



# Astorian

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## CORONAVIRUS



### Mom, daughters take off inches for charity

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
For The Astorian

**S**EASIDE — While everyone's experience during the coronavirus pandemic has been unique, there is one shared by many: Infrequent haircuts.

Katharine Parker saw this "COVID hair" trend as an opportunity to give back and share a bonding experience with her daughters.

Earlier this month, Parker, 6-year-old Chloe and 8-year-old Mikayla visited Rita Lovegreen at Hair by Rita and had multiple inches of their hair lopped off. They donated it to Children With Hair Loss, a nonprofit that provides free hair replacements to children and young adults facing medically-related hair loss.

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**TOP:** Rita Lovegreen cuts 10 inches of Chloe Parker's hair. **ABOVE:** Katharine Parker, top left, cut her hair and donated it to Children With Hair Loss along with her two daughters, 6-year-old Chloe and 8-year-old Mikayla. Lovegreen at Hair by Rita did the haircuts.

## County to move into moderate risk for virus

Restrictions ease starting Friday

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

Clatsop County will move into moderate risk for the coronavirus beginning Friday as virus case counts taper.

The county has been at the state's high-risk designation for the virus since late April.

Gov. Kate Brown on Tuesday announced that starting June 1 county risk level changes will be announced weekly instead of every two weeks.

Counties facing moves back up in risk level will be given a caution period to focus on bringing case counts back down. Most restrictions will be lifted when 70% of Oregonians 16 or older receive at least one dose of the vaccine.

Counties where 65% of people 16 and older have received at least one dose were given the option to move into lower risk, a way for counties to begin loosening restrictions ahead of the state's 70% goal.

About 59% of people 16 and older in Clatsop County have received at least one dose, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

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## Fireworks won't shine in Seaside

Beach volleyball set to return

By R.J. MARX  
The Astorian

**S**EASIDE — The city will not light up the sky with fireworks over the beach this summer because of the coronavirus pandemic.

This is the second year fireworks have been canceled. "The professional show takes quite a bit of financing, but also a lot of resources necessary to make that happen," said Brian Owen, the CEO of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce. "We were not able to get everything together to make a safe show."

The show typically brings nearly 50,000 people to Seaside and is the kick-off to the summer season, with visitors coming from throughout the region. Officials have estimated the annual economic impact of the event to the city is more than \$20 million.

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## Caps, gowns and caution

Graduation plans marked by pandemic concerns

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Astorian

An outdoor graduation ceremony in Jewell on June 12 will feature six in-person graduates and one cardboard cutout.

The small school's seventh senior is already gone — he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and is off to training. The school district took a picture of him in cap and gown before he left so he could still stand with his classmates for commencement.

Last year, North Coast seniors

saw their dreams of a triumphant and highly social conclusion to their high school years dashed as the coronavirus pandemic closed schools abruptly in March. Traditional events were canceled and graduation itself was a strange affair conducted at distance, in face masks and, in many cases, in the family car.

When this school year began, the Class of 2021 had the benefit of knowing nothing would be normal.

Some started to plan their next steps earlier. In Astoria, older students, including seniors, took on part-time jobs because they could be more flexible with their



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian  
Astoria High School students received their diplomas last year at a hybrid ceremony at CMH Field.

## College maritime program receives national recognition

Designation could lead to more resources

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Astorian

A new national designation could funnel resources and equipment to Clatsop Community College's maritime program.

The program was recently named a center of excellence for domestic maritime workforce training and education by the federal Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration. The college is one of 27 community colleges and training institutions across 16 states to receive the designation.

The designation is expected to provide opportunities for cooperative agreements that could help with efforts to recruit students and faculty, as well as enhance facilities. There could also be a chance for the college to receive surplus equipment or have temporary use of federal equipment.

It is not clear yet when the college will see tangible benefits.

The designation comes at a time when college leaders continue to consider a costly expansion of the Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station campus and are also looking at how to boost enrollment and retain students following a

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