

Christmas closures planned

The Daily Astorian

In observance of Christmas Day, all federal and state offices are closed Friday. Clatsop County offices and Astoria City Hall and city services close at noon Thursday, and are closed Friday. Cannon Beach and Warrenton city halls and services are closed Thursday and Friday. Gearhart and Seaside city halls and services are closed Friday. All U.S. post offices are closed Friday, and there is no mail delivery.

Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Warrenton/Hammond, Seaside (including Cannon Beach and Gearhart schools) and Ocean Beach School District schools and Clatsop Community College are closed for winter break.

The Astoria Library, War-

renton Library and all Timberland libraries in Washington state, including Ilwaco, Ocean Park and Naselle, are closed Thursday and Friday. The Seaside Library is closed Friday.

The Port of Astoria offices and services are closed Thursday and Friday.

Garbage collection through Recology Western Oregon (covering Astoria, Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach) and the city of Warrenton with a normal service day of Friday will receive service Saturday. Peninsula Sanitation (covering the Long Beach Peninsula) customers whose regular service day is Friday will have their garbage picked up Thursday. Recology Western Oregon and Peninsula Sanitation's transfer stations are closed Friday.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside is closed Friday. The Astoria Aquatic Center is open from 5 to 11 a.m. Thursday and closed Friday.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum, Oregon Film Museum, Flavel House and Carriage House are closed Thursday and Friday. The Uppertown Firefighters' Museum is closed for the winter. Capt. Gray's Port of Play and Lil' Sprouts are closed Thursday and Friday. Fort Clatsop and the Columbia River Maritime Museum are closed Friday. The Seaside Museum is closed Thursday and Friday.

Sunset Empire Transportation ("The Bus") is not running Friday.

The Daily Astorian offices are closed Friday, and the newspaper is not printed.

Brown hopes for quick action to fix child welfare system

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown spoke about problems in Oregon's child welfare system Friday at the first meeting of an advisory committee the governor appointed last month to oversee a review and improvements to the system.

"I see your role as really critical as we move forward, in terms of making sure we have a foster care system that enables our children in the system not only to survive but to thrive," Brown said. "I want you to hear it from me. In no way do I see this level of services as being acceptable."

The governor is responding to the state Department of Human Services' failure to take action against licensed children's services providers with known problems. News coverage highlighted the issues this fall, starting with a story in Willamette Week that revealed child neglect and misuse of public funds by the Portland foster care program Give Us This Day. Although then-DHS director Erinn Kelley-Siel and other top officials knew of the problems, including detailed findings from an Oregon Department of Justice investigation, the state continued to send children to Give Us This Day.

"I really see your role as holding people's feet to the fire," Brown said to the new committee on Friday.

Consultant will review programs

The state is close to awarding a contract to a consultant who will review several aspects of the state's child welfare and foster care programs, and recommendations from the consultant and advisory committee could result in legislation as soon as the short

legislative session in February.

Several members of the advisory committee said the state has cut money for these programs during previous recessions and never restored funding. Brown said she would work with the Legislature to increase funding for child welfare, although she did not specify when.

At the same time, state Sen. Sara Gelsler, D-Corvallis, said a lack of resources cannot be the excuse when the state fails to take action to protect kids, such as the foster children at Give Us This Day.

"The problems that bring us around the table, there is no excuse, there is no policy, there is nothing in the state of Oregon that justifies what happened to these kids," Gelsler said. "We can't allow ourselves to fall into that. We need to remember why we're at the table."

Gelsler said the problem was that Department of Human Services managers and the agency's previous director knew about problems at Give Us This Day yet continued to send children there, "which suggests there is a culture that accepts bad places."

Director ultimately responsible

Interim DHS Director Clyde Saiki said the agency's director has to make clear he or she is ultimately accountable.

"I think that part of the culture change that has to happen within the department is leadership has to say we are accountable, and if bad things happen, that's on us," said Saiki, whom Brown appointed as interim director after Kelley-Siel resigned and it was revealed another interim director had also failed to respond to the problems at Give Us This Day.

Brown complimented Saiki Friday on his handling of the agency.

"I think his work has been stellar," Brown said. "I hope you're feeling that on the ground, as well."

Members of the advisory committee, who include legislators and representatives of service provider and interested community groups, discussed some of the areas in which the Department of Human Services could improve. One of their concerns was transparency. Lené Garrett, executive director of Court Appointed Special Advocates in Marion County, said even though advocates have court orders granting them access to information on foster children's cases, they still often struggle to get the information they need from the department. The group advocates for the interests of abused and neglected children in the court system. Gelsler also said it seems like she has had to "wrestle for every public record" she requested from the department.

