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CORONAVIRUS



Fireworks fill the sky over Astoria and the Columbia River on the Fourth of July.

Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

State takes over tracing at Pacific Seafood

County calls it a 'joint decision'

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The Oregon Health Authority will take over contract tracing and other steps to contain the spread of the coronavirus at Pacific Seafood in Warrenton after a worker tested positive.

Clatsop County leaders described it as a "joint decision," but it came after several days of tensions between the county, the health authority and the seafood processor over how to respond to the new case.

The worker, a man in his 40s, was among workers from Moldova who arrived at the plant in late June under the federal H-2B visa program. Seafood processors and other businesses can use the program to bring in foreign nationals to temporarily fill nonagricultural jobs.

Pacific Seafood said the worker who tested positive was immediately quarantined and eventually taken to Portland. A worker the company described as a close contact was also quarantined.

The county wanted the contacts of the worker who tested positive to quarantine, since they had traveled to Warrenton together by bus. According to county leaders, the health authority and the company maintain that workers who test negative and are asymptomatic can continue to work.

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New virus cases include parks worker

By R.J. MARX
and NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

SEASIDE — The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District will close youth programs for two weeks after a staff member tested positive for the coronavirus.

The closure will allow time for the park district to deep clean affected areas. The Sunset Pool will remain open and other district programs will continue.

"Our priority is keeping our patrons and staff safe," said Skyler Archibald, the park district's executive director, who was informed of the positive test result on Saturday.

Oscar Nelson, of Sweet Relief, announced on Facebook on Monday that the cannabis company temporarily closed the Astoria location after learning an employee was a presumptive positive for the virus.

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Surprise fireworks show marks Independence Day

A gift during the pandemic

The Astorian

Robert Dorn described it as a gift to Astoria during the coronavirus pandemic.

Disappointed after the traditional Fourth of July fireworks show through the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce was canceled, the CEO of Hyak Maritime convinced the city to allow a private display over the

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Fireworks are seen above the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Steadfast in Astoria.

MORE INSIDE

See photos of a spirited Fourth of July on the North Coast • A2

Woman keeps son's memory alive

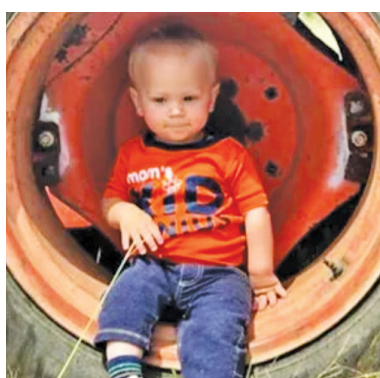
Rhett's Ranch a place for families

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

CHINOOK, Wash. — Rhett's Ranch is a place Anne Mattson's son would have never wanted to leave.

The property in Chinook is part of what used to be her grandfather's cattle farm. The ranch is still a work in progress, but by August, Mattson envisions it will be a place where families can play with animals, tire

EVERYDAY
people



Anne Mattson's son, Rhett.

playgrounds and yard games and take tractor rides and explore the surrounding "fairy forest."

Mattson came up with the idea earlier this year as a way to memorialize her 1-year-old son, Rhett, who died last July after climbing over a fence and falling into a pond. He died after several days on life support.

She said her two biggest fears since her son died are forgetting the memories they shared together and others forgetting he existed. She

wants Rhett's Ranch to be a place where children and their families can relax, play and enjoy time together.

"I don't have that anymore, and I miss it a lot," she said. "And I

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Anne Mattson at Rhett's Ranch in Chinook.

