

IN BRIEF

Woman reports robbery near Smith Point

A 40-year-old Astoria woman said she was robbed Tuesday afternoon while walking on a trail near Smith Point.

A man reportedly grabbed her in a “bear hug” just after 2 p.m. and stole currency and prescription medication from her pants pockets, police said.

The suspect was described as a white male, with a medium height and build and shoulder-length brown curly hair. He was also unshaven.

The suspect, reportedly wearing a dark color Carhartt-style jacket, a dark T-shirt and blue jeans, was last seen running uphill toward Alameda Avenue.

Anyone with information can call the Astoria Police Department at 503-325-4411.

Veterans' advisory committee meets in Seaside on Sept. 11

The next meeting of the advisory committee to the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs will be held in Seaside.

The committee's meetings are held at different locations across the state and the next one will be at the Holiday Inn Express on N. Holladay Drive on Sept. 11. The public is invited to attend.

The committee is made up of veterans appointed by the governor to provide counsel on veterans' issues and represent veterans' concerns. Its nine members help advise the director and staff of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Pearson hired as new CEO for The Historic Trust

David Pearson, who spent two decades in management at the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, will be the next CEO of The Historic Trust.

The trust manages historic properties in Vancouver, Washington.

Pearson was deputy director of the Astoria museum before he left in 2017 to become executive director at the World of Speed Motorsports Museum in Wilsonville.

“I am honored and privileged to be joining The Historic Trust,” Pearson said in a statement.

“I look forward to getting to know my new community and continue building on the strong success of this organization. Vancouver is at the very center of the history of the Pacific Northwest, and the work of The Historic Trust has been vital in preserving that history. I am anxious to start sharing our story, and helping the trust grow regionally and nationally, as well.”

— *The Astorian*

Record-breaking run of American shad on the river

American shad, a silvery bullet of a fish whose home waters are on the East Coast, migrated into the Columbia River basin this year in record numbers.

Nearly 7.5 million of the 18-inch, 3 to 8 pound fish crossed Bonneville Dam, more than four times the number of salmon and steelhead.

— *Columbia Basin Bulletin*

DEATHS

Aug. 27, 2019

CURTIS, Charles, 82, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematorium is in charge of the arrangements.

KERSLAKE, Billie Kay, 75, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 24, 2019

BOLES, Leanne, 68, of Seaside, died in Seaside. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematorium is in charge of the arrangements.

PONCE, Maria, 62, of Mount Vernon, Washington, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematorium is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Theft

Trace Lee Morris, 47, was arrested Tuesday for theft in the first degree. Police said he walked out of Safeway with a cart totaling over \$1,000 worth

of groceries and other items. Police arrested him at the East Moor- ing Basin parking lot. He told police he took the groceries to help people who go hungry and sleep outside.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning and Advisory Committee, 1 p.m., fourth floor, 800 Exchange St., Astoria.



Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Total Fisherman Guide Service owner Kevin Newell said it's been the best tuna fishing in his nearly 20 years of guiding.

A fishing bonanza for albacore

Warmer water could play role

By LUKE WHITTAKER
Chinook Observer

LONG BEACH, Wash. — It's been a summer of frenetic fishing in the Pacific Northwest, with rare sightings and a record catch.

Recreational fishermen along the Oregon and Washington state coasts are reporting some of the best albacore tuna fishing in years, in addition to unusual sightings and some unexpected bycatch, a perceived result of warm-water conditions offshore.

A Washington state record 92-pound bluefin tuna was reeled in off the southern coast of Ilwaco by a recreational angler Aug. 12, shattering the previous record set in 2014 by more than 50 pounds.

An abundance of albacore close to shore, some less than 30 miles, has resulted in a boon for local recreational fleets, as their relative proximity has permitted more boats to reach the fish in a manageable amount of time.

Several recreational charter skippers are reporting the best tuna fishing in years, with dozens of tuna being caught daily on trips out of Ilwaco, Warrenton and Astoria.

Oregon is on track to set a new seasonal record for recreational albacore landings, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and

Wildlife.

Kevin Newell, the owner of Astoria-based Total Fisherman Guide Service, said it's the best fishing in his nearly 20 years of guiding.

With no set daily limit for albacore in Washington, recreational fishermen are permitted to “plug the boat” with as many fish as they can fit

15 miles offshore. Typically albacore are found between 40 to 80 miles offshore, but can be further depending on water surface temperatures.

