

## Astoria reports coronavirus case at Lewis and Clark Elementary School

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Astorian

A person at Lewis and Clark Elementary School in Astoria tested positive for the coronavirus, the school district announced Thursday night.

In a letter to parents, Superintendent Craig Hoppes said the district is contacting parents of any students who may have come in contact with the person.

Hoppes did not offer any further details about whether the person who tested positive was a student, teacher or other type of staff. The person is recovering at home.

"We know this is a difficult time for everyone and our hearts go out to those who are ill," Hoppes wrote.

One class had to be put into quarantine and will be learning remotely for the next two weeks, Hoppes told The Astorian. Other classes remain in session at the elementary school. A total of 15 people were impacted.

Overall, the school district's protocols, including contact tracing, asking parents to prescreen at home, with staff also conducting screenings at school and frequent sanitizing, have worked, Hoppes said.

"Since we have had students back in school we have not seen outbreaks with the school when we have had a case," he said.

Earlier this week, the school board approved a plan for next school year that would return as many students

as possible to full-time, in-person classes. But Hoppes cautioned that the school district expects to have to continue following pandemic-related restrictions and protocols. He also anticipates there will continue to be some positive cases of the virus among the student body and staff next year.

For now, pandemic protocols like social distancing and mask-wearing will continue in Clatsop County classrooms despite recent changes to mask guidelines.

Masks will still be required in schools for the rest of this school year. The state is expected to release more specific guidance soon and school districts are anticipating additional guidance regarding the next school year in mid-July.

## Housing: Finding containers a challenge

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of Environmental Quality before construction of the buildings can begin.

Trabucco said the plan is to use vapor extraction to take out volatile compounds from the ground, similar to a system used at a nearby complex of warehouses. Anna Coates, a project manager for the Department of Environmental Quality, said there is general agreement on the approach, and that Portway Station can prepare the site for construction before getting a final signoff.

In the next several months, Coates said, staff will release a report on the cleanup plan for public comment. If the plan stands up to public scrutiny, the development can get a designation of no further action needed from the state agency.

Five of the six buildings in Portway Station are along Industry Street and allowed outright, sparing the project from needing signoff by city commissions. But Trabucco must find 1.5 spots of parking for each two-bedroom unit, or prove to the city why the apartments don't need as much parking.

Trabucco said Portway Station plans for about one parking spot per apartment. The project could save on parking requirements because of its proximity to bus stops, and because some of the intended residents would be workers at nearby seafood processors.

"We fully expect that a number of the tenants will be workers that are working in the immediate area, some of (whom) may not have cars,"



Relevant Buildings

**Relevant Buildings is nearing construction on the 7th Street Container Lofts, an apartment complex in St. Helens made from shipping containers. The company is consulting on a proposed 68-unit complex in Astoria called Portway Station.**

he said. "And we also expect there to be students that will also carpool."

### Finding containers

If the project obtains all of the approvals, the rate of construction will depend in part on the availability of the 140 or so containers Trabucco said Portway Station would require. Containers have become a hot commodity amid increased demand for consumer products from Asia during the coronavirus pandemic.

The developer has consulted with Relevant Buildings, an Oregon City company specializing in custom shipping container homes. Carl Coffman, the owner of the company, said the hope is that by the time Portway Station is ready to start construction, the demand and price for containers will come down.

The containers for Portway Station would be shipped to Astoria and placed on a foundation as frames, with the windows and doors cut but not built out. Windows, doors, decks and utilities would then be added.

Relevant Buildings is preparing for construction on an

eight-unit containerized apartment complex in St. Helens that will be the first of its kind in the region. Coffman sees such upcycling of used shipping containers as a way to both address climate change through adaptive reuse and provide affordable housing.

"You can find all kinds of one-off container projects built, but they're all very expensive, and the common man can't get in them," he said.

Trabucco said he plans to approach the city about using urban renewal money to help defray the heady costs of tearing down several existing buildings, cleaning up historical contamination and developing so many apartments in a tight footprint while keeping rents at around \$1,000 a month. The Astor West Urban Renewal District's fund contains around \$5.3 million.

"It's a perfect application, in my view, for urban renewal funds," Trabucco said. "It certainly represents a 180. The concept of coming into Astoria and having to be somewhat of a gateway site both leaving Astoria and coming into Astoria, based on its proximity to Marine Drive, I think is palpable."

## Warr: 'Involved in a lot of community efforts'

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where he would make his most tangible impact on the region. His company designed and engraved several public projects, including at Maritime Memorial Park in Uniontown and a plaque dedicated to actor Clark Gable near the public bathrooms on Exchange Street.

"He did do a lot," Mo Warr said. "There are little parts of him all over town."

In 2004, Warr was elected to the City Council, representing the east end of town as a fiscal conservative and believer in limited government. For the next 12 years, he served as a check on the spending and reach of city government. He became known for controversial stances, opposing a ban on smoking in city parks and supporting a liquefied natural gas terminal in Warrenton after public opinion had mostly turned against the idea.

"I have a real, basic problem deep in my heart when people ban things that are legal to do just because they don't like them," he said in 2016 about the smoking ban.

Warr took an interest in transportation, serving on a local transportation committee that led to the creation of the Sunset Empire Transportation District, the local trans-

portation agency. He advocated for a truck bypass and was the city's representative on the Columbia-Pacific Economic Development District, which works to diversify the region's economy.

Warr raised concerns about Astoria's inability to maintain all of the services it promises. He took particular interest in the city's Parks and Recreation Department and spotty maintenance of burial plots at the city-run Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton, where he engraved many headstones.

Former Mayor Arline LaMear served eight years with Warr on the City Council.

