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CORONAVIRUS



Bruce Berney with his wife, Kristina.

Berney was a force for preservation

Death linked to coronavirus

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Bruce Berney, who was credited with taking crucial steps to preserve Astoria's history and to establish a professional library, died on Monday of coronavirus-related complications, his family said.

Berney, 85, served as director of the Astoria Library for 30 years before his retirement in 1997.

His health had been declining for several years, according to his family. They have not

received an official cause of death yet, but Berney, who had recently moved to an assisted living facility in Portland, was hospitalized because of the virus.

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Animal auction set for fairgrounds

Live event on Saturday

By MORGAN GRINDY
The Astorian

Although the Clatsop County Fair was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, the fairgrounds won't be completely empty this summer.

The Junior Market Auction, one of the fair's most popular activities, will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday as an in-person, live event. The auction will also be livestreamed through Facebook and YouTube.

An auction committee began planning the event once the county was approved for phase two of Gov. Kate Brown's reopening plan in early June.

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County wants to move public works out of tsunami zone

Some residents question expansion to Lewis and Clark

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County wants to move a public works facility in Astoria out of the tsunami inundation zone.

The relocation is part of a long-term plan to move essential county buildings and infrastructure to safer ground in preparation for a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami or other disaster.

The county is negotiating the purchase of two properties along the Lewis and Clark River that together make up more than 80 acres.

Letters of interest have also been obtained for about 8 miles of the Lewis and Clark Mainline, a logging road that connects the two properties.

The project, particularly the purchase of the Lewis and Clark Mainline, has been met with resistance by some nearby residents. They believe the county has not been forthcoming with plans that may draw more development and permanently change the landscape of Lewis and Clark.

Moving public works to safer



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Clatsop County Public Works is located off of Olney Avenue in Astoria.

ground and establishing a bypass have been priorities in the county's strategic plan since 2012.

Commissioner Pamela Wev, who represents Lewis and Clark, said relocating essential county buildings — beginning with public works — is crucial. The public works facility off Olney Avenue in Astoria is more than a hundred years old.

"In case of a natural disaster, our Public Works Department is one of the most important county actors in that because they would be responsi-

ble for moving debris off of roads and making sure that roads were passable, etc.," Wev said.

Two properties

For the new public works site, the county is negotiating the purchase of the Warrenton Fiber sort yard, which is more than 50 acres and located at the corner of Loukas Lane and Fort Clatsop Road, just south of Fort Clatsop and Netul Landing.

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Clatsop County is negotiating a purchase of the Lewis and Clark Mainline, which may serve as an alternate and emergency route.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian
Cindy Moore, the assistant city engineer, cuts the ribbon and officially reopens the newly-reconstructed 10th Street bridge in downtown Astoria on Wednesday afternoon.

Astoria puts a bow on bridge work

But trolley still in limbo

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Astoria put the bow Wednesday on a project to replace six wooden street ends between Sixth and 11th streets downtown with concrete and metal. But don't expect the Astoria Riverfront Trolley back anytime soon.

Much of the city's trestle had been under a 3-ton weight restriction. The project allows truck traffic and the trolley to keep accessing the waterfront, City Manager Brett Estes said.

"It's really just an integral part of our working waterfront and our waterfront business culture," he said.

Estes, a board member on the Astoria Riverfront Trolley Association, cautioned that despite the bridge improvements, the trolley will not be operating for the foreseeable future. The popular tourist attraction relies heavily on older volunteers who are more at risk from the coronavirus.

After getting the six bridge ends included in the national inventory, the city in 2013 secured funding for the \$13 million project from the state.

"We applied for the replacement of all six, understanding that they were only going to fund two of them," said Jeff Harrington, the city's public works director. "And we just got fortunate that there was excess funding because of other agencies not applying, so they

funded all six."

The project eventually totaled around \$15 million, including a local match by Astoria and \$2 million in additional funds state Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, helped secure after bids came in high.

The project eliminates about \$100,000 to \$200,000 in yearly maintenance to keep the wooden trestles at least partially accessible. In addition to the 3-ton weight limit, the bridge ends were not designed to withstand any seismic movement.

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