

IN BRIEF

County reports three new virus cases

Clatsop County on Wednesday reported three new coronavirus cases.

The cases include a man and a woman in their 20s and a woman in her 30s living in the northern part of the county.

All three were recovering at home.

The county has recorded 787 cases since the pandemic began. According to the county, 18 were hospitalized and six have died.

Police investigate graffiti on Peter Iredale shipwreck

Police are investigating graffiti on the Peter Iredale shipwreck at Fort Stevens State Park.

Witnesses reported seeing a group of people on Monday involved in spray painting "Black Lives Matter" on the wreck.

Police say a group was later contacted by an Oregon State Police trooper in Cannon Beach.

Nonprofit offers tours of Merwyn Apartments

People interested in a sneak peek of the nearly finished Merwyn Apartments will get a chance to look inside this week.

Innovative Housing Inc., the Portland nonprofit that purchased the neglected former hotel next to Astoria City Hall and turned it into affordable apartments, is offering tours though Saturday.

Tours will occur between noon and 5 p.m. each day. Each tour slot is limited to handful of people.

Once complete, the Merwyn Apartments will provide 40 units, most of which are set aside for lower-income residents. The nonprofit is in the middle of reviewing around 24 applications and people are still encouraged to apply.

Julie Garver, the housing development director for Innovative Housing, hopes to begin moving tenants in next week. Once tenants arrive, the nonprofit will not be offering any tours to the public to keep things safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

"If folks want to get in and see the building, now's their chance," Garver said.

To reserve a spot on a tour, call Garver at 360-635-1216 or email her at jgarver@innovativehousinginc.com

— The Astorian

DEATHS

March 8, 2021
BURNETT, Ralph C., 66, of Warrenton, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

March 5, 2021
SHEKER, Clifford James, 73, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

March 6, 2021
NORRIS, Joyce Lynn, 66, of Astoria, died in

MEMORIALS

Saturday, March 13
Gilbert, Louise Marie — Funeral at 11 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 120 Oceanway St. in Seaside.

Gilbert, 85, of Warrenton, died Thursday, March 4, 2021, in Richland, Washington. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

CORRECTIONS

Purchase price, fundraising model incorrect — The former Sears Hometown store will cost the Astoria Food Hub \$780,000, of which the group is raising \$700,000 through commercial lender Steward. Contributors invest in the loan and earn back interest. An A1 story Tuesday incorrectly stated that the building would cost \$700,000, and that the contributions were donations.

ON THE RECORD

Assault
• Phillip Spencer, 40, of Astoria, was arrested Monday in Astoria for assault in the fourth degree.
DUII
• Brandi Marie Enci-

nas, 41, of Astoria, was arrested Tuesday on Old U.S. Highway 30 and Svensen Market Road for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

Warrenton Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Gearhart Planning Commission and City Council, 7 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Seaside could ease parking requirements to spur housing

New system based on apartment size

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — The city has the most restrictive parking requirements for apartment units in Clatsop County. The City Council wants to change that by reducing the number of off-street parking spaces required in new development.

"There are lots of communities that have much lower parking requirements than we have," Kevin Cupples, the city's planning director, said. "We are known as the one that requires the most for apartment dwellings because it is a standard one-size-fits-all of two parking spaces per dwelling unit. This is trying to scale that so it's more appropriate for whatever the use is."

On Monday night, the City Council considered an amendment to the city's zoning ordinance to reduce the number of off-street parking spaces required from two to a system based on a unit's size. Studios would need one off-street space; a one-bedroom apartment 1.25 spaces and a two-bedroom apartment 1.5 spaces. Larger units would continue to require a minimum of two off-street spaces.

"Our long-range goal is providing for more workforce housing or more residential housing," Mayor Jay Barber said.

A similar proposal went before the City Council a year ago, but the ordinance



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Future apartment buildings could be subject to off-street parking requirements based on unit size.

came with additional provisions eliminating the parking requirement for certain types of residential units within the downtown core. Business owners at the time said the changes could add to already existing parking shortages and would not guarantee affordable housing.

Last March, the council remanded the ordinance to the Planning Commission, which removed portions of the amendment relating to downtown commercial zones.

"This will give the council an opportunity to move forward with that part of the text amendment that appeared to be supported by the council during the initial review," Cupples said. "The requested amendment will help reduce some of the reg-

ulatory hurdles associated with developing workforce rental housing and promote more efficient use of land within the city."

Seaside's two-space off-street requirement has a "significant impact on the amount of backup land necessary to develop smaller apartments or multifamily dwellings, which in turn drives up the land cost to develop smaller rental housing," Cupples said. "You may find some of the builders who want to stick with that, but it gives them a lot more flexibility in what they can do."

The proposed amendment will only affect apartments, not condominiums.

"Even if you had a studio condominium unit, it would still stick with the two-

(space) requirement based on the way the ordinance is written," Cupples said.

