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CORONAVIRUS

Tribes regain foothold in South County

A property with history at Neawanna Point

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Historical tribal lands between Seaside and Gearhart are back in native hands.

The North Coast Land Conservancy on Tuesday announced the transfer of 18 acres of Neawanna Point Habitat Preserve to the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes. It is the first property the tribes have owned since they began to be displaced 200 years ago and lost their land.

To Dick Basch and other tribal leaders, it feels like a dream.

Ancestors had lived in a village located on the property for a millennia before diseases brought by explorers and fur trappers decimated the native population. White settlers followed in the 19th century to claim native lands.

The tribes negotiated a treaty in 1851 that was never ratified. Their federal recognition was revoked in 1954. Over the decades, they have seen their land and even their access to it disappear. The rushing rivers they used to travel transformed by farming and development from watery highways into narrow, fragmented things.

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Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

TOP: Roberta Basch raises her hands, saying, 'Thank you,' for the transfer of the land back to the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes. ABOVE: A. Diane Collier looks out across her ancestral land. BELOW: Eighteen acres of the Neawanna Point Habitat Preserve was returned to the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederate Tribes by the North Coast Land Conservancy on Tuesday.



Astoria City Council extends coronavirus emergency

Lodging restrictions will remain in place

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Astoria City Council extended an emergency declaration over the coronavirus through May, syncing up with extensions by Clatsop County and Warrenton.

The emergency includes a ban on short-term lodging enacted in late March to discourage visitors from coming to the North Coast.

"Trying to stay in step with our

other local communities, hopefully, makes sense," City Councilor Tom Brownson said Monday night. "I have a little concern about what ... some people in Seaside want to do with opening beaches and possibly opening hotels."

Seaside city councilors, who closed beaches in April to deter visitors, will discuss on May 11 whether to reopen them. Neighboring Gearhart, which has not declared an emergency, falls under the county's orders.

The Cannon Beach City Council voted Tuesday to extend an emergency measure to prevent visitors from outside of Clatsop County until at least June 2.

"We are watching the experiment in real time across the county, where there have been openings,"

"TRYING TO STAY IN STEP WITH OUR OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITIES, HOPEFULLY, MAKES SENSE."

City Councilor Tom Brownson

Brownson said. "And we have seen examples of people going to beaches in other places, and ... physical distancing has not taken place. There are a lot of people that don't really seem to take this as seriously as I think they should."

City councilors shared their best hopes for workers at Bornstein Seafoods, where at least 13 people tested positive for the coronavirus.

The county, which had been at six positive cases for weeks before

the cluster at Bornstein Seafoods appeared, has been formulating a plan to reopen portions of the economy and allow larger gatherings based on the downward trajectory of the virus.

"This situation just reminds us all that that virus is widespread around us," Mayor Bruce Jones said. "We don't know if we have it as individuals who may have been exposed yesterday and be asymptomatic. We could potentially be

spreading it."

Jones called on people to continue washing their hands, wearing masks, avoiding gatherings and staying home if possible.

The City Council also forgave the documented expenses of groups that received arts and cultural grants to plan events that were canceled to stem the spread of the coronavirus. Whatever grant amount is left over would be included in any grants the groups receive in the city's next fiscal year.

City Councilor Jessamyn West, who as general manager of the Astoria Arts and Movement Center has received grants, recused herself from the discussion and vote.

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Outbreak delays cruise ship docking

Port planned for two ships

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Port of Astoria delayed plans to dock two idle cruise ships at Pier 1 after a coronavirus outbreak at Bornstein Seafoods.

The cash-strapped Port had an agreement with Norwegian Cruise Line to dock the Regatta and Seven Seas Mariner starting this week for up to \$15,000 a day. The cruise line had arranged for medical services and transport, and to keep all crew on board, said Will Isom, the Port's executive director, but the timing couldn't have been worse.

The Port received a berthing notice from Norwegian on Saturday, Isom said, the same day Clatsop County publicly disclosed a worker at Bornstein Seafoods tested positive for the virus. At least 13 workers have tested positive so far.

Bornstein Seafoods has shut down seafood processing plants on Pier 1 and Pier 2 and advised more than 150 workers to shelter at home while awaiting more test results.

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County pressed on disclosure

A balance between detail, medical privacy

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The coronavirus outbreak at Bornstein Seafoods in Astoria has raised questions about how much information Clatsop County should publicly disclose, including where people who test positive for the virus work.

The county Public Health Department has erred on the side of medical privacy and only released the sex and age range of positive cases, along with whether they live in the northern or southern part of the county.

Before the Bornstein Seafoods outbreak, the county declined to answer questions from The Astorian about whether people who test positive have jobs or engage in activities that make it more or less likely the virus could spread.

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