

IN BRIEF



Warrenton Police Department

Vandals spray-painted graffiti at Warrenton City Park.

Vandals leave graffiti in Warrenton

Warrenton is offering a \$500 reward for information about graffiti spray-painted at Warrenton City Park and a kayak dock on the Skipanon River.

The graffiti was found on Monday morning on a dug-out and on a large Conex box used for storage. There was also graffiti on the pedestrian ramp leading to the SE Second Street kayak dock.

People with information can contact the Warrenton Police Department at 503-325-8661 or use the online tip line at <https://www.ci.warrenton.or.us/police/webform/criminal-tips>

Construction to delay traffic on John Day River Road

Drivers should expect lengthy delays at John Day River Road due to construction.

A culvert replacement and embankment repair at milepost 1.4 on John Day River Road is scheduled for Monday through Friday.

The site will be controlled by flaggers during the day, then restricted to one lane at night.

— *The Astorian*

Ilwaco water plant in need of renovations

ILWACO, Wash. — Ilwaco's water treatment plant is in need of a makeover.

At a meeting on Monday, the City Council approved a plan to rehabilitate the plant's structure. The building is falling apart, according to city water supervisor Rick Gray.

The plan calls for a \$6,630 payment from the city to Gray & Osborne, the city's engineer. Money will come from the city's funds for water and general professional services.

Gray & Osborne will study the building and provide recommendations on how and what to rehabilitate.

The building, which is near the Indian Creek Reservoir, was built more than 30 years ago. The damage is attributed to drainage issues resulting in runoff, which in turn entered the building. The water corroded some of the building's steel columns.

Gray said he noticed the structure's damage when he was replacing light bulbs and his ladder kept sliding down.

"I already have an idea how to fix it but it's a public building and it needs an engineer's write-up," Gray said.

Mayor Gary Forner said the city is lucky the damage was found before a big snowfall. Gray agreed, saying the building would have "buckled." The pair agreed the city needs to move forward on making improvements to the plant before winter.

"We've got to get on this before winter," Forner said. "I don't want to lose our water plant."

— *Chinook Observer*

CORRECTION

Art misidentified — "Asian Bird" by Gloria Martin, which won the 2018 Mayor's Award, was featured on page 2 of Thursday's Coast Weekend. The work was misidentified as 2018's Best in Show by artist Kathy Samsel.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Tybre Jakobe Snell, 21, of Astoria, was arrested Wednesday on S. Main Avenue in Warrenton for assault in the fourth degree, violation of a release agreement and tampering with a witness.

DUI

• Steven Craig Jensen, 41, of Marble Falls, Texas, was arrested Wednesday for driving under the influence of intoxicants and hit and run. Police say

Jensen hit another vehicle from the rear on Ensign Lane in front of Astoria Ford in Warrenton. His blood alcohol content was 0.32%.

Hit and run

• Daniel John Arnoth, 74, of Warrenton, was cited Thursday for hit and run and driving while uninsured. Police said the hit and run occurred at the Warrenton Community Center. Police cited him at his residence.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Seaside City Council/Planning Commission, 6 p.m., work session, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Warrenton, Shilo Inn look to settle tax dispute

An agreement for \$94,000

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Astorian

Warrenton is nearing a settlement with Shilo Inn over thousands of dollars of unpaid lodging taxes.

The City Commission discussed a settlement of about \$94,000 at a meeting Tuesday night, according to City Manager Linda Engbretson.

In a lawsuit filed against Shilo Inn earlier this year,

the city alleged the hotel owes more than \$130,000 in unpaid lodging taxes, accumulated fines and interest. The hotel has not paid what it owes the city since July 2018, according to the complaint.

Details of a potential settlement were discussed Tuesday in executive session, which is closed to the public. But commissioners reconvened in open session to authorize Mayor Henry Balensifer to sign a settlement agreement once it comes back from Shilo Inn.

Engbretson expects the settlement to be finalized

early next week. The settlement comes with requirements for Shilo Inn to continue to operate in Warrenton. Engbretson could not yet discuss the requirements in detail.

"There are some requirements that if they don't stay current then ... we'll be back where we started from and looking for the full amount (they owe)," she said.

Shilo Inn has a history of late payments in Warrenton, according to the complaint the city filed in March. The hotel had not responded to multiple written demands

by the city to pay what was owed.

While Warrenton appreciates the extra money from late fees and fines Shilo Inn has paid over the years, "that's not really what we want," Engbretson said. "We want them to make their payments."

Warrenton is not the only city where Shilo Inn owes money. Portland filed a lawsuit against the company in February seeking \$314,000 in unpaid taxes. Seaside, which had filed against the company in 2016, again sued the hotel chain for back taxes in June.

New crime, county reporter immerses herself in community

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Astorian

When a reporting job opened at The Astorian, Nicole Bales saw an opportunity to get back to one of her passions.

Bales formerly supported fundraising efforts and communications for Columbia Memorial Hospital Foundation before making the transition back into journalism, reporting on Clatsop County government, crime and courts.

"There's so much happening locally," Bales said. "I feel like the county is a bridge between our local politics and state politics. There's a lot of very interesting stories to tell."

