



Some shoppers were wearing masks at the Astoria Sunday Market.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Councilor: ‘I’m concerned that the cure has now become far worse than the disease’

Continued from Page A1

systematically destroyed. It started with a small request, lock down for 15 days to slow the spread. We complied,” Morrisey said.

“Then the lockdown intensified. It started with many of our great businesses being labeled ‘nonessential.’ Next, they shut down our events at our newly remodeled convention center. Next, it was restaurants and bars that were forced to close. Next, it was schools and sporting events that could no longer operate safely and students needed to learn ‘virtually.’ Next, hospitals were closed and left empty in many areas while many people that needed care — including family members of mine — were left unable to get treatments, in many cases treatments that would have saved their lives.

“Then, churches and other religious gatherings were

deemed unsafe and forced to close. Charities and other organizations had to cancel fundraisers causing major hardship for the most vulnerable in our community, which we just learned at our budget committee meetings. We lost our access to our state parks, national parks, beaches and other public spaces. We then lost access to our trails and waterways. In many areas fishing, clamming and hunting was banned in order to slow the spread of course.

“Now, as we sit just less than 48 hours from the forced masking of our population. I have to ask, how long will our great restaurants and bars be able to continue to operate? If it’s too dangerous for me to walk into a building without a mask on, how long until the governor closes restaurants and bars back down?

“Today, the governor tweeted, that people should ‘Please keep your 4th of July celebrations small & local,’

basically encouraging people not to travel. If travel is once again banned, how can a tourist-based community like ours survive? One thing that needs to be made clear, none of these problems have been caused by COVID-19. These problems have been caused by government’s response to COVID-19 and I’m concerned that the cure has now become far worse than the disease.”

Government leaders, he said, should be looking at the lack of hospitalizations and reported deaths since reopening the economy instead of the increasing number of cases.

“So, I guess the question I will ask this council today is this,” he said. “Does the threat of COVID-19 rise to the level of destroying our entire economy, our charities, our families and our entire way of life? I don’t think it does.”

Mayor Jay Barber said the

topic would be added to the agenda for an upcoming City Council meeting.

Elected officials in Clatsop County have mostly tried to have a unified approach in response to the pandemic. While some elected officials have been critical of Brown’s decisions, no one has publicly challenged government restrictions to the degree of Morrisey’s statement.

Morrisey, first elected to the City Council in 2014, leads Morrisey Productions, a video production company.

On Tuesday, Brown extended the coronavirus emergency for 60 days amid a surge of new virus cases throughout the state.

“The choices we make will determine if Oregon flattens the curve of new COVID-19 infections, or sees a devastating spike in cases that overwhelms our hospital capacity next month,” Brown said on Twitter. “What happens next is up to all of us.”

County reports new coronavirus case

The Astorian

Clatsop County reported Tuesday that a man living in the northern part of the county has tested positive for the coronavirus.

The man is in his 40s and was reportedly self-quarantined at home.

The county has recorded

49 cases since March 23 with 46 reportedly recovered.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 8,931 cases and 208 deaths from the virus statewide as of Wednesday morning.

The health authority tracked 2,459 test results in Clatsop County, including the 49 positive cases.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The TP Freight depot is being rezoned to become a Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic.

Clinic: Emerged as a noncontroversial option

Continued from Page A1

“A rezone would allow what we feel would be a great addition to the downtown area, fit in with the current neighboring health care businesses, and most importantly allow us to expand our capacity to provide more of those medical services to those patients in need,” Brey Meyer said.

A developer had pitched a 16,000-square-foot Grocery Outlet for the site, leading to community opposition over the company’s fit at the triangle-shaped property, the potential impact on the co-op and concerns that traffic to and from the store would endanger pedestrians walking along Marine Drive.

The application was denied by the Planning

Commission. The developer appealed to the City Council, which in February upheld the commission’s denial.

TP Freight is having a new location built in Miles Crossing. The Heestand family, which owns the truck depot, had warned that they would have to lease the property to anyone interested.

The medical clinic has emerged as a noncontroversial option. Staff recommended approval of the zone change. City Planner Barbara Fryer said the property has a likely buyer and is much more likely to be redeveloped if rezoned from local service to education, research and health care.

The City Council will ultimately decide on the rezone.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The windows at Astor Elementary are being replaced as part of a series of renovations happening at the school this summer.

School: Work expected to finish next summer

Continued from Page A1

school district is also looking at where it may create temporary classrooms at Astor Elementary School to lower the amount of children in each room to better comply with public health guidelines.

The disease’s spread in Oregon has not hampered supply chains for the work on the buildings, but the school district has struggled with an old challenge of getting people to the coast to do the necessary work.

Work on the buildings is expected to finish up next summer.

