

County reports new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County disclosed five new coronavirus cases this week.

On Friday, the county reported that a man in his 70s living in the southern portion of the county and a man in his 50s living in the northern portion of the county tested positive. The county said both men were recovering at home.

On Thursday, the county reported that three people living in the northern part of the county tested positive.

‘LONG STORY SHORT, THIS IS UNSUSTAINABLE, AND IF THE POSTAL SERVICE WANTS TO MOVE, ALL I CAN SAY IS, ‘GO AHEAD AND MOVE.’ IN FACT, I WILL ENCOURAGE IT.’

Bernard Bjork | owner of the post office building in Warrenton

Post office: Warrenton is still developing and may have to expand city limits

Continued from Page A1

forth, Bjork sent a letter to Mayor Henry Balensifer voicing his frustration over the Postal Service becoming increasingly cheap.

“For years now, our federal Congress has been providing less and less money to the Postal Service,” Bjork wrote. “This is why they have been trying desperately to get landlords to take on more and more of the financial burden.”

By 2000, Warrenton’s population had surpassed 4,000 people. Bjork created plans about 15 years ago for a 1,500-square-foot expansion of the post office. He received a response similar to Bonamici’s and Wyden’s.

“The response from the Postal Service stated, ‘We thank you for providing this proposal, however we see no need at this time for the additional space,’” Bjork wrote to Balensifer. “And that has been their policy ever since.”

About eight to 10 years ago, Bjork wrote, the Postal Service stopped repainting, replacing broken windows, groundskeeping and other basic maintenance, giving no explanation beyond not having the money.

Bjork wrote that renegotiating the lease every several years has also become more cumbersome, with thousands of dollars in fees he is charged for outside brokerage firms hired by the Postal Service. He

claimed it cost him \$7,000 in brokerage fees to a Portland-based firm when he last renewed the lease in 2018.

“Long story short, this is unsustainable, and if the Postal Service wants to move, all I can say is, ‘Go ahead and move,’” Bjork wrote. “In fact, I will encourage it.”

Balensifer said Bjork’s concerns help build the case for a new post office.

“Hopefully this all kind of just shapes the conversation moving forward of how do we get more capacity out of our Postal Service,” he said.

As for the Postal Service’s last determination of the post office being sufficient, Balensifer said it’s obviously not, and that he would call the issue out if the agency again finds no need for expansion.

Warrenton is still developing, Balensifer said, and could have to eventually expand city limits. The city is already one of the largest in the state by land area.

“My thought is that at some point, due to wetlands, we’re going to have to expand the city limits,” he said. “... We’ll probably take the Sunset Lake section, and maybe that will even expand out to like the Perkins (Lane) area just to get some more space and higher ground.

“Obviously, that’s a 20-year possibility, not a five- or even a two-year.”

Schools: ‘I am significantly concerned about the mental health and socialization’

Continued from Page A1

In Astoria, the school district has hosted after-school activities for students across grade levels. Participation is not required. Instead, the activities, which range from yoga to origami lessons, are intended as a safe, social outlet.

This week, the district rolled out a roster of physical activities at locations around Astoria for students, with bussing available to those who need transportation.

At a recent school board meeting, Hoppes, school principals and board members expressed their concern for students during this peculiar school year. A number of students are struggling with the unprecedented isolation from their peers and teach-

ers, principals said.

“I am significantly concerned about the mental health and socialization of our students,” said Lynn Jackson, the Astoria High School principal.

He asked the board to continue allowing administrators and teachers to explore options like the engagement activities.

Hoppes noted that while he and others stayed home from the workplace for several months after schools closed in March because of the coronavirus, he was eventually able to return to his office.

“I got to go back to work,” he told the school board. But, he added, “we’re asking our kids to stay in the same spot they were last spring and don’t socialize.”

Supporters: Both sides are encouraged

Continued from Page A1

Caplan pointed to conservatives who have been disruptive at local Black Lives Matter protests. They wave Trump and American flags and some carry guns and have identified with far-right groups.

