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Astorian

147TH YEAR, NO. 121

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

\$1.50

CORONAVIRUS

Fifth case of virus reported

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The fifth positive case of the coronavirus was reported Monday in Clatsop County.

The man is between the age of 50 and 59 and lives in the southern part of the county. He is a contact of an earlier reported case and was at home under quarantine, according to the county's Public Health Department.

The first reported case was a woman between 30 and 40 years old who lives in the northern part of the county.

The other three who tested positive live in the southern part of the county. They include a woman and a man between 30 and 40 years old and a man between 40 and 50 years old. The men had contact with one another.

Without identifying which cases, the county said two of the people had recovered and were no longer under quarantine. The others are under quarantine at home.

The Oregon Health Authority tracked 192 test results in Clatsop County as of Monday morning, including four of the positive cases.

The health authority reported 1,132 cases and 29 deaths from the virus statewide as of Monday.

Advisers help business reach federal relief

Loans available to help owners offset losses

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Half of small businesses nationally have enough cash on hand to keep operating a month without income during the coronavirus pandemic. In Clatsop County, two-thirds of employment is through small businesses.

With around \$350 billion in forgivable loans made available by Congress for immediate payroll needs, local advisers are trying to help struggling business owners get their share.

Jessica Newhall, a lead adviser with the Clatsop Small Business Development Center, pointed toward two main sources of federal support: The Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan.

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PET CARE IN A TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Local veterinary options are limited

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Nancy Schwickrath and Kelly Green decided to foster a dog in the middle of a pandemic.

Schwickrath, an administrative assistant at the Liberty Theatre, volunteers at the Clatsop County Animal Shelter. The shelter often temporarily places animals that aren't quite ready to be adopted with volunteers.

Schwickrath and Green had previously done a hospice foster for an older dog several years ago. Now, they wanted to help ease the burden of care at the animal shelter as the organization — like everyone else — figured out how to adjust to a new normal under the coronavirus.

They already have a 15-year-old dog of their own. The new dog is younger, with a lot of energy. He has proved to be a much-needed distraction from the horrible daily news about the virus.

Ultimately, Green said, "It wasn't a difficult choice."

While the response to the coronavirus has focused primarily on human concerns, it has also impacted pets. Some domestic animals and captive wild animals appear to have caught the virus from humans — including, on Sunday, a Malayan tiger named "Nadia" living in the Bronx Zoo in New York.

There is no evidence animals can spread the disease to people, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. But the pandemic is impacting what kind of care pets can receive.

Government restrictions

Under an executive order issued by Gov. Kate Brown in March, veterinary clinics are allowed to remain open but are limited in what they can offer. Some routine services may not be available and many clinics have had to shift how they conduct business entirely, turning to curbside service or even looking at digital alternatives for exams.

At the animal shelter, business continues much as usual — with some tweaks.

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Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

TOP: 'Yoda' is a foster dog from the Clatsop County Animal Shelter. **ABOVE:** Liz Harris gives foster dogs 'Yoda' and 'Diamond' snacks while on a walk at Fred Lindstrom Memorial Park in Astoria. **BELOW:** Cars pull up to Columbia Veterinary Hospital in Astoria and wait outside for a staffer to come retrieve their pet to reduce human-to-human contact.



Woman finds freedom in a cab

Walker has been a driver for 14 years

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

LaNay Walker has been mixing up her own hand sanitizer and disinfectants ever since people took to clearing out the household cleaner aisles at local grocery stores.

She sprays down her cab between rides as a precaution against the



coronavirus.

"If you cough, you get sprayed," she said. "If you sneeze, you get sprayed."

Walker is from Southern California and moved to Astoria 14 years ago with her kids.

"Running away from bad things," she said.

Walker started driving cabs two months after she arrived. Minus a

couple of stints in the service industry and at the KOA campground, it is what she has done ever since.

"It was the best thing that ever happened to me," she said. She is a private person, but driving a cab gives her plenty of opportunities to hang out with her community, helping all "the little old ladies and little old men."

Things have been quiet since coronavirus cases started being confirmed in the Pacific Northwest. At the start of the year, Walker was gearing up for what she thought was going to be a busy season: spring break travelers and cruise ships



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

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LaNay Walker of Mom's Cab.

