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Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Cars are shown near the intersection of W. Marine Drive and Olney Avenue, part of where homeless camping could be allowed in Astoria.

Astoria to detail homeless camping locations

City's response to court rulings and state law

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

After approving a homeless camping ordinance that details the time and manner people can sleep outdoors, the Astoria City Council on Monday will review places people can and cannot sleep.

The ordinance is in response to federal court rulings and state legislation that prohibit police from enforcing illegal camping on public property unless there are adequate shelter spaces avail-

able. Local governments, like Astoria, that do not have adequate shelter space can detail the time, place and manner people can sleep outdoors so camping can be enforced everywhere else.

Cities across Oregon are adjusting camping ordinances, balancing the need to meet the new standards with community interests.

Astoria's ordinance, which was approved in June, established the time and manner provisions, allowing people to set up temporary camps overnight

HOMELESS CAMPING

Read more online and see a draft map of potential camping locations at:

www.astoria.or.us/Livability.aspx

from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. with bedrolls or sleeping bags, tarps, or small tents. The city chose to take on the place component separately to allow for more public feedback.

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County asks state for help with housing

Requests in advance of next session

By ERICK BENGEL
The Astorian

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners has sent a letter to Gov. Kate Brown asking for assistance on housing and homelessness issues as the state prepares for the 2023 legislative session.

The letter was also addressed to Andrea Bell, the executive director of the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department, and members of the state Department of Land Conservation and Development's housing needs work group and housing capacity work group.

Ryan Deibert, the governor's health and housing policy adviser, told the county in an email that the governor's team is "working closely with Director Bell and her staff at Oregon Housing and Community Services to provide a detailed response in the

coming weeks." The letter asks for state-level support in the county's efforts to address the growing problem.

"We encourage you to address our concerns in your final 2023 legislative concepts and policy option packages," the letter, signed by Mark Kujala, the chairman of the commission, says.

Citing a point-in-time count from 2019, the letter notes that Clatsop County has the highest rate of homelessness of all Oregon counties. The figure — 22.7 homeless individuals per 1,000 residents — is almost certainly an undercount because it predates the COVID-19 pandemic that destabilized many people's housing situation, the letter points out.

In addition, applicants for housing choice vouchers from the Northwest Oregon Housing Authority

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Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Housing is the dominant public policy issue in Clatsop County.

On Seaman's Day, it's all about belly rubs, drool and a little bit of history

Newfoundlands on parade at Fort Clatsop

By ALEXIS WEISEND
The Astorian

Massive, bear-like figures could be spotted between the trees at Fort Clatsop on Wednesday. But it was a cause for celebration, not alarm.

Newfoundland dogs and their owners have gathered at the fort once a year for nearly three decades to honor "Seaman," who served as Meriwether Lewis' companion during Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery expedition.

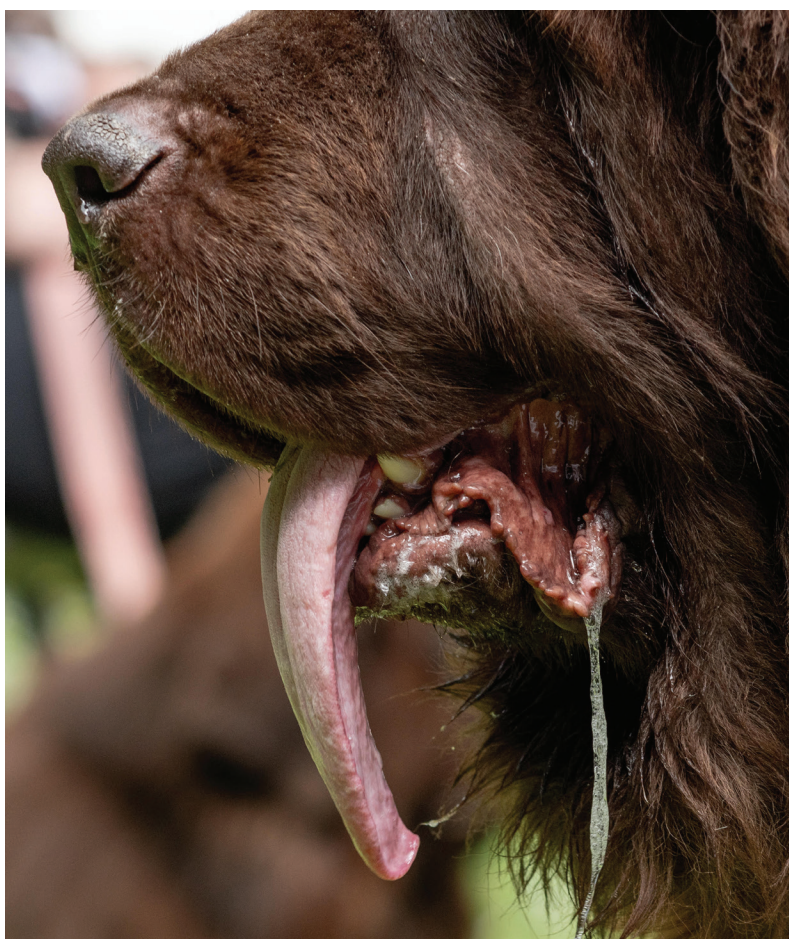
The big dog is famous around Oregon, immortalized in the form of stuffed animals and statues, as well as inspiring the mascot for Lewis & Clark College.

Newfoundlands were an ideal breed to bring on the expedition in the early 1800s because of their many capabilities, which include being watchdogs, hunters, swimmers and protectors.

"Some like to do different jobs. His job is to lay on the couch and be handsome," Elise DeChaine Ghiglieri said of the 227-pound pile of dark fur named "James Bond."

James Bond is an uncle to her dog, "Gatsby." Not even a year old, Gatsby is already 150 pounds.

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Lydia Ely/The Astorian

'Preston,' a Newfoundland, drools during Seaman's Day at Fort Clatsop.

NEWFOUNDLANDS ARE FAMOUS AROUND OREGON, IMMORTALIZED IN THE FORM OF STUFFED ANIMALS AND STATUES, AS WELL AS INSPIRING THE MASCOT FOR LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE.

Virus outbreaks disclosed at hospital, care homes

Cases detailed in state's biweekly report

By ERICK BENGEL
The Astorian

The Oregon Health Authority has disclosed a coronavirus outbreak at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

In a biweekly outbreak report released on Wednesday, the health authority listed eight virus cases at the Astoria hospital. An investigation into the outbreak began on June 22. The most recent onset was on June 26, the report said.

"Over the past several weeks, the state of Oregon has seen an increase in COVID cases. It should come as no surprise that members of our community, including a few employees at CMH, have been (COVID-positive)," Sarah Bello, the hospital's interim communications director, said in an email. "CMH continues to be a safe place for our community to seek care."

The health authority discloses outbreaks at workplaces with 30 or more employees when at least five workers test positive for COVID-19.

The report also detailed outbreaks at local care homes. An outbreak at Avamere at Seaside involved 14 virus cases and was first reported



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Public health leaders recommend boosters to protect against the coronavirus.

on June 27, according to the report.

Avamere administrators could not immediately be reached for comment.

An outbreak at Clatsop Care Retirement Village in Astoria maxed out at 17 virus cases: 14 residents and three staff, The Astorian previously wrote. The outbreak was first reported to the state on June 6, the report said.

Clatsop Care Memory Community in Warrenton had an outbreak involving nine virus cases. Last month, The Astorian reported eight of them: six residents and two staff. The outbreak was also reported to the state on June 6.

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