



# Historian

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## VACCINE MANDATE

# Fire chiefs worry about staff exodus

Several local departments could face losses

By ERICK BENDEL  
*The Astorian*

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Transit district postpones decision on vaccine mandate • A8

Fire chiefs in Clatsop County expect to see a significant decline in personnel due to the state's coronavirus vaccine mandate, a situation that could leave parts of the county underserved by emergency responders.

At a recent meeting of the county's Fire Defense Board, local chiefs and department leaders gave estimates of the staffing losses that may occur after Gov. Kate Brown's Oct. 18 deadline for health care workers, teachers and other school staff to get vaccinated.

Sheriff Matt Phillips attended the meeting and relayed the numbers in a report to the county Board of Commissioners. "It appears that on Oct. 19, some areas of our county will not have a fire response

to medical emergencies, crashes, industrial accidents, etc.," the sheriff told commissioners in an email.

Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer has asked Brown for an exemption to the vaccine mandate for volunteer firefighters. The mayor and others are particularly concerned about losing firefighters who are trained to provide emergency medical service.

### 'Just incredible'

Some fire departments, such as Seaside, indicated they may not lose staff over the vaccine mandate, according to Phillips' report. Others, like departments in Knappa and Westport, may lose a small number but won't experience operational changes.

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# State discloses virus cases at local schools

Over a dozen cases since classes resumed

By ETHAN MYERS  
*The Astorian*

The Oregon Health Authority has reported more than a dozen new coronavirus cases across schools in Clatsop County as classes resumed for the new school year.

The weekly outbreak report showed four of the 14 cases were from the Astoria School District. Three of the cases were students — two from Lewis and Clark Elementary School and one from Astor Elementary. The fourth case was a staff member at Astoria Middle School.

The school district released a dashboard documenting the number of students and staff from each school that

had to isolate or quarantine because of the virus. The district has recorded 12 virus cases among students and staff since Sept. 10, and six new cases since the health authority's report, which was updated through Sunday and released on Wednesday.

Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes said he was encouraged by the effort students and staff are making to follow protocols meant to deter the spread of the virus.

"You would like to keep it so you have (no virus cases), but we are doing the best we can and checking for symptoms," he said. "So far ... we aren't seeing any spread once we were able to put our health and safety protocols in place. It doesn't mean it won't happen, but we are doing a great job."

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Doc Shaw and Samantha Childress drove over 2,000 miles to Indianapolis for spinal surgery for their infant son, Kashton.

# Family follows doctor across the country for infant son's surgery

Seaside couple's son has spinal condition

By R.J. MARX  
*The Astorian*

SEASIDE — Doc Shaw and his wife drove over 2,000 miles in a small RV from Seaside to Indianapolis with their infant son.

Their destination? Peyton Manning Children's Hospital.

Their son, Kashton, underwent surgery Thursday for a neurologic condition called tethered spinal cord, in which the spinal cord is unable to move within the spinal column. The couple decided to travel across the country after the doctor they were seeing in Portland moved to a hospital in Indianapolis.

"It's been devastating for us," Shaw said. "We're just trying to keep him alive."

Kashton was born in May after an intense and terrifying delivery, according to his mom, Samantha Childress.

"After we spent time bonding, the nurses did their exam," she said. "Doc and I noticed them spending a little extra attention to an area on his lower back-upper butt crack."

A few days later, their pediatrician explained he had a sacral



Samantha Childress and Doc Shaw's son, Kashton.

dimple. While many are nothing to worry about, Kashton's was not only deep but had some other markers warranting more attention.

"She told us she wanted to be 'overly cautious' and get an ultrasound to make sure we were in the clear," Childress said.

### Worst day

Then came the couple's worst day.

"I noticed Kashton acting strangely, lethargic in a way, and then (he) projectile vomited," Childress said. "A little time passed when I noticed the quietness. None of his normal grumpy breathing. None of his random startled twitching. I unwrapped

him to find him pale, limp and unresponsive.