For now, fences cordon off Astoria High School and portions of Astoria Middle School are now rubble.

Construction crews unearthed a time capsule at the middle school, marking a full-circle moment for the facility, which opened in 1968 as a junior high.

The small metal box,



A Daily Astorian newspaper found in the time capsule.

housed in the school’s cornerstone, held a number of documents, including city correspondence welcoming the new school.

“I was here the day that cornerstone was laid,” said Loren Mathews, the president of the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association. In 1968, he was the school

district’s business manager. He was present when the time capsule was opened.

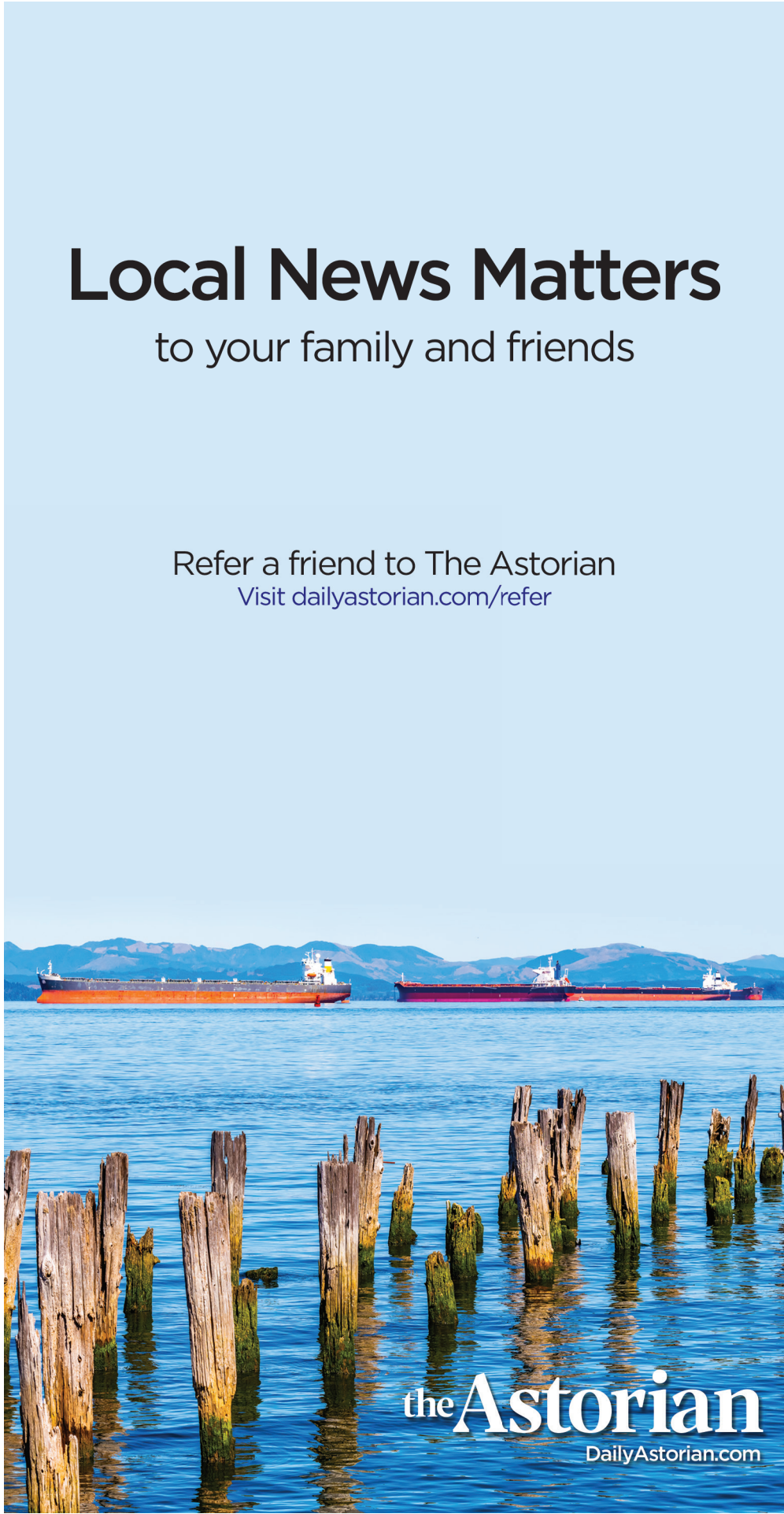
“It’s a great walk back in time,” he said upon seeing all the documents he had helped assemble more than 50 years ago. “It marked an occasion when the community came together as they did today to support our local schools.”

Local News Matters

to your family and friends

Refer a friend to The Astorian

Visit dailyastorian.com/refer



theAstorian

DailyAstorian.com