

## County reports three new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County on Monday reported three new coronavirus cases.

The cases include a woman in her 40s living in the northern part of the county. The others live in the southern

part of the county and include a woman in her 30s and a man in his 40s.

All three were recovering at home. The county has recorded 843 cases since the start of the pandemic. According to the county, 19 were hospitalized and seven have died.

## Network: ‘Helping children who have experienced trauma feel safe is key’

Continued from Page A1

“I think one of the biggest things that I’m excited about is that there are resources that exist in our community and there are people that are passionate about thinking outside of the box and creating new resources that meet the needs of our families,” she said. “But a lot of times there’s a lack of knowledge of those resources, there’s a lack of communication across the community, across providers.

“I want to know everything that there is available in our community so that I can ensure that my students and their families are aware of everything that’s out there available to them to help support them.”

Bowman also hopes Resilient Clatsop County will address gaps in resources and education through a multicultural lens. She believes options like Gray School, which hosts an alternative school program that provides a supportive and flexible schedule, are better suited for students with complex needs.

As part of its early work, the network implemented “Handle With Care,” a

national model that connects law enforcement with schools when a child is involved in or witnesses a traumatic event that involved law enforcement.

Police can call the child’s school and share their name and the words “handle with care” so teachers know to offer support instead of discipline.

“As people continue to become aware of the impact of trauma on the brain, especially the developing brain of youth, and of the frequent negative health outcomes those who experience early childhood trauma face, there is increasing opportunity to help develop ways we can work together as a community to help counter the effects of trauma by increasing the resiliency of children and families,” Allison Whisenhunt, the director of behavioral health and care management at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, said in an email.

“We know that even one positive, dependable adult in a child’s life is an incredible resiliency builder, and since our children interact with so many parts of our community, Resilient Clatsop County (RCC) has developed a plan for people

from a variety of different sectors to collaboratively increase the ability for kids to heal from trauma and to know they are important and loved.

“At the heart of it is safety, so while trauma prevention is important, helping children who have experienced trauma feel safe is key.”

Whisenhunt said she hopes that by helping children build resilience and heal from trauma, future parents will be better equipped to help their children avoid and heal from trauma, improving health outcomes in the county.

“The fact that so many people, community-based organizations, school districts, et al. have joined forces to establish this network is testimony to how serious we are in building trauma-informed and resilience-building initiatives,” Aitor Porro, the assistant director at Consejo Hispano, said in an email. “Together, we can better understand ‘the science’ and how we can apply it in our sectors and communities by providing community-based education and public awareness, which is paramount to helping families.”

## Dugan: He will miss the camaraderie

Continued from Page A1

“He said, ‘Oh, you don’t pay anybody. This is a volunteer fire department,’” he recalled.

The concept of a volunteer fire department struck Dugan. A couple of years later, when he saw a sign seeking volunteers outside of the fire department in Seaside, he decided to help out.

“I saw that and I go, ‘Wow. They must really be hurting for people,’” he said. “And they were there for me when I needed it. Maybe I’ll stop in and see if I can help them out.”

“That was a time in my life, and it was a time in society where volunteers were very strong.”

Dugan joined Seaside Fire and Rescue in 1989 as a volunteer, and in 2000 was hired as the department’s fire marshal, which he saw as a move to making his hobby his work. He said he never looked back.

Dugan’s last day at Seaside Fire and Rescue was Friday. He began his new

role on Monday as deputy state fire marshal for District 1, which covers Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia counties. The position is based out of the Oregon State Police office in Warrenton.

Seaside Fire and Rescue has not yet replaced Dugan. Fire marshals deal with code enforcement, fire investigations and fire prevention education, and Dugan was the only one in Clatsop County.

It has been a significant gap for fire districts and departments already operating with tight budgets. However, there are moves across the county to find additional funding to hire fire marshals.

Dugan sees the role of deputy state fire marshal as a liaison between local fire districts and departments and the state, as well as someone who can help fill gaps. He looks forward to working with people he already has built relationships with over the years.

