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INSIDE

CORONAVIRUS

County moves to lower risk for virus

Local case count continues to improve

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County will move to lower risk for the coronavirus beginning Friday, allowing gathering sizes and indoor capacity at restaurants and bars to increase.

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The county has gone back-and-forth between high risk and extreme risk since November, when Gov. Kate Brown introduced the data-driven framework designed to contain the spread of the virus through the winter. The lower risk category is the

state's least restrictive on businesses and social activities.

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New study highlights challenges for salmon

A bleak outlook in ocean

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

The outlook is bleak for wild Chinook salmon in a changing ocean.

A new study predicts Snake River spring and summer Chinook that migrate through the Columbia River could be nearly extinct by the 2060s without serious interventions as human-caused climate change continues to alter ocean conditions.

The study, led by researchers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, modeled the survival of eight wild populations of threatened Chinook salmon at all life stages under global climate model projections and found the fish faced especially dire circumstances as sea surface temperatures rise.

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Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

A landslide occurred Monday off Old U.S. Highway 30.

Landslide hits Tongue Point

'I just care that somebody comes in and cleans up this mess,' homeowner says

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian



ABOVE: Ken Matson attempts to spray some of the mud from the landslide off his driveway.

Ken Matson lives with his wife, Cheryl, in one of the few houses along Old U.S. Highway 30 beneath the former Blue Ridge military housing development at Tongue Point.

Matson was hanging out in his garage Monday when he heard what sounded like a street sweeper outside.

When the Matsons came outside, a large chunk of the steep ridge above had crashed down and buried the road just north of their house, destroying a shed and pushing a truck, a boat and a trailer down a hill.

The Matsons have been scrambling to fortify the property and determine responsibility for the damage. City crews helped sandbag and trench around the house to divert water and mud.

The road outside their house is controlled by the U.S. Department of Labor, which oversees the Tongue Point Job Corps Center down the road. Local officials have reached out to the federal agency and U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici for assistance.

"Tongue Point is responsible for maintaining the roadway and removing the debris," the Oregon Democrat said in a statement. "Leaders at Tongue Point have already secured emergency

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RIGHT: Cheryl Matson points to the landslide that took out a section of her property.

Crash survivor remembers 'love they left behind'

Friends, co-workers rally to support mother

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Friends of Esperanza Martin-Ramirez are issuing a plea for help as she recovers from a crash at Ecola State Park that left her 3 1/2-month-old baby daughter, Kenia, dead.

"Life can change in a blink of an eye," wrote Seaside's Joanna Ramos on a GoFundMe page. "Yesterday one of my closest friends got in a bad car accident where her baby girl of three months lost her life.

"Money should be the last thing a mother should have to worry about after losing a child. I ask our com-



Kenia Esmeralda Martin-Ramirez was killed in a car crash on Feb. 15.

munity to come together and help this young woman with her terrible loss. Nothing we say or do will bring that precious angel back but we as a community can come together and

support Esperanza in these difficult times."

More than a week after the Feb. 15 crash, Martin-Ramirez, 20, shared her thoughts on the tragedy.

Ramos served as her translator. "She is doing better both physically and mentally," Ramos said in a phone interview.

Martin-Ramirez joined family in the United States from Guatemala looking for better opportunities. "Over there, they don't have much support financially, so she came to the United States looking for a better future for herself," Ramos said.

When her mother died, Martin-Ramirez left school and moved in with a family member to support her siblings.

Martin-Ramirez and Ramos met as co-workers at a Seaside hotel.

"From the first day I met her, I knew that she was a sweet girl," Ramos said. "She was so tiny I didn't even realize she was pregnant until she told me she was

going to give birth."

Kenia's birth wasn't planned, but her goal for Kenia was to put her in a good school, teach her right from wrong and always support her.

When she needed a place to stay, Martin-Ramirez moved in with Ramos and other roommates in Seaside.

Kenia was a calm baby, Martin-Ramirez shared. "The only time she would cry was when she was hungry or had a poopy diaper," she said. "She was a super good baby."

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