

# POINT of view

## 'What do you think about Astoria breaking its own rainy day record?'



"It's not altogether surprising. Is anybody surprised? It's Astoria. It rains."

Erica Bruney, Warrenton



"I think it's wonderful. I'd rather die by drowning than thirst."

Sally Hughes, Astoria



"Kind of expected for the coast. Another day in Astoria. People complain about the rain, I go, 'You picked the wrong place to live.'"

Alex Marquardt, Astoria

THE DAILY ASTORIAN // QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### OBITUARY

#### Donald Thomas Nelson

Astoria

Aug. 4, 1928 — April 24, 2017



Donald Thomas Nelson, 88, of Astoria, Oregon, passed away Monday, April 24, 2017. Donald is survived by his son, Jeffrey. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ellen, who died July 10, 2001. Donald was a lifelong mariner, with a distinguished 38-year career with the Columbia River Bar Pilots, including as the operator of the Pilot Boat Peacock for 21 years. His maritime service included:

- Gillnetting 1941-1945
- Pilot Boat 1947-1950
- U.S. Navy 1950-1954
- Pilot Boat 1954-1981

Donald was recently featured on Oregon Public Broadcasting's Oregon Field Guide on the program, "Columbia River Bar Pilots," first broadcast on Oct. 20, 2016. Donald loved watching "Pawn Stars" and "American Pickers," as well as the man he called his "weather god," KGW's Matt Zaffino.

He had impeccable penmanship, and was an artist as well, creating a wall sculpture



Donald Nelson



Donald Nelson

with sailor knots that hung in a local restaurant in Astoria. He also loved antiques, coins and baseball cards. He also enjoyed his restored 1972 Pontiac Grand Prix, and sorely missed his black 1953 Oldsmobile 440 that he sold in 1966, a decision he later regretted. Donald was loved by all who knew him and he will be sorely missed. His ashes will be scattered at sea, per his final wishes. He was a lifelong Astoria resident. Whenever you asked him how he was doing, he would say, "Just like you look, mighty fine."

When Donald was in the U.S. Navy in the 1950s, his ship, the USS Baltimore was stationed in Italy and Greece, and he visited Mount Vesuvius. He also often talked of the hardship he and his shipmates endured, being forced to eat vanilla ice cream, instead of chocolate, occasionally.

A celebration of life will be held at the American Legion in Astoria, Saturday, May 6, 2017, at 1400 (2 p.m.).

## State tax collection positions were funded, but not filled

By CLAIRES WITHYCOMBE  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Less than a week after Gov. Kate Brown called for renewed efforts to collect millions of dollars in debt owed to the state, legislators are asking the Department of Revenue to explain why vacancies remain at the agency after the Legislature already allocated money to step up its collections staff.

The agency still has about 100 open positions, including 31 in collections, according to lawmakers on a budget subcommittee, even though the Legislature appropriated an estimated \$10 million to the department to fill those 100 positions in the current two-year budget period that ends in June.

The Legislative Fiscal Office estimates there is about \$3.3 billion owed to the state overall. There is a limited amount that is collectible for a multitude of reasons, and only about \$600 million to \$800 million of that money is owed to the state's general fund — where there is an approximately \$1.6 billion budget gap lawmakers have to close before they adjourn in July.

Shawn Waite, director of the revenue department's administrative services division, told lawmakers Tuesday during budget hearings for the department that some money was spent on personal services and backfilling positions, but that about \$4.5 million will be left over.

State Rep. David Gomberg, D-Central Coast, who has previously advocated for increased debt collection efforts, asked for more details about which positions are vacant, which were backfilled somewhere else, and what happened to the money the legislature allocated.

"I think we'd appreciate a little more detail than simply the fact that we've got \$4 million left over and we double filled some other positions someplace else," said Gomberg.

### 'Hoodwinked'

Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, also asked for more information.

"We appropriated money based on certain representations that the agency made, and it appears that those promises haven't been kept," Johnson said.



Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown wants to ramp up collections of state debt, but lawmakers want to know why Department of Revenue didn't fill 31 collections positions the Legislature funded in 2015.

son said. "I have to be honest, I am stunned at how many vacancies you have, and Rep. Gomberg has been beating the drum about uncollected revenue, we're about to transfer, a lot of that work to you, and I sort of feel like we got hoodwinked a little bit."

Johnson said the Legislature appropriated the money for a purpose, and she wondered whether the agency spent the money for that intended purpose.

"We can absolutely get that detail to you," Waite said. Waite said the agency did not check with the Legislative Fiscal Office or ask to go before the Legislature during the interim legislative session.

Johnson said she wanted more information about how the decision was made to spend the money elsewhere, and why the department did not consult or disclose that information to the Legislature.

"I would have to get back to you on that as far as the leadership decisions on that," Waite said.

"What I don't want is, blame the dead guy," Johnson said. "... Just be forewarned that that doesn't work for me. Your former director was not the only person in the room when that decision was made."

The director of the Department of Revenue, Nia Ray, has been at the helm of the agency since October.

Gomberg noted that the agency had told the Legislature they needed more resources to implement another proposal now before the Legislature, Senate Bill 89, that would give the Department of Revenue responsibility for debt collection for certain agencies.

"I want to start by making it very clear, I will support more resources for the Department of Revenue if we're actually hiring people to do that collection work," Gomberg said. "What I can't support is allocating more money to hold vacancies open."

### Vacancies evaluated

Ray, the department's director, said that filling vacancies was not her first priority when she got to the department because she had to assess whether all the vacancies were truly needed.

