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\$1.50

CORONAVIRUS

Port pegs virus loss at \$1 million

Estimate based from March through June

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Port of Astoria has estimated \$1 million in losses between March and June related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Port staff compared the agency's dockage, lease income and fuel sales over the past quarter to the previous year to estimate losses. The biggest hit came on the docks, where Port staff estimated a \$840,516 loss from diverting 43 cruise ships and other vessels because of government restrictions on travel.

Another \$93,191 was lost from fewer airplanes fueling at the Astoria Regional Airport; \$57,003 from fewer fishermen and other mariners fueling at the West Mooring Basin; and \$36,635 from lost room bookings at the Astoria Riverwalk Inn, which pays a percentage of profits to the Port.

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Moose Lodge closes as virus precaution

Positive case at sister lodge

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The Astoria Moose Lodge temporarily closed after a person who visited the lodge on Sunday tested positive for the coronavirus.

Taz Davis, the chapter's governor, described the person as a member of a sister lodge in Washington state. He said contact tracing has been completed and that all seven people who were at the lodge during that time are self-quarantining.

Davis informed members about the situation in an email on Tuesday. He said that out of an abundance of caution, the lodge will be closed until Aug. 11 while it is sanitized and disinfected. All scheduled activities for the week have been postponed.

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Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Elaine Steiner enjoys Clatsop Care's patio garden and celebrates her 71st birthday surrounded by loved ones.

Some outdoor visits allowed at long-term care homes amid virus

At Clatsop Care, reunions in a patio garden

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Elaine Steiner hadn't seen her dog, "Pinto," since Easter Sunday, when emergency crews took her by ambulance from her home in Seaside to Providence Seaside Hospital.

"I was kind of worried when I called the ambulance. I thought he might not like this — the firemen and ambulance," Steiner said of the pit bull and cattle dog mix. "But I just said, 'These are good guys, Pinto ... They're our friend. They're going to help us.' And so he was just standing there wagging his tail. He was good."

After a week in the hospital, Steiner moved to Clatsop Care Health and Rehabilitation in Astoria. But it wasn't long before congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease sent her back to the hospital for 31 days. She went back to Clatsop Care to recover and is working to regain her strength.

Steiner said it was difficult not seeing Pinto, her family and friends. Because of the government restrictions on visitation put in place in March as a precaution against the coronavirus,



From left, great-grandson Brantley Layman and granddaughters Natasha and Bailey Corder visit with Elaine Steiner on her birthday.

she could only talk to her family over the phone.

But since Gov. Kate Brown announced in late July that she would allow outdoor visits at long-term care facilities with no reported virus cases, residents at Clatsop Care have been able to see family and friends in a patio garden.

"I thought maybe he'd be mad at me," Steiner said about the first time

she saw her dog again in the garden.

"But he just came in and he saw me and he just started wagging his tail and then came over and laid his head in my lap," she said. He slept by her wheelchair for the rest of their visit.

"I miss him so much, but that was really nice that they let me see him," Steiner said.

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Astoria delays library, public safety goals

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Astoria City Council, looking at goals through the lens of the coronavirus pandemic, is delaying efforts to improve the Astoria Library and relocate a public safety building out of the tsunami inundation zone.

"Looking at what we have focused on since the pandemic started about five months ago in our community, it's public health, it's the impact on the local economy and the sustainability of our ability to provide public services to go into the future," said Mayor Bruce Jones, who initiated the discussion Monday. "Those are the three things that have concerned us."

Jones suggested a newer goal of responding to the pandemic based on those needs.

The City Council in 2019 created a number of goals, includ-



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

The city is delaying efforts to help raise money for the renovation of the Astoria Library because of the coronavirus pandemic.

ing the modernization of the city's Brutalist, 1960s library, which has not been significantly upgraded since its construction. The cost of a full renovation is estimated at nearly \$7 million.

The city has set aside \$750,000 in carbon sequestration credits to support the renovation, along with \$900,000 in a memorial fund from former Mayor

W.C. Logan, who the renovated library will be named after. City councilors have supported a full renovation, provided the library foundation in charge of fundraising could gather another \$5 million.

The foundation had gathered around \$100,000 since 2014 before receiving a promise of \$500,000 from the National

Endowment for the Humanities if it could raise another \$1.5 million locally within five years.

The City Council had more recently supported exploring a bond measure in 2021 and potentially contracting with someone to help raise money in advance of a bond. But City Manager Brett Estes on Monday cast doubt on the wisdom of holding a fundraiser in the middle of a pandemic when many other groups are struggling to survive.

Jones agreed with Estes' assessment and worried the economic crisis could linger for months or worsen if there is a resurgence of the virus.

Timeline

David Oser, the secretary and treasurer of the library foundation, said the group doesn't feel in danger of losing the federal grant. The endowment would likely be amenable to extending the timeline required to raise the local match, he said.

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West chooses not to run for City Council

Appointed to the post in 2019

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Astoria City Councilor Jessamyn Grace West, who was appointed to represent the east side in 2019, will not file for election in November.

Her term in Ward 4 expires at the end of the year.

In her announcement at the City Council meeting Monday, West cited other obligations taking up her time.

She is executive director of the Astoria Arts and Movement Center in the historic Odd Fellows Building downtown, an equine naturopath, a programmer for Coast Community Radio and a volunteer with numerous local organizations.



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