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CORONAVIRUS



TRACKING THE PANDEMIC THROUGH TRASH

A discarded mask on the sidewalk in Seaside.
Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Garbage is piling up in some places

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

A light blue surgical mask floats in traffic on the New Youngs Bay Bridge. City trash cans overflow with takeout containers from restaurants.

On the North Coast, the coronavirus pandemic can be tracked through more than just test results.

Since Clatsop County reopened the economy — lifting lodging restrictions, reopening beach and park accesses — tourists are back at what seems like summertime levels. But with most events still postponed or canceled and many public indoor activities restricted, locals and visitors alike are flocking outdoors.

They are leaving a stream of pandemic-specific debris behind.

The trash shows up on beaches, on trails and even in city sewer systems.

Summer is the high season for trash in Cannon Beach, and this year is no different, though aspects appear unique to the coronavirus.

As restaurants shifted from inside dining to to-go options, the city increased the scheduled routine of trash can emptying, said Karen La Bonte, the public works director.

Carryout “added a tremendous amount of trash volume to the cans around town,” she said. As businesses began ordering different types of supplies — to-go disposable containers and the like — the amount of cardboard brought to locals-only recycling drop-off sites also went up.

Astoria had to request more frequent collections for trash cans on the Astoria River-



Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian

Garbage overflows at a trash can at a trailhead.

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County's lone dry cleaner at risk

Building is up for sale

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Clatsop County could soon be without a dry cleaner.

Astoria Cleaners faces an uncertain future with sales plummeting from a lack of formal events and their landlord looking to sell the building.

Karen Shinabery and her partner, Rob Tikkala, bought Astoria Cleaners from Delores Smith in 2001.

The business, located on Ninth Street in Astoria, soon outgrew its small space and moved into a stand-alone building on Marine Drive next to Dairy Queen, where they offer dry cleaning and a coin laundry.

While there are several other laundromats, the nearest dry cleaners are in Tillamook, Hillsboro and Longview, Washington.

Astoria Cleaners would typically be awash in wedding gowns and tuxedos for summer nuptials; uniforms from the crews of river cruise ships stopping at the 17th Street Dock; and all other manner of professional attire. But the coronavirus pandemic has brought much of public life to a standstill and decimated dry cleaning businesses around the U.S.

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Five new virus cases reported

Public health officials cite community spread

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County reported Monday that five coronavirus cases were recorded over the weekend.

A man and a woman in their 20s living in the northern part of the county tested positive for the virus.

A man in his 50s and a man in his 70s living in the northern part of the county and a man in his 50s living in the southern part of the county also tested positive.

The county has recorded 88 cases since March 23. Sixty-six have recovered, according to the county, and the others were convalescing at home.

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Family turns hobby into game shop

Bonsai Hollow opens on Marine Drive

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Astoria has been without a game store since the closure of Amazing Stories in 2012 and the Arc Arcade in 2017.

Enter a father and his two sons, all avid gamers and collectors who saw an opportunity to turn their hobby and a storeroom on Marine Drive into a new business during the coronavirus pandemic.

EVERYDAY
people

Chris Holloway, a tax consultant, runs H&R Block in downtown Astoria. He helped his two sons, 19-year-old Chris and 15-year-old Mason Quashnick-Holloway, clear a storeroom next door and open their new gaming business, Bonsai Hollow, a little over a week ago.

“The kids needed something to do to get them out of the house, and they didn’t want to work at H&R Block with me,” Holloway said.

The shop’s small slot of a show-

room is filled with all manner of cards, board games, hobbies and collectibles arrayed on shelves, tables and glass cases. They specialize in role-playing and card games like Magic: The Gathering, Dungeons & Dragons, Pathfinder and Pokemon sourced from their own collection and Wizards of the Coast, a game manufacturer based in Seattle.

“There’s a little one in Seaside,” Holloway said of the shop’s selection. “But to get a collection like ours, you have to go to Vancouver (Washington) or Seattle.”

Holloway said the shop also tries to beat prices on eBay, a popular clearinghouse for collectibles. He acts as financier and adviser to his boys, who don’t seem too concerned

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Edward Stratton/The Astorian

From left, Chris Holloway and his two sons, Chris and Mason Quashnick-Holloway, have opened Bonsai Hollow, a new game shop on Marine Drive in Astoria.

