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CORONAVIRUS

Ross eviction case set for trial

Dispute with landlord over back-due rent

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

WARRENTON — The eviction fight between Ross Stores and Atlas Youngs Bay, the owner of the Youngs Bay Plaza, will go to trial in December.

Atlas tried to evict Ross in November for allegedly not paying more than \$14,000 in rent in October. The eviction process started after the state Legislature lifted a moratorium on commercial lease defaults and evictions in place since April because of the coronavirus pandemic, allowing Atlas to resume collecting rent.

Ross has been a tenant of the plaza since 2003.

Atlas terminated Ross's lease and ordered the retailer out by Nov. 9, but claims the company has refused to give the space up, the landlord's attorneys argued in court filings.

Ross's lawyers argued the retailer is entitled to a normal civil court case, rather than the expedited eviction process its

See Ross, Page A6

Minks and farmer test positive for coronavirus

State declines to identify farm

By GEORGE PLAIVEN
Capital Press

An Oregon mink farm is under quarantine after officials confirmed an outbreak of COVID-19 on Friday.

The farmer and at least 10 animals have tested positive for the virus, according to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The department did not publicly identify the farm or disclose its location.

State Veterinarian Ryan Scholz visited the farm last week and collected 10 samples that were sent to Oregon State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for testing. All samples came back positive.

See Minks, Page A7



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Wastewater treatment operator Steve Meadows takes a sample of wastewater to filter through a quarter-sized paper filter to check for traces of COVID-19 in Astoria's waste.

Sewer sampling reveals virus presence in Astoria

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Every Thursday, a public works employee in Astoria takes a special test kit and collects a sewer sample.

And nearly every week since sampling began in mid-September, the result comes back: "SARS-CoV-2 was detected in the Astoria wastewater monitoring site ..."

There are a few exceptions — two instances where samples were not able to be processed in October and once at the beginning of November when no trace of the virus

was noted — but the presence of the coronavirus in the city's wastewater is not a surprise to anyone.

Cases in Clatsop County have been on the rise this fall, mirroring an increase across Oregon and the United States as 2020 spirals to a close.

The sampling in Astoria is part of a statewide effort coordinated by the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon State University. As data accumulates from small- to medium-sized communities across Oregon over the coming months, researchers hope it helps deepen their understanding

See Sewer, Page A7



A sample of wastewater whirls around a beaker before testing for COVID-19.

County reports 21 new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County on Monday reported 21 new coronavirus cases.

The cases include two women and a man in their 20s, two women in their 40s and three men in their 50s living in the northern part of the county. The others live in the southern part of the county and include a male and a female between 10 and 19, four women in their 20s, two women in their 30s, four women in their 50s and one man in his 60s.

All 21 were reportedly recovering at home.

The county has recorded 383 cases since March. According to the county, 302 have recovered, five have been hospitalized and one has died. The rest were recovering at home.

The Oregon Health

Authority reported 75,431 cases and 912 deaths from the virus statewide as of Monday morning.

"COVID-19 is spreading faster in all parts of Oregon. It took six months before 25,000 Oregonians became sick with COVID-19 and two months more until we reached 50,000 total COVID-19 infections in Oregon," Patrick Allen, the health authority's director, said in a statement. "Most recently, it took three weeks to go from 50,000 cases to 75,000 and this weekend we crossed 900 total deaths.

"We can keep more people from getting sick and dying if we stay true to science-based mask-wearing and social distancing. With the bright promise of vaccines coming on the horizon, we can't give up."



Andrew Fick

Emma Roe, third from left in the purple sweatshirt, poses with others on the Astoria girls cross-country team after a meet in 2019. During a more unusual school year this year, Roe volunteered to become the student body president to the Astoria School District board.

Student serves as bridge for school board

Roe shares updates on student life

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Emma Roe's report to the Astoria School District board at a November meeting was a succinct and — in a way — unremarkable retelling of student activities, which is exactly what made it stand out in a school year completely altered by the coronavirus pandemic.

"It was a nice little piece of normalcy," one board member commented, her voice slightly muf-



fied as school administrators, board members and Roe herself connected remotely through a conference call.

Roe, a senior at Astoria High School, volunteered to take over as the student body representative to the board. It is a role that has existed in some form or another for decades, said Lynn Jackson, the school principal.

Roe, like the students before her, is tasked with providing brief updates. Jackson believes the representative often accomplishes much

more and may be even more significant this year when there are fewer ways for board members to interact directly with students.

Jackson has watched students grow in confidence as communicators and advocates for themselves and others. Though most will only fill the student representative role for a year, some have done it for two years. They improve on the skills they built in the first year and deepen mentor-type relationships with people — board members and administrators — who may have otherwise felt inaccessible.

See Roe, Page A7



Emma Roe

