

IN BRIEF

Astoria extends parks, pool closures

Astoria is extending the closure of the Astoria Library, Astoria Aquatic Center and other parks facilities indefinitely amid efforts to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

The closures also include the Astoria Recreation Center, Lil' Sprouts, Port of Play, playgrounds and sport courts. They were expected to end Wednesday, along with Gov. Kate Brown's initial public school closures, which have since been extended through late April.

City Hall will also extend its restriction of walk-in access, with admittance by appointment only. The city prefers business be conducted over the phone or through email as much as possible.

County establishes coronavirus hotline

Clatsop County has a COVID-19 informational phone line to answer questions about the virus.

Personnel will be available from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The number is 503-325-8500. County staff cannot answer medical questions.

Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria also has a hotline at 503-338-4699 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

County collecting donations of medical supplies

Clatsop County Emergency Management is accepting donations of personal protective equipment, including masks, gowns, gloves and face shields.

The county is collecting donations and will distribute them to local medical personnel and emergency responders.

Donations can be dropped off every weekday between 10 a.m. and noon at the Clatsop County Emergency Management Office at Camp Rilea in Warrenton. For more information, email donate@clatsopoc.com or call 503-325-8645.

County appoints new counsel

County commissioners appointed a new county counsel on Wednesday.

Joanna Lyons-Antley will start on April 1. She replaces Heather Reynolds, who served as Clatsop County counsel for 25 years.

Lyons-Antley will serve as an in-house counsel instead of a contract attorney.

Lyons-Antley was formerly a contract attorney for Beery, Elsner & Hammond LLP. She also served about eight years as the city attorney for Klamath Falls and about six years as the assistant Coos County counsel.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

March 27, 2020

POTTER, Mary Gail, 59, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

March 26, 2020

BROWN, Dennis Leroy, 80, of Gearhart, died in Seaside. Caldwell's

Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

March 25, 2020

SHOOP, Kenneth Warren, 78, of Hammond, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

BIRTHS

March 12, 2020

FRANCIS, Krysta, and CLARK, Tim, of Chinook, Washington, a girl, Madison Layne Clark, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Tracy and Don Hoffman, of Port Angeles, Washington, and Teresa and Tim Clark, of Astoria.

CORRECTION

Employee count — EO Media Group on Wednesday announced the layoff of 47 of the company's 261 employees in Oregon and Washington state over coronavirus-related losses. An In Brief item on A2 on Thursday incorrectly said the company had 181 employees.

ON THE RECORD

Disorderly conduct

• Matthew Danca, 40, was arrested Thursday in Seaside for disorderly conduct in the second degree.

• Rocky Guerrero, 48, of Seaside, was arrested Thursday on Oceanway Street in Seaside for disorderly conduct in the second degree.

DUII

• Lotus Clark, 20, of Gearhart, was arrested Thursday on N. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, minor in possession of alcohol and failure to perform the duties of a driver.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, work session on coronavirus, 12 p.m. (virtual meeting).

Seaside restricts access to beach

Follows closure of state parks

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — With Gov. Kate Brown's order "Stay Home, Save Lives" limiting access to many businesses and recreational areas, residents are wondering "What about the beach?"

"We're working with the city of Seaside to close their upland accesses to the beach," said Chris Havel of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. "We have the power to close the beach itself, but we haven't exercised it. We will revisit that decision if people don't maintain social distance."

The governor's order came after some Oregonians failed to adhere to social distancing guidelines, resulting in crowds on the Oregon Coast and state parks around the state. "I find that immediate implementation of additional measures is necessary," Brown said in the declaration.

While the order doesn't currently extend to the ocean shore, according to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Director Lisa



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

The beach in Seaside on Monday.

Sumption, it does close all state park-managed parking lots and beach access.

"Closed is closed," Sumption said in her message. "We lock restrooms, stop trash service, and it's not safe for you or us to go into a closed park. If we see you in a park, we'll ask you to leave. If you refuse, we can issue you a citation."

For now, Seaside is limiting public access to the

beach, Public Works Director Dale McDowell said at Monday's City Council meeting.

His department put signs up at beach entrances from the estuary to the Cove, he said, telling residents that the beaches are closed because of the state resolution.

Four restroom facilities remain open, at Seltzer Park, the Prom, the Seaside Civic and Convention Center parking lot and the Sea-

side Chamber of Commerce.

While the Prom is open to walking, jogging or biking, walking to the beach is prohibited, McDowell said, even if a person is alone or social distancing.

City Manager Jon Rahl said the beach closure is intended to send a message to visitors.

"We feel by closing the parks, the beaches, the streams, we can say, 'Look, we don't have room or access for visitors at this point in time out of respect for the rest of our citizens so we can maintain our own health,'" Rahl said. "For now, it gives the police the authority to drive the beach and say: 'You can't be here.' We didn't have the authority. Now we have that."