Hookups of Pacific blue marlin and striped marlin, often caught in the warmer waters off the Baja California coast, have surprised several fishermen trolling off the

kila, the executive director of the Western Fishboat Owners Association, who monitors the tuna fishing season coastwide from California to Washington as part of non-profit representing 400 albacore fishermen. “Guys have been catching bluefin, big eye and mahimahi.”

Heikkila said ocean conditions could be causing the catch anomalies.

“I think this warm water is doing some strange things and we just don't quite know good or bad. With all those other species showing up this high in Washington and Oregon, you really don't see that. I've seen it in California during years when we've had El Niños, sometimes you catch some different species off central California, but there's been a lot of different species around this year,” he said.

The warm water is impacting fisheries elsewhere, too.

“The water offshore is 70 degrees and (if you look at water charts) it goes way up toward Alaska,” Heikkila said.

“Alaska is having real problems with hot water this year. There seems to be a narrower band of cooler water anywhere from 30 to 100 miles off the beach, the area where we normally catch fish in the summer, and it seems there a lot of hot water offshore. I can't really say I can compare this year to any so far. It's just a little bit different.”

‘I THINK THIS WARM WATER IS DOING SOME STRANGE THINGS AND WE JUST DON'T QUITE KNOW GOOD OR BAD. WITH ALL THOSE OTHER SPECIES SHOWING UP THIS HIGH IN WASHINGTON AND OREGON, YOU REALLY DON'T SEE THAT.’

Wayne Heikkila | executive director of the Western Fishboat Owners Association

Shake N' Bake owner Mike Colbach has had several 50-plus fish days on his Ilwaco-based charter this season. In 2018, Colbach curtailed charter trips due to poor tuna fishing, but this summer he's adding dates to the calendar and encouraging customers to book.

During the Offshore Tuna Classic in Ilwaco in late July, each of the 30 participating boats caught tuna, a rare occurrence, according to tournament chairman Del Stephens, who also reported tuna were spotted less than

Washington coast. No official landings have been reported, as the big fish regularly break off lighter albacore rigs.

Increased landings of bluefin, big eye tuna, mahimahi and mako sharks, more commonly caught in the South Pacific, have been reported along with sightings of rare species including Humboldt squid and blue whales. A large sunfish washed ashore on Benson Beach in Cape Disappointment State Park.

“It's been kind of unusual,” said Wayne Heik-

Hispanic council seeks new executive director

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The Lower Columbia Hispanic Council is searching for a new executive director.

Jorge Gutierrez accepted a new job in Seattle after six years with the organization. He stepped down in July.

Maritza Romero has been named interim executive director during the transition. She has been with the council since 2015 and has managed family engagement, early learning and K-12.

“We have grown from a team of two working in a very small office space at the Duncan Law Building. Thanks to Jorge's vision and work, we now have a fully-equipped team and a great new office space,” Romero said in a statement. “I'm very grateful to have the opportunity to take on the role as the interim executive director and lead the team in this transition.”

The Lower Columbia Hispanic Council moved to the new location in the Miller-Jeffers Building on Duane Street in May.

Gutierrez formed an advisory committee, La Voz de la Comunidad —

The Voice of the Community — in 2015 to address the issue of Hispanic families being underrepresented in decision-making processes that affect their overall health. The committee has over 30 active members and volunteers.

“We have embraced the importance of understanding Hispanic health, social and economic inequities and address those issues by elevating the voices of our people,” Fernando Rodri-

guez, the council's president, wrote in a statement.

Gutierrez also shifted the council's work from being primarily service-oriented to taking an upstream approach when building programs and services.

“We don't have the words to express our gratitude to Jorge's dedication and accomplishments and he will be truly missed,” Rodriguez said. “We are also thankful for our local supporters and volunteers that have donated their time and funds toward our work.”

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GATES OPEN AT 9:00 A.M.
BATTLES 11 A.M. & 3 P.M. SAT & SUN. - NOON MONDAY
LIVING HISTORY ALL DAY

ADMISSION: ADULTS: \$8, ADULTS 55 & UP,
MILITARY & KIDS 6-12: \$5, KIDS 5 & UNDER: FREE. PARKING \$5

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INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

Candlelight Vigil

AUGUST 31, 2019 @ 7:00PM
East of the Maritime Museum
on the Riverwalk

Bring a Loved One's Photo and a Chair or Blanket
Battery Operated Tea Lights Will Be Available
(No Real Flames Please)

Naloxone Training and Product Available



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