Bales, 24, said she is especially interested in covering the intersection of state and local politics and different cultures. She recently reported on #TimberUnity, a movement formed to advocate for forestry in response to cap-and-trade legislation in Salem.

Originally from Sacramento, Bales started out at her high school newspaper, the Granite Bay Gazette. In one of her bigger articles, she reported on the local impact of the rising crisis in opioid abuse among athletes and other youth, interviewing family and friends who became advo-



Nicole Bales

cates after their kids overdosed.

"What that showed me was that I really enjoyed immersing myself in these different worlds," she said.

Bales moved to Eugene after high school to attend the University of Oregon, where she majored in journalism, history and political science. She worked for student publications, interned for KAST and produced podcasts about intercultural dialogue and conflict-sensitive reporting for the UNESCO Crossings Institute.

After graduation, she took a job with the hospital's foundation as a way

to immerse herself in the community. She didn't initially see herself staying in a small town, but said the community and lifestyle grew on her to the point where she doesn't yearn as much for big-city life.

Since moving to the North Coast in 2017, she has volunteered with the local downtown association, chamber of commerce and the Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific.

"There's just a lot happening," Bales said. "You can really see your impact a little bit more in small communities. I think younger people are moving to smaller towns at a larger rate, because they feel like they can see their impact."

Intern pursues stories in Astoria

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Astorian

Journalism was not at the top of Lucy Kleiner's list of possible careers when she was younger and thinking about her future.

The future, as far as she was concerned, contained two possible options: She would be a photographer for National Geographic or a belly dancer.

But as a student at the University of Oregon, she began to consider journalism as a possibility.

"I saw how journalism kind of combined everything I loved," she said of talking to people, getting out into the real world, telling stories that matter. It seemed like a natural outlet to talk about the people and places she was learning about in her international studies classes.

Kleiner, 21, who grew up in Beavercreek outside of Oregon City and graduated this year, is working this summer as a reporter for The Astorian by way of the Snowden internship program offered through the University of Oregon.

Kleiner has already worked on campus publications like Ethos, a student-run arts and culture magazine. Last year, she helped start and edit Student Travel Magazine about how to travel affordably as a student. She has been the co-editor of OR Magazine, a journalism school publication.

Last summer, Kleiner

freelanced for Portland-based Pamplin Media and has also interned for Blue Chalk Media as a researcher and writer.

But, for her, the more formative experiences have come from working on larger projects or by happenstance.

Two years ago, Kleiner was in Ecuador and

became fascinated by the stories told by an Amazon tour guide, a native woman named Lupe Tangoy Yumbo. Kleiner was able to bridge a language gap by communicating with Lupe in Spanish and wrote a feature about her life.

Then Kleiner spent the last year working on a group project with a former National Geographic editor that dove deep into climate change in the Willamette Valley.

"That introduced me to the scientific value of journalism," she said. She was given the task of telling the story about how people who live in Eugene get their water.

"It was so eye-opening to me to realize I didn't know where my water came from," she said. What she produced could help people better understand delicate and complex systems, introducing them to scientific papers and information that may not be easily accessible otherwise.

"It felt so valuable and was so much fun," Kleiner said. "I got addicted to that feeling."



Lucy Kleiner

New photographer ready to go pro

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Astorian

A week and a half before graduating from Western Washington University in Bellingham in June, Hailey Hoffman saw the ad for the photographer position at The Astorian.

Shortly after finishing college, she interviewed for and was offered her first professional photography job.

Originally from Las Vegas, Hoffman, 22, started taking photos for her middle and high school yearbooks.

"I would take lots of sports photos," she said. "I was down on the football field in high school on the sidelines, and I really enjoyed that. I was always the kid with the camera on campus running around."

Hoffman earned dual degrees in visual journalism and Spanish at Western Washington, where she worked for every student publication. She put her Spanish skills to work with the student-run The Planet Magazine, covering the death of a diabetic farm worker during wildfire season in 2017.

Her proudest and most difficult assignment came during two months of reporting for the student-run Klipsun Magazine on the closure of a retirement village inside a historic downtown hotel building that has since been turned into market-rate apartments.

"They were losing money, and there were a lot of issues with management that led to the closure," she said. "Two weeks before Christmas, they told 100 elderly folk that they had to get out in three months and find new housing, and so that created a whole bunch of issues."

Hoffman balanced the grief and stress of the residents being affected by the closure with pressure from the building's owners not to write a negative story.

"There seemed to be a disconnect between them and the owners," Hoffman said. "So I had these two sides coming at me with very different stories."

Hoffman said she fell in love with local newspapers while interning as a photographer at the Skagit Valley Herald north of Seattle. She covered everything from sports to a cultural exchange between the Samish Indian Nation and the Nenets, an indigenous group in Russia.

Around the time of her graduation, Hoffman was applying for positions in digital media with a focus on photography. But she said she was amazed by the North Coast while driving across the Astoria Bridge and over the Columbia River from Washington state.

"It's such a beautiful place, and to be paid to live here and take photos, that was just an opportunity I couldn't pass up," she said.

the Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)

Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

DailyAstorian.com
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

Circulation phone number:
503-325-3211

Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

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