Rahl said Seaside has had discussions with Oregon State Parks ranger Justin Parker. "My understanding is that whatever we choose to do, they will support. I believe we have the support from Oregon State Parks."

"We and the city will do everything we can to make it clear," Havel said. "The beach may not be closed, but that could change if people don't start listening to the message — stay home, save lives."

Seaside, fire chief address mask shortage

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — The supply of N95 masks for firefighters is critically low, Seaside Fire Chief Joey Daniels said at Monday's City Council meeting: "We have nil to none."

Dust masks are OK for responders as a protective measure, he said, but don't form a protective seal like N95 masks, which are fit-tested and offer a tight seal.

While Clatsop County has a "very small supply" of personal protective equipment, as the number of COVID-19 cases increases, "this supply will go fast."

City Manager Mark Winstanley addressed the concerns of local responders.

"As we go through this process, the unfortunate challenge is that we will have firemen ultimately exposed to the virus," Winstanley said. "These are things we have to work our way through along with the general public."

In addition to paid staff

and volunteers, two Seaside Public Works employees have been assigned to the fire department, along with two hires from the police department with fire experience.

While the city supports local hospitals, doctors, public health officials on the front lines, this is not an area that the city normally operates in, Winstanley said. "It's a challenge for us and all of our community."

Fire departments throughout the state are seeking supplies in any way they can.

"We're out shopping these things on the internet trying to find them," Winstanley said.

All county fire departments are actively engaged with vendors asking the state for more equipment, Daniels said. "As equipment has been available we have all been getting limited supplies and we are helping one another out."

Depending on the call, firefighters assess how they should suit up.

Daniels, who also serves

as fire defense chief for the county, a rotating position every three years among the chiefs in the county, said departments are limiting access of personnel that need to be with the patient.

"If we are dispatched to someone that has any of the signs of COVID-19 we are putting a Tyvek suit on, goggles and an N95," Daniels said. "We have always worn N95s and safety glasses on any patient that has signs of the flu, so this is just us adapting to COVID-19."

Dispatchers screen fire calls by asking if the patient has COVID-19-related symptoms like fever, cough or difficulty breathing, he said.

If the risk is clear, two firefighters don a Tyvek suit, rubber gloves and goggles before entering.

If risk is uncertain, one firefighter will enter with an N95, goggles and gloves to get information before making a decision on what others wear.

These procedures are in

place for all fire calls, including fires, accidents or other emergencies.

Daniels listed the county's main needs as more N95 masks, gowns, surgical masks, hand sanitizer and wipes.

"This is all equipment we would share with all of our public safety partners throughout the county," he said. "We all work well together and help one another out. This is no different."

Daniels said departments are "searching every day," to bolster supply. "We have every agency in the county looking and helping one another out if they find a resource."

Daniels said he wanted to set the public at ease if firefighters enter a scene fully covered in protective gear.

"We're dressed up because you may not know you have something," he said. "We want to make sure we don't get anything. If I were to lose five or six guys to quarantine, it would be devastating."

Distillers: Sanitizer helps support community need

Continued from Page A1

Brown reached out to local hospitals, emergency responders, city governments and care centers to see what they needed. Friday's shipment is supplying local care centers, the county and several city governments.

"We're just now starting to monitor the burn rate of things," Brown said. "And that's a separate, broader issue — not just hand sanitizer. In order to get the federal supplies delivered to the state or to the local government, we need to start providing them with better projections about how much we think we're going to need."

The hand sanitizer is not yet available for sale to the public. Pilot House wanted to make sure emergency



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Justin Cross fills gallon jugs with hand sanitizer. Pilot House Distilling in Astoria begins producing sanitizer to support community need.

responders and other critical services were supplied, Kroening said.

Government restrictions on bars and restaurants have

hurt demand for craft liquor and beer and have led many distilleries toward making hand sanitizer. Federal and state authorities have made it easier to make the switch. The \$2 trillion stimulus bill passed by Congress exempted distilleries from paying excise taxes for producing hand sanitizer with denatured alcohol.



Gallon bottles are filled with Pilot House Distilling hand sanitizer.

The Oregon Distillers Guild is trying to help coordinate getting resources to the right place amid an over-taxed supply chain with everyone searching for the same ingredients. Ethanol has been the most challenging to source, Cary said, leaving Pilot House with the difficult decision of whether to redistill its processed spirits for the sanitizer.

"At this point, if it becomes such a necessity, we'll just use the spirits," he said, adding a bit of humor. "Sanitize it from the outside. If not, you can drink the booze and sanitize from the inside."

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