

IN BRIEF

Sixth positive virus case reported at Seaside High School

SEASIDE — Three students and three staff members or volunteers have tested positive for the coronavirus at Seaside High School within the past 28 days, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

The most recent virus case, a staff member, was reported on March 25, according to the health authority's weekly outbreak report.

A staffer or volunteer at Warrenton Grade School also tested positive for the virus.

In March, Seaside High School Principal Jeff Roberts disclosed two confirmed virus cases among student-athletes, resulting in a canceled game for the Seaside football team against Banks.

County moves through vaccine priority groups

Clatsop County is vaccinating the remaining priority groups against the coronavirus before eligibility opens to all Oregonians 16 and older by April 19.

As of Friday, 20,090 doses have been administered in the county, and 6,650 people are fully vaccinated. The county's goal to reach herd immunity against the virus is vaccinating 27,533 people.

Warrenton community development director resigns

WARRENTON — Scott Hess, Warrenton's community development director, will leave the post by the end of the month.

The city hired Hess, a former director of community and economic development with the Wasatch Front Regional Council in Salt Lake City, in October.

He replaced Kevin Cronin, who left the city in June to become city manager of Mount Angel.

"I'm sorry for my short stay here," Hess said during a Planning Commission meeting Thursday night. "It has been really interesting and challenging. And we've had some really, really challenging projects come from the Planning Commission."

"I'm in awe at you all and the work that you do in what I figured was going to be a sleepy little coastal community, and is every bit as bustling as the one and a half million people across the Wasatch Front, and the cities that I've worked for before. So you know, difficult challenges to overcome — excellent people. The city is wonderful. The people that we work with here are wonderful. And you guys are great planning commission."

Hess' last day with the city is April 23. He said he plans to return to Utah.

Hess said the city has hired William Caplinger, a former planning manager for Clatsop County, to work on projects remotely. The city is also planning to hire a contractor to focus on day-to-day duties a few days a week. Both will help serve in the interim as the city conducts a search for a new community development director.

Coast Guard cutter Alert returns after patrol

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Alert returned to Astoria on Wednesday following a 63-day counterdrug patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

The crew helped prevent more than 2,100 pounds of cocaine, valued at over \$41 million wholesale, from entering the United States, according to the Coast Guard.

While on patrol, a maritime patrol aircraft spotted a suspected smuggling vessel and the Alert's crew pursued it, helping Mexican law enforcement apprehend the smugglers and seize 1,600 pounds of illegal narcotics.

The Alert's crew also interdicted about 550 pounds of cocaine from another vessel and apprehended six suspected narco-traffickers for prosecution in the United States, the Coast Guard said.

— The Astorian

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Brandon Joseph Albright, 34, of Astoria, was arrested Tuesday on W. Marine Drive in Astoria for assault in the fourth degree and strangulation.

Theft

• Nicholas Thomas Riippi, 41, of Tacoma,

Washington, was arrested Tuesday at Walmart in Warrenton for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, possession of a stolen vehicle, identity theft, theft in the second degree, criminal trespass in the first degree and criminal mischief in the third degree.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Planning Commission, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting).

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board, 5:15 p.m., workshop, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

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

Clatsop Community College Board, 6:30 p.m., (electronic meeting).

the Astorian

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IN FLIGHT

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian
A bald eagle flies over
Clatsop Spit on Friday morning.



County reports eighth death from virus

The Astorian

An eighth Clatsop County resident has died from the coronavirus.

The county described the person as a 62-year-old man from the southern part of the county. The man tested positive on March 25 and died on Monday at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland, according to the Oregon Health Authority. He had underlying conditions.

The county has also reported 10 new coronavirus cases over the past few days.

On Friday, the county reported six cases.

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

The others live in the southern part of the county and involve two males between 10 and 19, a man in his 20s, a man in his 30s and a man in his 40s.

On Thursday, the county reported four cases.

The cases involve a woman in her 20s and a woman in her 30s living in the northern part of the county. The others live in the southern part of the county and involve a woman in her 30s and a man in his 70s.

All four were recovering at home.

The county has reported 859 cases since the start of the pandemic. According to the county, 20 were hospitalized and eight have died.

Library: Several improvements planned

Continued from Page A1

minimally impacted by a future renovation project," Wark said. "We don't want to spend money on something now and tear it out later, so we'll have some long-term thinking going into which of these options that we implement."

The initial work could include several additional improvements, such as a new roof, ventilation system, carpeting, landscaping and exterior cleaning, if more funding comes through. Estes said the city is working with state and federal officials to see if stimulus funding might help.

The City Council supported creating a scope of work for the initial steps. A majority of councilors also supported researching whether the city can tap into around \$1 million from a memorial fund donated in 1998 by the family of former Mayor W.C. Logan for a new library.

"I think it would really transform the space, especially in terms of access," City Councilor Joan Herman said of the renovation. "In a sense, we will be getting a new library."

Jimmy Pearson, the library director, said trans-



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

The 1960s-era Astoria Library, designed using a Brutalist-style architecture by prominent local architects Ernest and Ebba Wicks Brown, has largely been untouched since its construction.

forming the existing library into a more useful, equitable space would still honor the late mayor and his family.

"Plus, it would also rename the library the minute we touch \$1 of it — according to the judge — to the Logan Memorial Library," Pearson said. "And so they've waited 23 years, or 24 years, for us to do something with that."

The 1960s-era, concrete-sheathed library has remained largely untouched since its construction. The building was designed by prominent Astoria architects Ernest and Ebba Wicks Brown in a Brutalist-style architecture named after the

French term for raw concrete — "beton brut" — popular in the mid-20th century.

The city looked at building a new library at Heritage Square as part of a mixed-use residential and commercial development, but went back to renovating the existing building. The City Council supported a full \$7 million renovation, including public access to the basement, provided the library's foundation could

raise \$5 million to go with the Logan fund and carbon credit proceeds.

The foundation has raised around \$112,000 in cash and \$70,000 in pledges. It secured a \$500,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that requires a \$1.5 million match be raised within five years. The pandemic then halted most fundraising.

Estes said the initial work can substantially improve the library during the pandemic and build excitement for future phases when fundraising can restart. The city hopes to one day use the endowment grant to gain public access to the basement, he said.

"This is, again, a first step to be able to realize some successes in the library remodel, and to be able to develop some excitement and see some changes in meeting the library renovation project study," he said. "And this can be done while the pandemic is continuing, and then starting to hopefully wind down."

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