"You're going to see more compressed parking in those areas where it's in higher demand, but if you want to get the most out of your higher density zones, this is one way to do it," he said.

Vacation rentals operate under a separate set of parking ordinances, "which are a different animal," Cupples added.

Accessory dwelling units are exempt.

Following the first reading by title only, the ordinance will be scheduled for a public hearing and second reading during the City Council meeting March 22. A third reading and final adoption could come at the city's April 12 meeting.

Former teacher delivers for Seaside Scholarships

Stutesman coached volleyball champs

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — A former Seaside High School teacher and coach will make a difference in the lives of future generations.

Carol Stutesman died last May, but with a donation of just under \$700,000 to Seaside Scholarships, a scholarship in her name will benefit local high school seniors for years to come. Funds will be delivered for scholarships for an academic four-year degree program and a vocational degree or certificate.

"She had a real heart for kids, especially who weren't connected to college so much but vocations, kids that showed a promise in those kinds of areas as well as academics," Ginny Hamer, a former teacher and coach, said. "Carol never married or had children herself, so all her students in her class were very, very dear to her."

Stutesman taught at Coquille High School and



Along with teaching business and other classes, Carol Stutesman, top right, led the 1988 Gulls volleyball team to a state championship.

Oregon City High School before her 29-year career in Seaside. She taught business and vocational classes that included personal finance, computer applications, accounting and graphic arts. Her business classes often earned students college credit.

"Carol and I started teaching together in the '80s when she came to our district," Hamer said. "I was coaching volleyball at the time and she

became part of that program right away."

Along with teaching duties, Stutesman quickly developed into coaching basketball and softball and led the 1988 state 2A volleyball champions, which went 13-1 to win the Cowapa League title before defeating Sweet Home for the state title.

Hamer serves as co-personal representative for the Stutesman estate with former Seaside High School teacher

Karen Mattocks.

"It's such a fantastic opportunity for the Seaside students with the amount of money that she gave to the foundation," Mattocks said. "Teaching was just so incredible to her. That was her family, her life, she really connected with a lot of kids. She truly wanted to give back to the Seaside High School community and that she did."

Stutesman battled cancer for a decade, Hamer said.

"She immediately knew she wanted to give the bulk of her estate to the kids at Seaside. She was a very frugal woman who played the stock market, she was very business savvy, so she was able to put together a nice little nest egg."

"We put a big emphasis on kids that are college-bound a lot," Hamer added. "She felt there was a gap as far as kids that just wanted to do a vocational program, whether it be auto mechanics, beautician or whatever they had a passion for. It was a selfless deed and all that she worked for in her life. She wanted to give it back to the kids."

Hiker describes fall at Hug Point

A memorable birthday for Tighe

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
The Oregonian

Twenty-five will always be a memorable birthday for Gil Tighe.

The Portland resident set out Friday for the Oregon Coast with their partner, hoping to celebrate the milestone a day early.

By the end of the celebration, Tighe was in the hospital after falling 100 feet off a cliff. After a challenging res-

cue and a helicopter ride to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, Tighe is happy to be alive and telling the story.

Tighe said the couple arrived at Hug Point just south of Cannon Beach in the afternoon. The two hung out on the beach, ate cake and took pictures.

Around 4 p.m., the pair decided to explore. From previous visits, they knew of an area at Hug Point that, at low tide, allows hikers to get to the other side of the cove.

The tide was too high to access it, but the couple found what appeared to be some human-made trails through

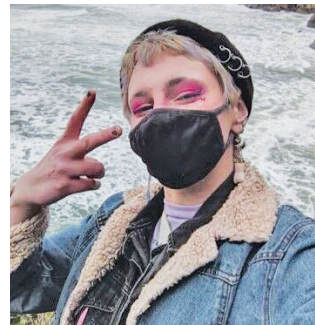
the grass that looked as if they might lead to the same place. Tighe went first because the trails looked a little slippery.

For the first few feet, Tighe was holding on to a wall along the trail for support. But a few steps in, Tighe suddenly lost footing and started slipping. Tighe skidded on dirt and rocks for about 10 feet, trying to stop before a sudden drop.

"I don't even remember the fall itself. It kind of felt like I was having a dream," Tighe said. "Even waking up on the rocks, covered in blood, I still felt like I was having a dream."

Tighe said paramedics estimated the cliff was about 100 feet high. After regaining consciousness at the bottom of the cliff, Tighe heard their partner yelling that they had called 911.

Without glasses, lost in



A hiker from Portland survived a fall at Hug Point.

the fall, Tighe couldn't see the extent of their injuries but immediately realized one of their arms was broken.

While waiting for paramedics, Tighe crawled around the rocks and eventually found their cellphone, which had service. Tighe called their partner, who relayed information as rescue crews arrived.

"It's the most millennial thing ever," Tighe said with a laugh. "I just fell a thousand feet and I'm wondering where my phone is."

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