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CORONAVIRUS



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Nathan Daniels, the pastor at Cannon Beach Community Church, reaches out to church members through a YouTube video.

For the faithful, the coronavirus pandemic drives worship online

Some pastors are preaching from their living rooms

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Things were more or less normal in Oregon when Chris Suits and his family left for the United Kingdom. When they returned last week, everything had changed.

They were asked to quarantine because of where they traveled — they're nearly through it now — and Suits, a pastor, has been preaching to Coastline Christian Fellowship from his living room, a situation he doesn't expect will change anytime soon given Gov. Kate Brown's stay at home order and limitations on gatherings over the coronavirus.

Like churches across the North Coast, Coastline's congregation is figuring out how to encourage each other and carry on traditions without risking exposure to the disease.

Holy Week and Easter are approaching. Despite President Donald Trump's declaration that the country could reopen for business by Easter, many local churches doubt they'll be celebrating Christ's resurrection face to face.

Technology and social media provide ways to connect. Still, churches are finding there are limitations.

Rebecca Patterson, the pastor at First United Methodist Church in Astoria, is sorting through what she can include in the Sunday services she now conducts from home. There are licensing issues with the music and liturgy. She said she would need permissions from publishers

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The First Presbyterian Church in Astoria encourages people to worship from home.

Third case of COVID-19 reported in the county

The Astorian

Clatsop County reported a third coronavirus case on Friday, a man in the southern part of the county who was in contact with another man who tested positive for the virus.

The county described the man as between 35 and 54 years old. The other man was also in the same age range.

A woman between 35 and 54 years old who lives in the northern part of the county was the first reported local case of the virus.

The county said all three people are at home under quarantine.

"Following reports of positive COVID-19 tests, public health staff move immediately according to the department's established case investigative process to contact the individuals in order to gather information on others they have had contact with, and in turn to contact those people about self-quarantine guidelines," the county said in a statement.

"Department staff check twice daily with positive-case contacts to ensure they are properly self-isolating."

The Oregon Health Authority tracked 72 test results in Clatsop County as of Friday morning, including two of the positive cases.

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Hotel industry seeks more input on virus restrictions

Bans prompted by tourism

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

SEASIDE — The Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association is pushing some local governments to make restrictions on hotels over the coronavirus more of an industry decision to ensure essential workers have places to stay.

Astoria, Warrenton, Cannon Beach and Clatsop County quickly passed bans on short-term stays in hotels and other lodging after an influx of spring break visitors last weekend. Gearhart adopted the county's order. Seaside discouraged visitors but did not explicitly ban hotel stays.

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Recreational fishing off on river over virus.

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Local dentists work together to treat patients

Managing through government restrictions

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

After Gov. Kate Brown ordered health care providers to suspend all nonemergency procedures to preserve surgical masks and other medical supplies for the coronavirus, local dentists were left with several logistical challenges.

At a barn on Dr. Dennis Klemp's

property in Warrenton, dentists got together and talked about what they could do. Klemp, the owner of Klemp Family Dentistry in Astoria, said the space allowed them to maintain social distancing and some dentists joined via FaceTime.

"We knew we were going to be limited in what we could do, and of course multiple minds are much greater than a single, so we got together and started sharing information and basically formed ... Clatsop Dental Society COVID-19," Klemp said.

The dentists created a plan to preserve personal protective

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Distillers turn spirits into sanitizer



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian
Pilot House Distilling made hand sanitizer by following the World Health Organization's guidelines.

Making do in a crisis

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Local emergency responders, city governments and caregivers took delivery Friday afternoon of Pilot House Distilling's newest product: 160-proof hand sanitizer, made to the specifications of the World Health Organization.

The Astoria distillery joined a growing number across the nation supplying hand sanitizer for essential workers and at-risk populations during the coronavirus pandemic, sending out the first shipment of around 300 gallons.

Pilot House, co-owned by some of the leadership team at Buoy Beer Co., had been making

sanitizer for Buoy for a couple of weeks, said Larry Cary, a founder and co-owner of the distillery. He has since mostly abandoned making spirits and turned his efforts toward sourcing ingredients for and making sanitizer.

"People were requesting it ... it was time to do something," Cary said.

David Kroening, the general manager of Buoy Beer and co-owner of Pilot House, reached out to Astoria, which in turn put him in touch with Tiffany Brown, Clatsop County's emergency services manager. The county receives federal reimbursement for emergency expenses relating to the coronavirus, including hand sanitizer.

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