Children reluctant to report abuse

The committee also welcomed two newly appointed members on Friday, both from the Oregon Foster Youth Connection program for current and former foster kids: Katie Robertson and Nicole Stapp. Children in foster care are often worried about issues that might not come up in media coverage or lawmakers' discussions, such as that if they report abuse or other problems, they could be moved to a different home and separated from a sibling or friend, Robertson and Stapp said.

The committee is expected to meet again in January.

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

Public meetings

MONDAY

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

TUESDAY

Cannon Beach Public Works Commit-

tee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Clatsop Care Health District Board, noon, Clatsop Care Memory Community, 2219 S.E. Dolphin Road, Warrenton.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., 225 S. Main Ave.

ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Astoria 5-Day Forecast

Tonight
Mostly cloudy with a touch of rain
40°

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs

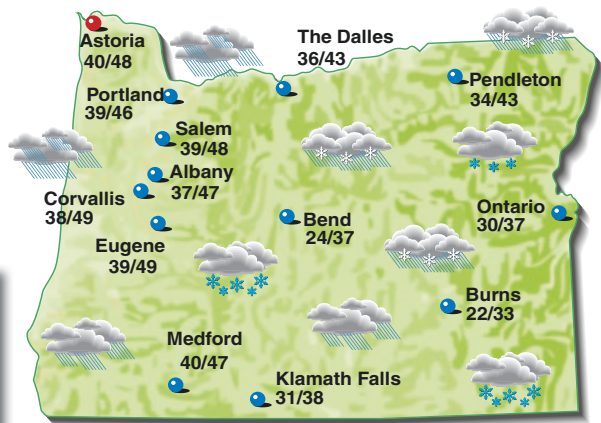
Tuesday
Breezy; a shower in the morning, then rain
48° 40°

Wednesday
Breezy with periods of rain
48° 38°

Thursday
Cloudy with a shower
45° 37°

Friday
Clouds and sun with a shower in the area
47° 38°

Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2015

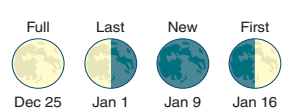
Almanac

Astoria through Sunday.

Temperatures	
High	50°
Low	43°
Normal high	48°
Normal low	36°
Precipitation	
Yesterday	0.80"
Month to date	17.00"
Normal month to date	6.45"
Year to date	70.24"
Normal year to date	63.82"

Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	4:32 p.m.
Sunrise Tuesday	7:55 a.m.
Moonrise today	2:10 p.m.
Moonset today	3:22 a.m.



AccuWeather.com

Regional Cities

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	38	24	sn	32	24	sn
Bend	42	24	sn	37	29	r
Brookings	52	45	r	50	40	r
Eugene	51	39	r	49	35	r
Ilwaco	50	44	r	48	44	r
Klamath Falls	38	31	r	38	28	r
Medford	48	40	r	47	36	r
Newport	51	41	r	49	42	r
North Bend	54	44	r	53	41	r

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Olympia	45	35	r	44	34	r
Pendleton	47	34	sh	43	34	c
Portland	50	39	r	46	38	r
Roseburg	52	43	r	49	40	r
Salem	52	39	r	48	38	r
Seaside	51	44	r	48	44	r
Spokane	35	24	sn	32	23	sn
Vancouver	49	38	r	45	39	r
Yakima	38	23	sn	39	27	c

Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: The December solstice, which marks the start of winter in the Northern Hemisphere, occurs at 8:48 p.m. PST.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

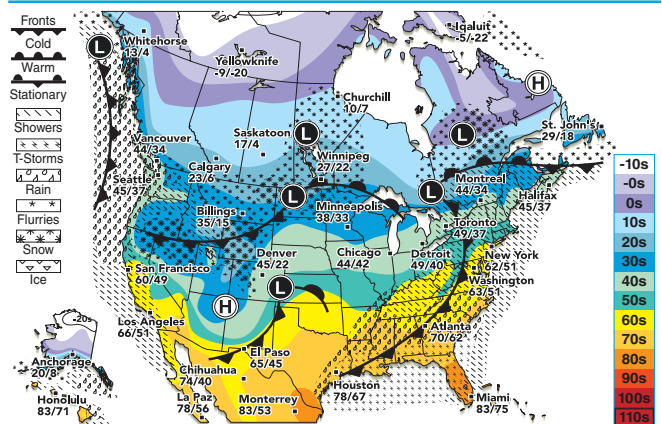
Tomorrow's Tides

Astoria / Port Docks		Time	Low
High	10:12 a.m.	10:0 ft.	4:01 a.m.
Low	11:29 p.m.	7.9 ft.	5:16 p.m.
High	10:12 a.m.	10:0 ft.	4:01 a.m.
Low	11:29 p.m.	7.9 ft.	5:16 p.m.