Dugan described his career in Seaside as at times exciting, scary, tiring and

inspiring. He said seeing people on their worst days can weigh on emergency responders. And, in a small community, they often know the people needing their help.

He said watching kids’ learn at safety fairs and school demonstrations was a rewarding part of the job. He will miss the camaraderie at the fire department and the shared sense of service.

“I’m still going to be part of this fire department,” Dugan said. “I’m still going to volunteer as long as my health allows me to.”

“This is a volunteer fire department that needs help.”

And it’s not just Seaside. Dugan said fire districts and departments in the county are in a time of transition, where there are not enough volunteers to manage increasing call volumes and demands.

He said society has changed in a number of ways from when he started volunteering, but he hopes to see people continue to carry on the tradition.

## Parks: People should still be limiting travel

Continued from Page A1

As more people begin to receive vaccinations — and after a year of shutdowns and restrictions — tourism experts and local promoters have predicted a pent-up demand for coastal experiences and travel.

But state parks funding, which draws from lottery dollars, not taxes, took a major hit last year as restaurants and other lottery venues closed or operated in a limited fashion.

This shortfall and other consequences tied to the pandemic disrupted the department’s major repair schedule, “which puts us at risk for problems with water, sewer and power systems as they come under pressure this summer,” said Chris Havel, a spokesman for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

“Our concern remains one of capacity: it wears down

facilities, overtaxes restrooms and trash, and can make it harder to protect health,” he said. “All people need to remember we’re still working our way through a health emergency, and do what they know they need to.”

This means people should still be limiting travel to close to home, plan to bring their own cleaning supplies and wear face masks when it isn’t possible to maintain recommended social distances, Havel said.

The changes to traffic management ahead of popular parks this year could include the installation of live webcams at some locations so people can see which areas are full before they travel, according to Havel.

These measures are likely permanent.

This spring, some state park facilities are still closed and group daytime and camping sites are reopening slowly. Permits to use the

ocean shore for group events will not be available until July.

When the state has reopened parks and trails on the coast this year, it has done so quietly. A rerouted and repaired connector trail between Ecola Point and Indian Beach opened without much fanfare this winter, while Saddle Mountain reopened after a long closure in time for spring break without any big announcement.

That, said Ben Cox, manager of the state’s Nehalem Bay Management Unit, which includes a number of highly popular camping and recreation sites, was “a bit on purpose.”

On poor weather days this spring, traffic has been predictably low at coastal state parks, he said.

But, he said, “on the sunny days it was chaos. Overflowing parking lots, overflowing trash cans and people everywhere.”

## Gearhart: Project could cost \$13M

Continued from Page A1

The only safe location in a calamitous tsunami with wave heights of 100 feet is in the eastern foothills, he said.

Schultz said the idea that High Point is the ideal evacuation site is an example of “a neat narrative, something that sounds great, sort of scientific — ‘high elevation’ — but in reality far from it. It’s something that feels good, we’re doing the right thing, it has an animated life of its own that’s hard to counter.”

In 2019, the fire station committee recommended three concepts and locations to the public to help guide the decision-making process, the existing location on Pacific Way, Gearhart Park at Pacific Way and Marion Avenue and the High Point site. A survey indicated voters did not want a station at the park. The existing location is considered at risk of collapse and flooding.

In narrowing down sites, members of the committee relied on state geologic data and scientific trends to prepare for a large tsunami, which encompasses 95% of the possible flood scenarios, consultant Tom Horning, of Horning Geosciences, said in 2019.

A small or medium scenario would encompass only 79% of the modeled wave scenarios, Horning said at the time. At between 62 feet and 65 feet, the High Point site offers the greatest elevation.

Meg Reed, coastal shore specialist with the Oregon Coastal Management Program, called the High Point site “the most tsunami resilient location of the three, and we support the city’s efforts to move forward with this location above 50 feet.”

Gearhart is considering a November bond vote on a new resiliency station High Point, designed to provide a larger, more secure structure at less risk from a tsunami. The project could cost \$13 million.

