

## CORONAVIRUS



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Jon Elliott, left, and Eric Lane are planning to open a brewery in the old Fenton Grocery building on Main Avenue in Warrenton.

# Warrenton hopes new brewery will lift downtown

## Historic building on Main Avenue

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

**W**ARRENTON — Two locals are planning the city's only brewery inside one of the only historic buildings on Main Avenue in a move city leaders see as a shot in the arm to downtown.

Jon Elliott and Eric Lane are the partners behind Battery 245, named for one of the decommissioned artillery guns that stood sentry over the Columbia River during World War II.

Elliott graduated from Warrenton High School in 1998; Lane in 2004. They became friends working in the local service sector before starting to brew together and thinking of starting their own operation.

Warrenton and Gearhart are the only cities in Clatsop County without breweries. Astoria, with five breweries, a cidery and a distillery, has become a global draw for craft beverage fans.

"It's kind of a mixed batch," Elliott said of the response to the new brewery. "Some people say there's enough, and some people say, 'Hey, this is really what we want.' I know that the soccer dads are tired of driving to Astoria all the time."

Elliott, who has been brewing at home for the past decade, is the brains behind the brewery, which will start with a 1-barrel system he hopes will supply a restaurant and pub with about 200 gallons a year. Lane, who works at Warrenton Fultano's, will focus more on the food, which he said will not resemble the deep-fried fare of many bars.



Much of downtown Warrenton has received grant money as part of an urban renewal project.

"It's going to be small," Lane said. "We're thinking sandwiches, hot and cold sandwiches. We're not going to have a deep fryer, so not a bunch of greasy stuff. We'll be family friendly, so we'll have some kids options too. It's all a work in progress."

### Fenton Grocery

The partners had closed in on another building downtown before the deal fell through, Elliott said. They were eventually put in touch with Weston Roberts and his uncle, Russell Maize, who have been fixing up the 10,000-square-foot, 1925 Fenton Grocery building at the corner of First Street and Main Avenue.

The building, sometimes called the brown building because of its color scheme, includes a commercial space downstairs, where Maize's grandfather once worked for Fenton Grocery. Several apartments upstairs are being refurbished.

Maize and Roberts have replaced siding on the building and applied for an urban renewal facade grant last year to further fix up the outside.

Last week, the City Commission supported matching up to \$35,000 of the cost to renovate the building's facade. The city's grant money will go toward improving the facade, while the building and brewery owners are partnering on the rest of the renovation.

How long that will take depends on how much work the nearly 100-year-old building needs. Since the brewery would change the use of the former thrift store and grocery, the partners will need to bring many aspects of the interior up to modern code.

Lane said the timing of the coronavirus pandemic was fortunate for the partners, who can continue fixing up the building without the pressure to open soon. Battery 245 is going for

See Brewery, Page A6

# Mask rule starts on Wednesday

Brown issued a statewide order

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

People are required to wear masks in Clatsop County starting Wednesday while in stores and other indoor public spaces to help stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Gov. Kate Brown on Friday afternoon approved the county Board of Commissioners' request to opt in to a mask requirement the governor imposed for seven Oregon counties.

The requirement went into effect last week for Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Hood River, Lincoln, Marion and Polk counties.

Brown did not include counties with lower infection rates in her initial mandate, but gave counties the ability to opt in to the requirement. Clatsop County commissioners voted unanimously on Wednesday night to opt in.

With the Fourth of July weekend approaching, and coronavirus cases still rising across the state, Brown on Monday extended the mask requirement statewide.

"Modeling from the Oregon Health Authority shows that if we don't take further action to reduce the spread of the disease, our hospitals could be overwhelmed by new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations within weeks," the governor said in a statement.

"The choices every single one of us make in the coming days matter."

"Face coverings that cover your nose and mouth play a critical role in reducing the spread of this disease because droplets from our breath can carry the virus to others without us realizing it."

See Masks, Page A3

# PAC lands on its feet

College finds a local buyer

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Astorian

After years of uncertainty, a group that long sought to preserve a cherished North Coast community center feels it is finally on stable ground.

Clatsop Community College has sold the Performing Arts Center to a local buyer, who, in turn, is providing a long-term lease of the facility to Partners for the PAC with the goal of eventually transferring ownership. The two organizations and the buyer held a formal transfer of ownership celebration Monday evening.

The Partners, an arts coalition that includes the Astoria Music Festival and the North Coast Symphonic Band, has staged rehearsals and performances at the former church on 16th Street in Astoria for years.

See PAC, Page A6

# Bike brings back memories for stroke survivor

A gift for a decorated Vietnam veteran

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

**S**ome memories are fleeting for 88-year-old Laverne "Lee" Henry since he suffered a stroke a year ago. One that stuck in his mind, though, was the joy of riding his bike as a child around his

small, agrarian hometown of Alabama in upstate New York. Henry's childhood memories, and need for exercise after a stroke, led his caretaker to organize the purchase of a new recumbent tricycle as a gift to the decorated Vietnam War veteran.

"It just brought back memories," Henry said of the bike. "Of

course, that was a few years ago. But back then, everybody had bikes, and we rode all over the countryside."

Henry worked construction after high school until the U.S. military began a draft lottery to gather troops for Vietnam. He volunteered instead, starting in engineering before switching to aviation. He became an aircraft mechanic, first for planes and later for helicopters.

Halfway through his first tour, Henry got permission to go home and be with his wife, who fell ill



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Laverne Henry, right, takes his new recumbent bicycle out for a spin with the help of his caregiver, Meredith Howell.

See Henry, Page A3



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