



Submitted Photo
Firefighters from the fourth Clatsop County task force pose in front of Multnomah Falls after fighting the Eagle Creek Fire last week.

Local task forces sent to fight Oregon fires

By BRENNIA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

Cannon Beach Fire Chief Matt Benedict has been called to fight many wildfires over his 20-year career, so getting the call from the state to go to Sisters and Eagle Creek for two weeks didn't feel much different.

But when he found himself at Multnomah Falls, memories of a fire that raged in 1991 were rekindled. He was a student in fire science at the time, and recalled protecting the historic lodge for two days straight with his classmates and mentor.

"I just remember thinking, 'Wow, this all over again,'" Benedict said.

The fire chief was among the more than 50 Clatsop County firefighters who were deployed with Oregon State Fire Marshal Incident Management to the Milli Fire in Sisters, the Chetco Bar Fire in Brookings and the Eagle Creek Fire in Multnomah County throughout late August and early September.

As of Tuesday, a team of 13 firefighters at the Milli Fire in Sisters, another team of 14 at the Chetco Fire near Brookings and two teams of 13 and 14 in Eagle Creek have all returned home. It was the first time in Clatsop County history two task forces were sent simultaneously to fight fires around the state, Knappa Fire Chief Paul Olheiser said.

The team deployed to Chetco Bar

broke state history for the most days spent on a fire as a part of a conflagration order from the state.

Olheiser, who is coordinating the county's volunteer effort, said firefighters from Seaside, Gearhart, Olney, Lewis and Clark, Cannon Beach, Warrenton and Knappa fire districts were dispatched to fires throughout the state. As of mid-week, more than 20 wildfires are burning throughout Oregon.

Many of the firefighters served on multiple task forces — some even back to back, not even making it back into their own homes for more than a few hours.

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'WITHOUT DEDICATION FROM THE COMMUNITY, WE COULD NEVER DO THESE THINGS. IT'S A HARD HIT TO A SMALL BUSINESS IF YOU LOSE TWO OR THREE EMPLOYEES FOR WEEKS.'

Paul Olheiser | Knappa fire chief



Two teams of firefighters from Clatsop County helped fight the Eagle Creek Fire.
Inciweb via AP

Former Abeco building is sold

Part of string of downtown properties

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Luottamus Partners, the property company owned by Rose Marie Paavola and Marie Mitchum, has sold the former Abeco Office Systems storefront on Commercial Street in downtown Astoria to Hollywood Vintage, a vintage clothing and accessory store in Portland.

William Hicks, the registered owner of Hollywood Vintage, did not respond to requests for comment.

Luottamus Partners, founded in the mid-2000s by Paavola and the late downtown advocate Mitch Mitchum to fix up buildings downtown, once owned eight properties but is down to three. Paavola and Mitch Mitchum won a Dr. Edward J. Harvey Award in 2010 for their restoration of the Sanborn Building at 10th and Commercial streets, which had been gutted by fire.

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
Luottamus Partners has sold the former Abeco storefront at 1332 Commercial St. to Portland-based Hollywood Vintage, a vintage clothing and accessory store.

Development fees going up in Warrenton

Increases for the first time in several years

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Fees that Warrenton charges for building permits and plan reviews are going up for the first time in almost a decade.

The changes the City Commission unanimously approved at its meeting Tuesday will increase the combined cost for a permit and plan review for the average house built in Warrenton by about \$57.

"Really what we're presenting here is a cost-of-living increase that is typically done once a year," Warrenton Building Official Chuck Goodwin said. He pointed out that the fees have not been adjusted since 2008, even while residential and commercial developments have boomed.

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Alderbrook property owner dodges foreclosure

Olvey pays out \$55,000 in fines

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The owner of a sign-covered property in Alderbrook has dodged foreclosure, but could still face legal action if he doesn't take care of issues that led the Astoria City Council to declare the site a nuisance earlier this summer.

Leroy Olvey, a lifelong Clatsop County resident, has paid the city \$55,996, the full amount he needed to pay to

halt a process that would have otherwise ended in foreclosure and a public auction of his Birch Street property. Past judgments related to the condition of his property, with relatively smaller fines attached, still remain unpaid. Nothing has changed on the property itself.

"While he's paid his citation fines, there are still continued violations out there that he has not remedied," City Manager Brett Estes said. "We still have the junk vehicles and the derelict building issues out there."

For more than a decade, the city has tried to get the

77-year-old man to clean up his property. Instead, Olvey has covered the house and the yard with colorful signs expressing his opinions about world affairs and local figures, and protesting his alleged treatment by the city over the years. Trash is piled up inside the run-down house and broken, abandoned vehicles litter the overgrown yard. The property has become a neighborhood concern.

In June, the City Council declared Olvey's property derelict and a nuisance, a tool the city has used to get other



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
Leroy Olvey has covered his Alderbrook property with protest signs that document his fight against the city and others.