‘PEOPLE ARE GENERALLY NOT AWARE THAT 40% OF THE HIGH POINT SITE WOULD BE FLOODED BY THE VERY TSUNAMI THAT GEARHART USES TO DEFINE ITS BUILDING ZONE.’

Stewart Schultz | university professor

Schultz said the southwest corner of the property at High Point would be 25 to 30 feet underwater in a large tsunami, and would flood roughly 40% of the property.

“People are generally not aware that 40% of the High Point site would be flooded by the very tsunami that Gearhart uses to define its building zone,” he said.

There are no safe assembly areas anywhere along the western dune front, including at High Point, according to Schultz.

The dune crest is wide open to a direct hit from the west, Schultz said. The dune crest would be flooded before lower-elevation optional assembly areas to the east. In the most extreme tsunami projections, all sites in Gearhart would be flooded.

The best assembly areas are on the eastern foothills, above 100 feet, he said.

The “least bad” options in western Gearhart, the state’s optional assembly areas, about 800 yards from the oceanfront on the Summit ridge, and on the first hole of the golf course, offer preferable options to the High Point site, Schultz claims. “These lower elevation sites are safer than the highest elevation points on the dune crest in western Gearhart,” he said. “Simply high elevation in west Gearhart is not safer.”

Schultz proposes storing emergency equipment in Gearhart’s Hertig Station, outside the tsunami inundation zone north of the city.

The lower part of the High Point site was never intended for development, Horning, who serves on the

Seaside City Council, said in response. “In my opinion, Schultz doesn’t disclose anything new,” he said. “He recasts what has already been disclosed, but very likely forgotten or overlooked by semiengaged people.”

To survive the most calamitous tsunami would require an assembly area at least 100 feet above sea level. That is about 20 feet higher than the high point of the Palisades.

There is no such location in Gearhart, said Horning, who questioned why Schultz does not discuss the extremely low probability of such a tsunami.

“Schultz makes a great video,” he said. “Smooth narration, good cadence, compelling graphics. I think he should acknowledge that the city has a problem, as has been determined by the steering committee, which takes in more than just resiliency. He should advocate for a new station. ... One is left wondering if he is just part of the ‘not in my backyard’ mentality of western Gearhart. Survival and resiliency are the targets.”

Schultz hopes the city and residents pay attention.

“Two years ago I wrote a series of letters to City Hall on these subjects and offered my services, before there was any final decision,” he said. “I received no substantive response. This lack of response was one reason I decided to record some videos: I believed that if the city is not interested in my input, the public might be, and might find a video format engaging.”

GET TO THE POINT.  
Expert Service. Guaranteed.

Trust your vehicle safety to the professionals at

DEL’S O.K. TIRE

point S

TIRE and AUTO SERVICE

Spring Tire Sale

Offer valid from March 12-April 10th, 2021

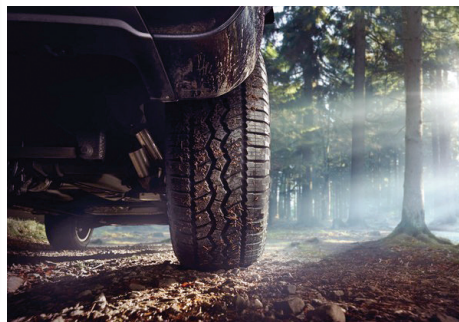
TOYO TIRES

FALKEN  
TIRES



Hankook  
PERFORMANCE TIRES

NOKIAN  
TYRES



GOODYEAR

MAIL IN REBATE \$50 OFF  
of your purchase of 4  
Hankook, Nokian, Goodyear,  
Falken and Toyo Tires.

YOUR #1 SOURCE FOR TIRES  
CUSTOM WHEELS • AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

Hours:  
Mon-Fri 8-6  
Sat- 8-4

503-325-2861  
For emergencies  
503-325-0233

35359 Business  
Hwy 101  
(Miles Crossing)  
Astoria, OR