"I knew that Russ was much more conservative than I, but he never let that bother him, LaMear said. "The difference in our political views never stopped us from being really congenial, cooperative and working for the betterment of the city."

Willis Van Dusen, who was mayor for 24 years, first met Warr as a manager at Sears, where Van Dusen's wife worked in the 1970s. The two served on the City Council together for a decade.

"I think of all the people I've ever known, Russ was the most well rounded," Van Dusen said. "If you look at his community work, he was

president of the Astoria City Council, and he was involved in a lot of community efforts to improve Astoria."

One of Warr's proudest accomplishments was working with Van Dusen and others in a partnership between the city, Recology, the Astoria School District and Columbia Memorial Hospital. They worked to transform a former city landfill on Williamsport Road into CMH Field, a youth sports complex the hospital financed in exchange for the former Warren Field.

Warr left the City Council in 2016 after being diagnosed with bladder cancer. The hospital and Oregon Health & Science University later partnered at the west end of Warren Field to build the Knight Cancer Collaborative, where he would receive treatments.

"He was a leader trying to get the Knight Cancer (Collaborative) into Astoria," Van Dusen said. "And so it was very ironic going to visit him at the building that he was a big part of building."

Warr is survived by his wife and children, including Kurt Warr, of Hercules, California; Kari Petersen, of Astoria; Heather Warr, of Boise, Idaho; Heidi Marchal, of Meridian, Idaho; Jennifer Van Hook, of Warrenton; and Liz Clark, in Hillsboro.

## County reports 10 new virus cases

Clatsop County reported 10 new coronavirus cases over the past few days.

On Friday, the county reported six cases.

The cases include two males between 10 and 19, a man and a woman in their 30s, a woman in her 40s and a man in his 50s living in the northern part of the county.

All six were recovering at home.

On Thursday, the county reported four cases.

The cases include a male and a female

between 10 and 19 and a man and a woman in their 60s living in the northern part of the county.

All four were recovering at home.

A case reported on Wednesday as a male between 10 and 19 living in the southern part of the county is actually under the age of 10, according to the county.

The county has recorded 986 cases since the start of the pandemic. According to the county, 25 were hospitalized and eight have died.

## School: 'Pandemic sets the timeline'

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Last year, the school district opted to begin the school year with all students in remote learning and only began slowly bringing students back into classrooms in early 2021.

But the plan for next school year comes with several caveats.

The state is expected to release updated guidance for schools in mid-July. Depending on the course of the pandemic at that time, the announcement could allow the school district to continue as planned or severely alter what schools are able to do.

"The pandemic sets the timeline," a memo to the school board noted. "Decisions made will need to be flexible."

The school district is also anticipating a large incoming kindergarten class that could create some challenges when it comes to keeping class sizes low in the elementary schools, depending on virus-related restrictions come September.

District leaders have prepared an alternate in-person scenario if state guidelines shift back to more severe restrictions, but it is not the preferred plan, Superintendent Craig Hoppes said.

"I'll be honest, I don't like it," he told board members Wednesday.

Board Member Jenna Rickenbach suggested sending a letter to the state, echoing and supporting a letter sent to Gov. Kate Brown by Clatsop County commissioners in April. In the letter, the commissioners pushed for local control when it comes to making health and safety decisions.

Others on the school board questioned the need for this type of letter. Changes in restrictions are likely coming, board member Jimmy Pearson noted. But Rickenbach was encouraged to bring back a draft for the board to consider at a future meeting.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

**Astoria schools are hopeful pandemic restrictions will ease by next school year.**

Still, Grace Laman, the school board chairwoman, said she does want to make sure some sort of plan is in place so parents can begin to make plans for summer child care. The child care situation, combined with the limited in-person instruction the schools were able to offer with different grades in class at different times, was "a nightmare this year," she said.

However, online school done at home is the preferred route for some.

Several families have indicated they would prefer an online school option for their children — something the district plans to accommodate.

The school district will also still need to plan for a remote learning component, even for in-person students.

There were virus cases at schools this year, Hoppes said, and he expects there will be cases next school year, as well. The school district will need remote options for in-person students who need to quarantine.

## CLATSOP CARE HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER

An update from your local nursing home

As a not-for-profit community supported organization, it's very important to us to keep the community informed of what's happening in our facility. That's why we've decided to share updates each week in the local paper.

### NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

This Saturday 5/15 concludes National Nursing Home Week, or National Skilled Care Week. At Clatsop Care Center, we've been honored to care for our community for over 40 years. This year, we honor the incredible commitment of our staff as they continued to provide compassionate care to their residents during this unprecedented time.

Over the past year, despite the challenges of the pandemic, the staff of Clatsop Care Center have shown an incredible and steadfast commitment to providing quality care and ensuring the safety of the residents.

If you know a caregiver, therapist, nurse, or support staff person - **thank them for their commitment and compassion!**

### STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Dee Karl has been a Certified Nurse Assistant at Clatsop Care Center for over 10 years. In April, Dee furthered her education and completed her training to become a Certified Medication Aide. Clatsop Care Center was proud to sponsor Dee in the CMA program. She's an asset to our organization! Dee will continue on in her new role administering medication.



Isabella Anthony came to Clatsop Care Center when she was still in high school. She attended the CNA course at Clatsop Community College with a scholarship from the Care Center. While working as a CNA, she continued taking courses to prepare for nursing school. Isabella was recently accepted to the Clatsop Community College Nursing program to start in the fall!

Please contact us if you'd like to learn more about our sponsorship programs. Call 503.325.0313 or email [cjohnson@clatsopcare.org](mailto:cjohnson@clatsopcare.org).

Thank you for your continued support!

for more information, please visit [www.ClatsopCare.org](http://www.ClatsopCare.org)

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