

## IN BRIEF

## State reports two dozen virus cases for county

The Oregon Health Authority reported 24 coronavirus cases for Clatsop County over the weekend.

Since the pandemic began, the county had recorded 2,325 virus cases and 27 deaths as of Monday.

The county reported that 24,991 people — 63.3% — had been fully vaccinated against the virus as of Friday. The county's goal is to vaccinate 27,533 people — 70% — to try to achieve herd immunity.

## Astoria Bridge to close for Great Columbia Crossing

The Astoria Bridge will be closed to vehicles on Sunday morning for the Great Columbia Crossing, an annual 10K with about 2,000 runners and walkers expected to participate this year.

Except for emergency vehicles, cars will not be able to cross the bridge from 8:30 to 11 a.m. From 6 a.m. until the start of the event, more traffic than usual can be expected as the event's shuttle buses bring people to the starting point and participants show up, the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce said.

Once the event ends at about 11 a.m., the bridge is expected to reopen.

Anyone who wants to volunteer for the Great Columbia Crossing can still sign up.

Contact the chamber at 503-325-6311 or [www.greatcolumbiacrossing.com](http://www.greatcolumbiacrossing.com) for more information.

## Park district mulls future path for recreation center

SEASIDE — The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District is still “getting its feet wet” in programming at the Sunset Recreation Center, board member Michael Hinton said.

The park district purchased the former Broadway Middle School for \$2.15 million in January. The school, along with Gearhart Elementary School and Seaside High School, was among Seaside School District properties relocated to the new Spruce Drive location outside of the tsunami inundation zone.

The team that will help set the Sunset Recreation Center's course convened over the summer with the goal to establish a clear vision and key objectives for the project.

— *The Astorian*

## Outbreak shuts in-person learning at Ilwaco High School

ILWACO, Wash. — The Ocean Beach School District announced that in-person learning at Ilwaco High School will be closed through this week after a number of coronavirus cases at the school.

The school district said the decision was made to revert to virtual learning through at least Friday after consulting with the Pacific County Health and Human Services Department.

Last week, the school district announced it was pausing the fall sports season after it had seen an uptick in COVID-19 cases in its athletic program at both Ilwaco High School and Hilltop Middle School.

— *Chinook Observer*

## ON THE RECORD

## Assault

• Dylan William Carlstrom, 30, of Seaside, was arrested on Monday morning on S. Roosevelt Drive for assault in the fourth degree and harassment.

## Theft

• Carrie Delight Dresser, 34, of Newberg, was arrested on Saturday at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the second degree.

• Charles Kenneth Potter, 56, of Longview, Washington, was arrested on Saturday at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the second degree.

## DUI

• Joshua Michael Daugherty, 36, of Long Beach, Washington, was arrested on Saturday in the Lewis and Clark Road area for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

**Seaside Community Center Commission**, 10 a.m., 1225 Avenue A.

**Port of Astoria Commission**, 4 p.m., (electronic meeting).

**Seaside Library Board of Directors**, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

**Clatsop Care Health District Board of Directors**, 5 p.m., (electronic meeting).

**Astoria Library Board**, 5:30 p.m., 450 10th St.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway

## WEDNESDAY

**Clatsop County Board of Commissioners**, 10 a.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

**Knappa School District Board**, 6:30 p.m., work session, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.

## THURSDAY

**Astoria Design Review Commission**, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

**Seaside Parks Advisory Committee**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## the Astorian

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## COLUMN VIEW

A view from the top  
of the Astoria Column.  
Lydia Ely/The Astorian



## Causer: Site has a no-politics policy

Continued from Page A1

He said he rarely gets a full night sleep as the scanner is a constant. “I actually have multiple scanners in my house,” he said.

Hugh Jhanis, who founded the Facebook page in 2018, invited the Causers to join as administrators — volunteer roles that require careful monitoring of what goes up on the site.

There are four moderators as well, he said, Rosie Ojala, Dan Sealy, Willie TenEyck and Rene Armstrong. “They are also volunteers, who have a mutual love for the scanner traffic as well as keeping the community informed,” he said.

Scanner pages are popular in communities across the country and can take on outsized roles in places without

local newspapers or radio stations. But sharing snippets of raw, unconfirmed reports from emergency dispatchers — and encouraging people to comment — can spread misinformation.

