



The firehouse in Gearhart off Pacific Way.

R.J. Marx/The Astorian

## Firehouse: Highlands Lane land swap will go on

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Krevanko said since the court was not set to hear the challenge until Thursday, the measure will need to be refiled for a future election.

Gearhart is working with planners to bring the 30-acre Cottages at Gearhart subdivision off Highlands Lane into the city's urban growth boundary in a land swap for acreage in the

city's "no-build" zone near the ocean. The land would be used for a firehouse and police station.

Mayor Paulina Cockrum said the court will hear arguments that the preliminary geotechnical report does not contain enough information to go to the voters.

"Typically preliminary geotech and architect reports are the council's due diligence on this issue, and

would be enough to get accurate costs for the project," she said. "These costs have been published on the city website and were discussed in detail at the Aug. 13 meeting."

Zimmerman said his preference was to improve the ballot language and hold the vote this year.

"But it is what it is," he said. "All the city needed to do was agree to amend bond language in line with

our complaint. ... It would be over and on to November."

City Attorney Peter Watts said the land swap to bring the Highlands Lane property into the urban growth boundary will proceed, as the transaction is not conditioned on passage of the bond levy.

"The idea was to lock up land for a future fire station, whether that happens in the near term or long term," Watts said.

## Schools: Back-to-school events should be done online

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returning to class.

"It is with mixed emotions that we are welcoming our kids back to school at this time," Brown said during a Tuesday morning press call.

Brown was joined by health and education officials to announce additional, voluntary efforts to go along with the mandatory vaccination of school employees and mask mandates for students and staff.

The state will issue school health advisories on a regular basis. The first one, announced Tuesday, asks schools to cancel or curtail extracurricular activities through a least Oct. 1.

Back-to-school events should be done online, if possible.

Schools should hold as much activity outdoors as possible, including school meals and physical education classes.

"The safety protocols put in place by your school not only make it safer for everyone, but they also help ensure that our kids actu-

ally get to stay in school," said Colt Gill, the director of the Oregon Department of Education.

ity was looking into an 8.8% increase in the number of new COVID-19 infections in Marion County.

ways to prevent getting or spreading the virus.

"Let 'er buck," Brown said, using the Round-Up's signature saying.

Brown has attended the Round-Up in prior years and even rode a horse in the parade. She did not go to the state fair and will not be in Pendleton this weekend out of concern over the spread of the virus.

Major public health forecasts indicated for the first time last week that the top of the spike may have been reached.

The growth in infections may have peaked as early as Aug. 25 in Oregon, according to the widely followed COVID-19 monitoring and forecasting of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington.

The Oregon Health & Science University forecast last week estimated that hospitalizations for COVID-19 were expected to peak by Labor Day.

*The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

**THE STATE WILL ISSUE SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORIES ON A REGULAR BASIS. THE FIRST ONE, ANNOUNCED TUESDAY, ASKS SCHOOLS TO CANCEL OR CURTAIL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES THROUGH A LEAST OCT. 1.**

While children can get ill from COVID-19, they rarely get severely sick, Gill said. But they can bring the infections home with them and spread it to at-risk people such as the elderly and immunocompromised.

Brown confirmed her order for mandatory vaccinations, saying that school staff who are not fully vaccinated cannot have contact with students or other school employees.

Dr. Dean Sidelinger, the state's epidemiologist, said the Oregon Health Author-

The uptick comes as the Oregon State Fair in Salem has just concluded. Brown had ordered that crowded outdoor events have mandatory masking rules, but television reports from the fair showed the majority of those inside were not wearing masks.

The rules are also in place for the Pendleton Round-Up, which begins Saturday in Umatilla County. The governor said she hoped attendees will wear masks and be aware of social distancing and other

## Sensor: City will only be responsible for paying for power

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"The warning will be short ... but it may give you just enough time to duck or do whatever you need to do to protect yourself and your loved ones," City Councilor Tom Brownson said.

Like other cities along the Cascadia Subduction Zone — a fault line that runs from Northern California to Vancouver, British Columbia — Astoria residents live with the ever-present threat of a massive earthquake that could trigger landslides, topple buildings and send tsunami waves shoreward. The last time Cascadia ruptured was more than 300 years ago.

The Astoria sensor will be part of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network, a collaborative effort by the University of Oregon, the University of Washington and the U.S. Geological Survey — and with more than 400 stations, now the second largest seismic network in the United States. The sensor will also contribute data to ShakeAlert, an earthquake early warning system people can access on their smartphones.



An earthquake sensor in Astoria will be part of the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network.

Depending on where a quake hits, the Astoria sensor may only provide tens of seconds worth of warning time.

But in that fraction of time, hospitals could be warned and functions at power-generating facilities and water utilities could be secured, said Douglas Toomey, a professor in the University of Oregon's Department of Earth Sciences.

"The more we can protect that critical infrastructure, the better we will recover afterwards," Toomey said.

When a fault like Cas-

cadia blows, it doesn't fail everywhere at the same time.

"It unzips like a zipper," Toomey said.

Even just tens of seconds might be enough time for people to duck for cover and hold on and to mentally prepare for evacuation because a tsunami could be coming next.

Beyond the North Coast, a sensor in Astoria is an asset to more distant, inland communities that will also be impacted by a Cascadia Subduction Zone quake, City Councilor Roger Rocka said.

"Us having a sensor is

kind of our piece of the puzzle," he said.

The sensor and related equipment comes at no cost to the city. Astoria will only be responsible for paying for power to the station, about the same amount of power used by a small light bulb, according to the University of Oregon.

Response to the danger posed by the Cascadia Subduction Zone has been mixed among North Coast cities over the years. Cannon Beach has invested numerous resources and hours of time into studying possible evacuation routes and running a variety of scenarios. Other communities have only recently begun to discuss moving key public safety infrastructure and structures like school buildings out of danger from tsunami waves or setting up evacuation centers.

In recent years, officials in Astoria have started to push to establish public safety stations elsewhere in the city. The police station and the primary fire station are housed in a single public safety building in the tsunami inundation zone.

## County reports three new virus deaths

The Astorian

Clatsop County has reported three new coronavirus deaths.

A 49-year-old man died Friday at a Portland hospital.

An 83-year-old woman died Sept. 2 at her residence.

An 87-year-old man died Aug. 26 at a local hospital.

The county has recorded 24 virus deaths since the pandemic began. A dozen of those deaths were reported over the past few months, as the delta variant has caused a surge of new virus cases and hospitalizations.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 27 new virus cases for Clatsop County over the weekend.

Since the pandemic began, the county had recorded 1,940 virus cases as of early Tuesday.

As of Friday, the county said 23,998 residents — 60.8% — had been fully vaccinated against the virus. The county has set a goal of having 27,533 residents — 70% — vaccinated to try to achieve herd immunity.

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A: Imagine one of your teeth — it has two main sections: the crown above the gum line and the root below. People with sensitive teeth experience pain when their teeth are exposed to something hot, cold or when pressure is applied. The layer of enamel may be thinner and the gum line may have receded, exposing more dentin, which makes teeth more sensitive.

Sensitive toothpaste, usually containing a chemical called strontium chloride, works by blocking the tubules in the dentine. Repeated use builds up a strong barrier by plugging the tubules more and more, leading to less-sensitive teeth.



ASTORIA CHIROPRACTIC

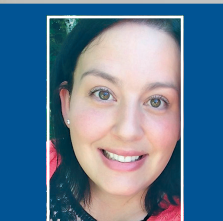
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