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CORONAVIRUS

New round of virus relief

Money available for businesses and nonprofits

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Clatsop County businesses and nonprofits are in line for another \$942,000 worth of grants to help during the coronavirus pandemic.

Kevin Leahy, the director of Clatsop Economic Development Resources, recently told a meeting of downtown Astoria merchants that businesses should be looking forward to another round of business grants opening Thursday at clatsopcc.edu/cedr.

The county Board of Commissioners will likely vote on Wednesday to direct another \$852,000 in state relief funds toward nonprofits and businesses impacted by the virus. Leahy said Astoria and the county have contributed another \$90,000 combined in unused virus relief funds.

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Gearhart administrator plans to enter treatment

Apparently violated terms of alcohol diversion

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

GEARHART — City Administrator Chad Sweet said he is going to an alcohol treatment program for two weeks after apparently violating the terms of an alcohol-related diversion agreement stemming from a February drunken-driving case in Umatilla County.

“I am aware that I have a serious health issue, and over the weekend, I decided that I am going to treatment,” Sweet said. “I will focus on my recovery, my family, and intend to come back better than I am now.”

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Grizzly Tuna owner and former professional baseball player Brian Bruney sits in his home batting cage that he and his children use for batting practice.

FROM THE MAJORS TO GRIZZLY TUNA

Bruney gives back in new career

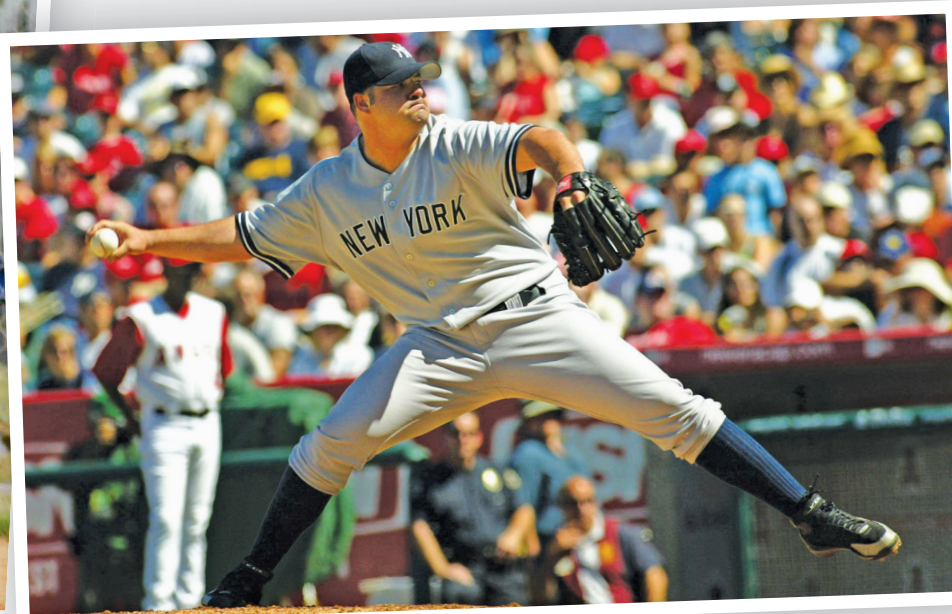
By GARY HENLEY
The Astorian

From professional baseball player, to dad, to coach and now local business owner. • All in all, it's been a smooth transition for Brian Bruney. • “It all comes full circle I guess,” Bruney said. Besides, “That’s all I ever wanted to do, grow up and coach.”

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Gary Henley/The Astorian



Yankees.com

RIGHT: Brian Bruney spent 2006 through 2009 with the New York Yankees, making an appearance in the 2009 World Series. LEFT: The all-time home run leader in school history, Brian Bruney took part in Warrenton baseball's annual alumni game in 2014.

‘Short Circuit’ super fan brings film set to life

Bates plans a homestay lodging

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Richard Bates was 6 years old when he first saw “Short Circuit,” a 1986 movie filmed in Astoria. In the movie, a military robot nicknamed “Johnny 5” is humanized by a lightning strike and takes

refuge with an animal caregiver in her 1900 Victorian-era farmhouse in Uniontown.

“I actually told my mom this — I swear to god — I said, ‘Mom, I like that house,’” he said.

Bates, now 39, bought the house a year ago, quit his job with a railroad and dedicated himself to building out a homestay lodging, action

figure museum and full re-creation of the “Short Circuit” set.

Bates visited Astoria every several years or so, checking up on the house. He stopped by during the film’s 33rd anniversary, noticed the house was empty and decided he needed to be the property’s caretaker. He relocated from Vancouver, Washington.

Using conceptual photos from production illustrator Jack Johnson, Bates has been re-creating the farm-style house where actor Ally Sheedy’s character kept a wide array of animals. In the yard, he

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Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Richard Bates is fixing up the house from the 1986 film ‘Short Circuit’ into a cinematically authentic homestay lodging and museum for his vintage action figures.



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