National Cities

City	Today			Tues.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	61	55	pc	70	62	r
Boston	53	47	pc	55	43	c
Chicago	50	35	r	44	42	pc
Denver	44	30	pc	45	22	c
Des Moines	36	28	c	47	38	pc
Detroit	49	41	r	49	40	pc
El Paso	60	36	s	65	45	pc
Fairbanks	-6	-10	pc	-6	-20	pc
Honolulu	82	72	sh	83	71	pc
Indianapolis	36	28	c	47	38	pc
Kansas City	41	28	s	55	47	pc
Las Vegas	55	43	pc	60	45	pc
Los Angeles	64	55	pc	66	51	sh
Memphis	67	53	sh	70	63	c
Miami	82	75	pc	83	75	c
Nashville	62	56	sh	68	59	c
New Orleans	73	62	r	73	63	r
New York	54	50	pc	62	51	c
Oklahoma City	57	33	s	66	48	pc
Philadelphia	56	51	pc	64	52	c
St. Louis	63	35	c	54	51	pc
Salt Lake City	43	38	sn	40	27	sn
San Francisco	58	56	r	60	49	r
Seattle	46	37	r	45	37	r
Washington, DC	54	49	pc	63	51	c

Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities. Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Active shooter training available

The Daily Astorian

The Lower Columbia Human Resources Management Association is holding a seminar with a focus on active shooter training, presented by Matt Armstrong, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 6 at Buoy Beer Co..

Armstrong will provide a brief overview of Alert, Lock-

down, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate training (www.alicetraining.com), which is designed to prepare an individual, business or school for an active shooter event, and to give people options to increase their chances of surviving the event. This program has one primary focus: survival of those who find themselves under attack.

Membership in the associ-

ation is not required to attend. Register online at www.lchrma.org. The cost, including lunch prepared by Buoy Beer, is \$15 for association members, \$12.50 for students and \$20 for nonmembers. Cancellations must be received no later than 5 p.m. Jan. 4 for a full refund.

For information, contact Stacey Brown at president@lchrma.org

CORRECTION

No charges filed — Lt. Andrew Merila, a spokesman for the Oregon State Police, said an administrative error resulted in an erroneous re-

port that Blake Painter, 36, of Astoria, was arrested by the state police Wednesday for second-degree criminal trespass. Merila said Painter was

not charged with the crime and that the release was accidental. The arrest was listed in an On the record item on 2A of Friday's newspaper.

Deaths

Dec. 12, 2015

BUTLER, James Edward, 77, of Ocean Park, Washington, died in Ocean Park. Ocean View Funeral & Cre-

mation Service in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 17, 2015

ELLSWORTH, Joseph

Allan, 64, of Seaside, died in Portland. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Lotteries

OREGON
Sunday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 0-1-0-0
4 p.m.: 5-8-5-2
7 p.m.: 4-9-8-4
10 p.m.: 9-5-8-4
Saturday's Megabucks:
14-21-27-31-33-42
Estimated jackpot: \$3.8 million.
Saturday's Powerball:
28-30-41-59-68, Powerball: 10
Estimated jackpot: \$202 million.
Saturday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 2-6-3-7
4 p.m.: 1-5-2-7
7 p.m.: 5-0-2-8
10 p.m.: 7-0-7-6
Friday's Pick 4:

1 p.m.: 7-3-5-3
4 p.m.: 4-6-5-0
7 p.m.: 0-3-5-0
10 p.m.: 0-7-9-8
WASHINGTON
Sunday's Daily Game:
4-6-3
Sunday's Keno: 01-10-14-17-29-31-37-40-44-50-53-56-59-61-66-68-70-72-76-77
Sunday's Match 4: 01-08-13-21
Saturday's Daily Game:
2-0-4
Saturday's Hit 5: 02-15-22-25-36
Estimated jackpot: \$190,000.
Saturday's Keno: 01-11-

17-20-21-26-33-36-42-43-49-50-53-54-62-68-72-75-77-78
Saturday's Lotto: 07-22-29-33-40-46
Estimated jackpot: \$3.8 million.
Saturday's Match 4: 01-11-17-24
Friday's Daily Game:
1-6-9
Friday's Keno: 04-06-09-16-18-20-23-26-27-30-41-43-45-57-58-60-67-71-77-79
Friday's Match 4: 05-11-19-23
Friday's Mega Millions: 06-23-24-28-62, Mega Ball: 7
Estimated jackpot: \$85 million.

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