“I believe that Biden and (Kamala) Harris will truly want to work with everybody to make Americans better off,” she said. “To figure out the most effective, safest way to deal with COVID and to restore the economy and to help those who’ve been devastated by the Trump administration’s mismanagement of the pandemic.”

Caplan said she is encouraged by what appears to be higher voter engagement. She said Indivisible North Coast Oregon took part in Vote Forward and Swing Left, a nationwide letter-writing campaign urging people to vote.

Swing right

Bob Shortman, the chairman of the Clatsop County Republican Party, thinks the county is going to swing right.

“A lot are saying this is the most important election they’ve ever faced,” said Shortman, who is also a candidate for the nonpartisan Gearhart City Council.

“When #TimberUnity started, that really swelled our ranks and that got so many people enthused when they realized that the Democrat policies were going to hurt their livelihood.

“The #TimberUnity people have really been engaged. They’ve joined the party, they’ve become PCPs (precinct committee person), they’re out



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian
Astoria residents hang Trump flags and Biden signs in their front yards.

there, they’re working for Suzanne Weber, and I think we’re going to have a landslide with Suzanne Weber.”

Weber, the Tillamook mayor, is the Republican candidate in state House District 32. Debbie Boothe-Schmidt, a former trial assistant and owner of Phog Bounders Antique Mall in Astoria, is the Democrat.

“As far as President

Trump goes, we realize we’re outnumbered here by Democrats ... but I think we’re going to do very, very well here,” Shortman said. “I just sense so much enthusiasm that I think we’re going to overcome the percentage of difference of Democrats to Republicans for Trump.”

Shortman and Kelly Shipley, the vice chair-

man of the Clatsop County Republican Party, support Trump’s commitment to lower taxes and fewer government regulations. They said the president’s promise to protect Second Amendment rights is important to many voters.

They are also enthusiastic about U.S. Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett, in part because Trump has vowed to appoint justices who will overturn Roe v. Wade, a 1973 decision that established a constitutional right to abortion.

Shipley said cap-and-trade legislation in Salem was an example of how Democratic policies do not take working-class people in rural areas into consideration. He believes that if the bill passed it could have resulted in the closure of the Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill, one of the county’s largest employers.

“Thank God we had the Republicans in there to stand up to (Gov. Kate Brown) and boycott her vote to stop it,” Shipley said.

Biden has said that he would transition away from oil toward renewable energy. Shipley said he believes climate change is an excuse for Democrats to tax.

“I think most of the people that are voting for Trump, that I’ve come across, are patriotic Americans,” he said. “They’re ‘God bless America,’ hard-working, salt of the Earth type people who just want to raise their families and do their jobs and they want to prosper.

“They don’t want to be taxed — they’re tired of the government pissing away their tax dollars.”



Specialty care, close to home

At Providence Seaside, your health is our priority. That’s why we’re adding new specialists to care for you and your family. You now have more choices for experts in:

- Cardiology
- Oncology
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- General surgery
- Orthopedic surgery

Whether we see you in person or in a virtual visit, our team of compassionate experts is committed to providing safe and convenient care for people throughout the North Coast.

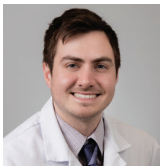
CARDIOLOGY



Gary Greenberg, M.D. (new provider)



Robert Morse, D.O.



Zachary Caverley, PA-C

OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY



Michael Adler, M.D.



Dominique Greco, M.D. (family medicine with obstetrics)



Jiyeon Jeon, M.D. (new provider in family medicine with obstetrics)

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY



Steven Dailey, M.D. (new provider)



Hans Moller, M.D. (new provider)



Dan Sitkowski, PA-C

GENERAL SURGERY



Eric Friedman, M.D. (new provider)



Manfred Ritter, M.D.

ONCOLOGY



Jennifer Lycette, M.D. (new provider)



Karren Warren, A-GNP

[Providence.org/northcoast](https://www.providence.org/northcoast)