"We were uncertain as to whether it made good financial sense to really hire a group of individuals given the fact that we didn't know if we would be able to support them throughout the remaining biennium," Ray said.

Gomberg said that new collections agents recovered about 12 times what the state spent to hire them, and that seemed like a good investment.

Ray said those collections did generate returns, but not all vacancies were in the collections area, and at a certain point the law of diminishing returns applied to hiring collections agents.

"I'll be happy with a 2- or 300 percent return on my investment, and of course, the context here is that we've got a huge gaping budget deficit," Gomberg said. "We're trying to fund schools, we're trying to fund senior programs, we're trying to take care of Oregonians that are sick, and meanwhile we've got \$600 million in one agency that we haven't been able to get our hands on."

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

### FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

AccuWeather.com

Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
52 Partly cloudy	62 50 Some sun, a shower or two in the afternoon	54 43 Clouds; showers around, breezy and cooler	56 43 Clouds and sun with a stray shower	59 44 Mostly cloudy

### ALMANAC

Astoria through Tuesday.

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 58°/49°  
 Normal high/low ..... 59°/43°  
 Record high ..... 78° in 1909  
 Record low ..... 34° in 1948

**Precipitation**

Tuesday ..... 0.46"  
 Month to date ..... 0.73"  
 Normal month to date ..... 0.25"  
 Year to date ..... 41.97"  
 Normal year to date ..... 30.29"

### REGIONAL WEATHER

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

### SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight ..... 8:27 p.m.  
 Sunrise Thursday ..... 5:57 a.m.  
 Moonrise today ..... 1:11 p.m.  
 Moonset today ..... 2:48 a.m.

Full Last New First

May 10 May 18 May 25 June 1

### UNDER THE SKY

**tonight's Sky:** The constellation Orion will be quite low in the west as night begins to fall.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

### TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
5:51 a.m.	7.3 ft.	3:04 a.m.	2.6 ft.
0:10 p.m.	7.9 ft.	3:41 p.m.	0.6 ft.

### REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
Baker City	72 42 pc 78 49 s	Olympia	74 52 pc 78 51 t		
Bend	76 50 s 81 51 pc	Pendleton	76 54 pc 86 61 pc		
Brookings	67 52 pc 63 50 s	Portland	81 58 pc 82 54 t		
Eugene	81 54 pc 81 51 t	Roseburg	85 60 pc 83 53 t		
Ilwaco	61 52 pc 59 50 pc	Salem	81 56 pc 82 52 t		
Klamath Falls	79 45 s 82 49 pc	Seaside	64 52 pc 62 50 sh		
Medford	88 58 s 87 54 t	Spokane	68 49 pc 81 58 s		
Newberg	80 57 pc 83 52 t	Springfield	81 56 pc 83 51 t		
North Bend	64 50 pc 59 49 pc	Vancouver	80 59 pc 83 54 t		
North Bend	67 53 pc 62 50 pc	Yakima	81 53 pc 86 57 pc		

### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Thu.
Atlanta	83 61 s 68 49 t	
Boston	63 43 pc 59 46 t	
Chicago	57 42 s 51 41 r	
Denver	57 33 pc 69 42 s	
Des Moines	62 42 c 67 46 s	
Detroit	61 41 s 48 43 r	
El Paso	88 55 s 82 57 pc	
Hairbanks	54 38 r 58 35 s	
Honolulu	84 72 pc 85 71 s	
Indianapolis	54 45 r 55 45 r	
Jacksonville	54 41 sh 65 46 pc	
Las Vegas	92 71 s 96 73 s	
Los Angeles	87 59 s 82 58 s	
Memphis	81 53 r 54 48 sh	
Miami	87 76 pc 87 76 s	
Nashville	80 61 pc 68 46 t	
New Orleans	80 63 t 71 54 c	
New York	64 46 pc 61 50 pc	
Oklahoma City	61 46 c 68 45 s	
Philadelphia	64 46 pc 66 53 pc	
St. Louis	50 45 r 52 46 r	
Salt Lake City	68 47 s 76 53 s	
San Francisco	78 56 pc 71 54 pc	
Seattle	73 54 pc 75 53 t	
Washington, DC	66 50 s 68 59 pc	

### TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

## MEMORIAL

**Saturday, May 6**

LOVELL, Claire — Memorial at 11 a.m., Seaside United Methodist Church, 241 N. Holladay Drive in Seaside. A reception follows.

LAYTON, Delmar L. — Celebration of life from 1 to 3 p.m. at the family home, 92931 Labeck Road, in the Burnside area of Astoria.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**WEDNESDAY**

Seaside Urban Renewal Community Forum, 4 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 5 p.m., special work session, Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St.

Seaside Urban Renewal Budget Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Seaside Improvement Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., City Hall, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**THURSDAY**

Northwest Oregon Housing Authority Board, 10 a.m., Owens Adair Apartments, 1508 Exchange St.

Astoria City Council, 6 p.m., work session on parks budget, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., City Hall, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## LOTTERIES

**OREGON**

**Tuesday's Pick 4:**

1 p.m.: 5-9-3-2

4 p.m.: 9-5-9-8

7 p.m.: 3-6-9-9

10 p.m.: 3-1-0-1

**Mega Millions:** 5-14-42-43-58, Mega Ball: 1

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

**WASHINGTON**

**Tuesday's Daily Game:** 9-4-2

**Tuesday's Keno:** 02-04-06-07-10-13-14-17-19-29-30-34-36-46-50-56-61-73-74-79

**Tuesday's Match 4:** 14-18-22-23

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Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

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