavirus rush

Visits have spiked at the Columbia Memorial Hospital emergency room as fear of the coronavirus has grown.

Testing remains an issue

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

Staff at Columbia Memorial Hospital have seen a spike of people coming to the emergency room in Astoria and its urgent and primary care clinics with upper respiratory infections, as the fear of coronavirus grows.

Clatsop County had not reported any cases of COVID-19 by Monday afternoon, but public health officials and hospital administrators are preparing for a potential outbreak.

With a tenuous supply of coronavirus tests and hospitals around the U.S. and the world increasingly overwhelmed, local doctors are trying to prevent a similar run on their limited resources.

"Of course, we are concerned about being overwhelmed," Dr. Kevin Baxter, the chief medical officer at Columbia Memorial, said in a statement from the hospital. "But we are calm and prepared. That is why we are asking people to self-quarantine and follow the directions put forth by the" federal Centers

### CORONAVIRUS

For information on the coronavirus, call 211 or visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). If you are having a medical emergency, call 911.



Dr. Kevin Baxter



Judy Geiger

for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC advises people who think they have been exposed to COVID-19 to call a health care provider for medical advice, rather than showing up unannounced and potentially infecting others.

Symptoms of coronavirus include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Emergency warning signs include shortness of breath, persistent pressure

or pain in the chest and blueish lips or face.

The hospital, required by law to assess the health of every person coming into the emergency room, has been examining and sending home patients to recuperate.

"This is no different from any other flu season in that if you are not feeling well, you should stay away from others," Baxter said.

As of Monday afternoon, Columbia Memorial had only tested 10 people for COVID-19. On Friday, the hospital only had about 350 testing kits in reserve, with no guarantee of how quickly they'll be replenished if used, CEO Erik Thorsen said.

"We are still maintaining that for a commercial lab test like that, that there will still be screening criteria," he said. "We're going to focus on the moderate to high-risk patients until the tests become more available to us."

"All we have heard is ... whoever makes the kits is ramping up production. But there has not been a definitive ETA on the 'when' for those kits."

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# Fire chief warns of gaps

Pagers failed to activate

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — At least six pagers for Cannon Beach firefighters, including the fire chief's pager, did not activate for a three-alarm fire in Seaside in February because of poor reception.

Now, Marc Reckmann, the fire chief, sets his pager up in a window-sill where he knows he will get reception. Other firefighters do the same in their homes.

Reckmann said pagers don't always go off in the fire district's building, either. When they do, it can be difficult to understand, so they wait for a text from dispatch.

The Seaside dispatch center, which handles emergency calls for agencies in Seaside, Cannon Beach, Gearhart and Hamlet, said the text system was created as a backup for when pagers don't activate.

Reckmann, however, said a text does not always wake firefighters up in the middle of the night when there is a call like a pager does.

"This system is broken," Reckmann said. "This is now a public safety issue and a firefighter safety issue that our pagers are not going off ... Somebody's going to die because our pagers don't go off."

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Marc Reckmann

## Heated yoga rises to the top

New studio at firefighter museum

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

The red brick Fire Station No. 2 building at the corner of 30th Street and Marine Drive has had many different lives, from beer storage and condensed milk production to an active fire station and a firefighter's museum.

Now a hot yoga studio has taken up residence in the top floor.

Djordje and Trudy Citovic, along with Jamie Savva, are the

partners behind Fire Station Yoga, a new purveyor in the growing trend of heated yoga classes.

After relocating to Astoria, Djordje Citovic said, he grew tired of traveling to the Portland area to take hot yoga classes. The region's other hot yoga studio on Main Avenue in Warrenton closed several years ago.

He acquired an inflatable dome from the United Kingdom — inside which yogis can hold heated classes — but needed a place to put it.

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Fire Station Yoga

Fire Station Yoga's classes happen inside a heated, inflatable dome.



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