“We take a hard stance on people that want to disseminate hate or any kind of violence and stuff,” Causer said. “Facebook is doing a great job of overseeing a lot of it too now. It makes our job a little bit easier, but we still have our problems with people.”

Causer said there's a lot of confusion about the group's name.

“They think that ‘uncensored’ means that they can just come there and say whatever they want, spew whatever hate or divide you want to do,” he said. “We don't allow that. We're not a rant-

and-rave page. When we say ‘uncensored,’ we're talking about what goes over the scanner. There might be a fatality accident and there might be details in that people might not want to see. That's why we say it's uncensored, because there's some stuff over the scanner that is pretty traumatic.”

Many times, he or others will reach out to law enforcement directly “if there's any kind of iffy stuff. We don't want to be a tabloid newspaper.”

The site also has a no-politics policy, he said.

“We don't like the rumor mill, because we find a lot around here that people want to put in 10 cents, and sometimes that 10 cents isn't a whole dime, right?” Causer said. “It doesn't add up. I always tell people, just

because it's said on the scanner doesn't mean it's true.”

Causer said he tries to make the page a welcoming environment, with a respect for law enforcement and other emergency responders.

“Sometimes it's hard because you get in these little mood swings, where people start to fight over politics and over anything,” he said. “Whatever happened to agree to disagree?”

Causer said he always tries to keep it civil. “We don't want people to get attacked. We always try to come to terms: ‘Is it beneficial or is it going to be more destructive for the community?’ It has to be handled in a very ethical manner. To have 13,000 people that want to come check out our page, it's an honor.

“I also find it has a lot of responsibility with it.”

## Land trust: ‘We always try to have our conservation projects serve multiple benefits’

Continued from Page A1

“This partnership is an excellent example of a community-based project that draws on the strengths of each organization to build something greater than we could do alone,” Denise Löfman, the task force director, said in a statement.

Along the riverfront, the parcel is one of the last feeding opportunities for juvenile salmon migrating downriver toward the ocean. The restoration work will create feeding stations to increase the salmon's chances for survival.

“It is really a great example of permanently protecting really important wildlife habitat for fish and for bird species, and other wildlife in the area, while also providing a great resource for



Doug Gorsline/Columbia Land Trust

The Columbia Land Trust has transferred land at South Tongue Point to Clatsop Community College.

Clatsop Community College, and for the students at Clatsop Community College,” said Dan Roix, the conservation director for Columbia Land Trust. “We always try to have our conservation projects serve multiple benefits and this

is one that hits that mark perfectly.”

The land trust originally approached the college about purchasing South Tongue Point, which sits on the western edge of the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge.

The \$1.5 million project, which had been in the works for upward of five years, was funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as several other donors.

## Firehouse: Ballot summary sufficiently identified the purpose

Continued from Page A1

The city had questioned the validity of the complaint when it was filed in late August. But since the court was unable to hold a hearing and issue a ruling before the deadline to have ballot measures ready for the November election, the bond measure was pulled from the ballot.

The city hopes to put the bond measure before voters in the spring.

“I appreciate Judge Peterson's ruling,” City Attorney Peter Watts said. “The opponents realized that they couldn't make the false claims in a court of law, and that is why their arguments seemed so thin.”

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 to replace an aging facility on Pacific Way.

Given the 175-word limit, Peterson said the proposed ballot summary sufficiently identified the purpose of the bond.

“Any voter interested in more details will be able to find them,” the judge wrote. “The same is true for the tsunami rating, the preliminary nature of the cost estimates and the other complaints the petitioners have with the ballot title.”

Watts described the legal challenge and other obstacles as “kind of a perfect storm” that kept the bond measure off the November ballot.

“It is frustrating that voters will not be able to vote on the

question in November,” he said. “I hope that bond interest rates don't go up.”

Gearhart Mayor Paulina Cockrum said she was happy with the outcome in court and hopes the City Council will move forward with the bond measure in the spring.

Zimmerman said the legal challenge achieved the goal of providing voters with information not included in the ballot summary.

“While Dr. Gable and I are disappointed in the court's decision, we knew our complaint was outside the normal court guidelines in such

matters,” he said. “Our goal was to develop and provide the Gearhart voter with facts which, we believe, were purposely not disclosed in the ballot language.”

“Based on the Gearhart community's response to our complaint, we achieved our primary goal. We predicted the court would probably find in favor of the city based on the laws available to the court, but we know now the Gearhart voter is better informed on the ballot language today than they would have been if the challenge had not been made.”

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