"I screamed for Doc, had someone call 911, and worked endlessly to bring him back. Thanks to Doc's quick reaction, we arrived at the local hospital four minutes before the ambulance even got to the shop and by some miracle Kashton started breathing as soon as we arrived."

Kashton was transferred from Providence Seaside Hospital to Providence St. Vincent's in Portland, where he was monitored and some tests were done.

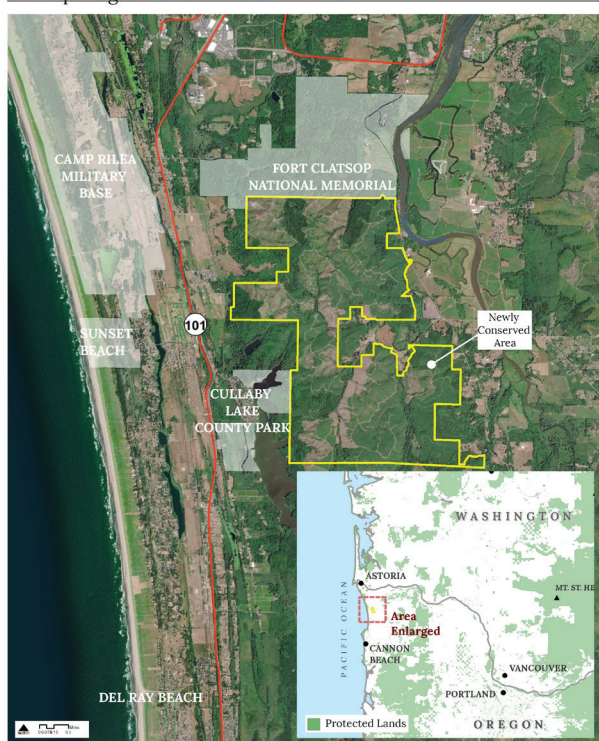
They were told by hospital staff that what happened to their son was unexplainable and he was fine, Childress said.

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**'I DIDN'T EXPECT ANYBODY WOULD EVEN COME TO OUR SIDE, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU. THE COMMUNITY HAS REALLY BEEN STEPPING UP. IT'S TAKEN ME TO MY KNEES MORE THAN ONCE ON THIS TRIP HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE JUST REACHED OUT. I JUST HAVE TO SAY 'THANKS.' IT'S BEEN AMAZING.'**

Doc Shaw

## Clatsop Ridge Forest Conservation Area



# Timber firm enters conservation deal with land trust

Greater preservation for Clatsop Ridge

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Astorian*

A new agreement between Clatsop County's largest landowner and the Columbia Land Trust will conserve a productive acreage between Astoria and Seaside for forestry work and ensure access for local tribes.

Under the conservation easement, GreenWood Resources — a timber investment company that manages lands previously owned by Weyerhaeuser and other timber companies — will continue to own the more than 2,500 acres of forestland off U.S. Highway 101 and harvest trees.

But the agreement will prevent future fragmentation of the land, no matter

who owns the property, said Dan Roix, the conservation director with Columbia Land Trust.

A conservation easement that continues to allow logging may not be an approach people typically associate with land trusts and conservation, Roix acknowledged. But he believes the easement will aid other, more familiar conservation goals, as well as preserve a traditional economical use in local forests.

The easement requires increased tree buffers along streams where fish are present and establishes a 50-year minimum stand rotation, giving trees a longer time to grow on the land.

For local tribes, the easement ensures access to an area where their ancestors gathered food and materials, and the right to do larger-scale collecting and harvesting activities not permitted on other land GreenWood owns.

### Clatsop Ridge

The property, referred to as Clatsop Ridge, already sees a high amount of recreational use. Located across U.S. Highway 101 from Camp Rilea, its borders touch Lewis and Clark National Historical Park to the north and Cullaby Lake County Park to the southwest.

Under the easement, the property must remain open to the public and hunting for deer and elk will be allowed. Native families in the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes have considered the area part of their traditional fishing grounds.

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