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## CORONAVIRUS

# Wyden touts stimulus package

Oregon Democrat visits Astoria

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden said he sees better days ahead after the passage of a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill.

The American Rescue Plan Act will provide checks of up to \$1,400 for individuals, extend a \$300 weekly federal unemployment boost into September and create a new tax waiver on the first \$10,200 of unemployment benefits received by many Americans.



U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden

The act also expanded the child tax credit for a year, creating a guaranteed source of unrestricted income for families that is expected to halve the national rate of childhood poverty. It invests nearly \$20 billion into vaccinations, \$25 billion into rental and utility assistance and \$350 billion into state, local and tribal relief.

"This relief package is an essential booster shot for Oregon, and for our schools and our workers and our small businesses and our health," the Oregon Democrat said at a virtual town hall for Clatsop County residents hosted at The Astorian. "I think this bill gives us a chance to see better days ahead."

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# North Coast Grub ends deliveries

Some backlash over business model

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

North Coast Grub, a delivery service that launched in February, has stopped taking food deliveries.

Owner Jakki Millo said she was no longer able to find local drivers following a backlash to her company's business model. She is advertising for drivers and said the service could return.

Millo expanded to the North Coast amid a rush of other delivery companies. Slurpalicious, an online ordering platform that started over the summer, had recently begun deliveries. Global delivery giant DoorDash announced it would launch later this year.

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Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Some students returned to Astoria High School on Thursday.

# Schools face uncertainty amid return to classrooms

## Pandemic-era changes could continue next school year

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Astorian*

A year after they had to leave school abruptly because of concerns about the spread of the coronavirus, many Astoria middle school and high school students returned to classrooms last week.

The return, approved by the school board in February, only allows students on campus for a limited number of hours each week. But it puts the school district on track to comply with Gov. Kate Brown's executive order calling for Oregon's students to resume full in-person or hybrid classes.

"One year later, thanks to the work and smart choices of Oregonians to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, I am so pleased to see over 174,000 students back in the learning environment that serves them best: in-person instruction," Brown said in a statement Friday.

"While parents can keep their children in distance learning if they choose, this order will give every Oregon student the option to return to school this year."

The shift back to some in-person learning hints at a return to normalcy. The rate of positive cases in Clatsop County remains low and school leaders anticipate that an announcement from the state later this week may further



Due to social distancing guidelines, school buses can only carry a limited number of students.

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ease restrictions, allowing even more students to return.

Still, North Coast school districts expect other markers of the pandemic — like masks and social distancing — to continue into next school year. In fact, they are planning on it.

But nothing is certain.

### Stimulus money

The school districts have received federal stimulus money, and will receive even more. That money, philosophically at least, is intended to go toward boosting educational opportuni-

ties and addressing inequalities among students' access to education because of the pandemic.

But if certain distancing requirements and other restrictions continue, districts say they will likely have to put some of the money to basic operations like staffing and transportation.

Even now, not all students who would like to return to school are able to do so. In Astoria, for example, the physical size of classrooms and state guidelines on social distancing constrain how many students can attend.

Astoria also faces significant transportation hurdles. The school district has long struggled over the years to hire enough drivers and secure the necessary number of buses, but pandemic-related restrictions have exacerbated the issue.

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Patrick Webb/For The Astorian

Washington State Patrol Trooper Lonnie Eaton has been a familiar fixture patrolling Pacific and Wahkiakum counties in his Chevrolet Tahoe, likely covering more than 30,000 miles a year. He retired on the exact 30-year anniversary of starting with the agency as a cadet.

# A hometown trooper was never alone

Eaton reflects on changing attitudes to law enforcement

By PATRICK WEBB  
*For The Astorian*

NASELLE, Wash. — Lonnie Eaton has patrolled a million miles.

In his 30-year career with the Washington State Patrol, the trooper has had the highs of chasing freeway speeders at 100 mph and the lows of comforting grieving accident survivors.

He began his career in Kelso, patrolling Interstate 5 in 1991. At



two of his first three fatal wrecks, he was assigned as the lead investigator.

"You just try to be a good human," he said. "It's a hard thing to deal with. It's a sad time and you have just got to try to help."

But once he left the scene, he found comfort in his faith. "There's always someone else with me," said Eaton, a deacon at the Naselle Assembly of God.

Freeway patrol was a rush. "If you haven't hit 100 mph, you are having a bad day," he laughed. "I enjoyed that."

Eaton was transferred to Raymond in 1999. Soon after, the detachment moved to Naselle, where he had graduated from high school in 1985. It meant he and his wife, Kim, could raise their two children in a supportive environment. He coached sports and savored community liaison work

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