

IN BRIEF

Fire in East Mooring Basin bathroom

Police said three men and one woman with her baby were involved in allegedly setting cardboard on fire after writing on the inside of the bathroom at the East Mooring Basin early Wednesday morning.

James Robert Keiweg, 28, of Woodruff, Wisconsin, was arrested on a warrant out of Seaside and also charged with resisting arrest.

Police said the woman had a 1-month-old baby under her clothes and fled to the woods. After she was found, she was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria and the baby was taken into protective custody.

County sheriff's deputy promoted to sergeant



Bruce Scott

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office promoted senior deputy Bruce Scott to sergeant in the criminal division.

Scott was hired as a deputy in 2010. Since then, he has served as an instructor, field training officer, High Angle Rescue Team leader and one of two drug recognition experts. He has also served as the association president.

Scott holds an advanced certificate from the Department of Safety Standards and Training and earned a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice through Globe University.

He will begin his new position on Oct. 1.

— The Astorian

First fall razor clam digs are good to go

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Razor clam diggers can return to Long Beach and Ocean Park for a three-day opening beginning Friday morning.

State shellfish managers with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife approved the dig on morning low tides after marine toxin tests showed the clams are safe to eat.

No digging is allowed after noon for these digs.

"We know people have been looking forward to digging razor clams, and based on our surveys, we expect some great digging on Long Beach," said Dan Ayres, the state coastal shellfish manager.

— Chinook Observer

US approves releasing nonnative insect to control thistle

BOISE — Federal officials have approved turning loose a nonnative insect to feed on an invasive thistle that sprouts in everything from rangelands to vineyards to wilderness areas, mainly in the West.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said it will permit use of the weevil native to Europe and western Asia to control yellow starthistle, which is from the same areas.

"Its flowers have inch-long spines that deter feeding by and cause injury to grazing animals and lower the utility of recreational lands," the agency said.

There is little to no risk of the insect attacking native plants, the agency said.

The weevils will initially be let loose in California, with additional releases in Idaho, Oregon, Washington state and possibly Nevada. The agency said Wednesday it is accepting permit applications to process this fall so weevils could be released in the spring.

"We're really excited about the release of this weevil," said Jeremy Varley, of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Yellow starthistle "is not good to eat, and it's toxic to horses."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said yellow starthistle entered California before 1860 and is now one of the state's worst pests. Idaho, Oregon and Washington state also have heavy infestations of the thistle that's been found in 41 states.

Drones used to find hidden pot grows in Washington state

PASCO, Wash. — Washington state authorities have seized 70,000 illegal marijuana plants from farmers' fields this year after they were detected growing with other crops.

The Tri-City Herald reported Thursday that Franklin County deputies have discovered illegal operations using airplanes and drones to find darker marijuana plants among lighter foliage, mostly cornfields.

— Associated Press

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY
Seaside City Council,
7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY
Astoria Library Board,
5:30 p.m., Astoria Library
Flag Room, 450 10th St.
Warrenton City Commis-

sion, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., Seaside Municipal Airport, 2797 U.S. Highway 101.

Astoria Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

the Astorian

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R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Students joined a rally in Seaside on Friday to address climate change.

Climate strike draws a crowd in Seaside

Part of rallies across the globe

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Hundreds turned out in front of the big orange chair in Seaside on Friday as part of a Global Climate Strike observed in cities throughout the world.

The event, three days before the United Nations climate action summit, attracted students, activists, drummers and sign-carriers, drawing honks of approval

and waves from drivers supportive of the cause. Local organizers from Indivisible North Coast Oregon led the chants and calls for action in Oregon and Washington, D.C.

Seaside's Mary Blake described the crowd as "a combination of our community of all the different ages and enthusiasm and knowledge and will to speak to the No. 1 issue on our planet."

Carolyn Zimmerman, from Longview, Washington, and Chris Williams, from Rockaway Beach, raised signs to passing cars.

"We knew this was happening and had to be here," Williams said.

Father Symeon Hadley, an Eastern Orthodox priest and Cannon Beach resident, said he attended because of his "concern for Mother Earth and to raise awareness and support for dealing with climate change."

Clatsop County Commissioner Lianne Thompson called for bringing an approach of "love and respect" to the climate debate. "We have to save the planet and save the people," she said. "Saving the planet

is a team sport. We have to save the team."

Seaside high schoolers Amelia Gastelum, Kierra Gastelum and Tatum LaPlante were among the students who carpooled to Broadway and Roosevelt for the event.

"It's definitely a crisis," LaPlante said. "Especially since we are younger, we're going to be growing up. It's very important we make the world last as long as we can. We want to have families and we want to have a world our families can grow up in."

In Seaside, attendance is at top of mind

Signs visible in community

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For The Astorian

SEASIDE — Anyone who has been out and about in Seaside during the past few weeks likely has noticed the white signs bearing positive declarations about self-worth and self-love, such as "Don't Give Up," "It's Not Too Late" and "You Matter."

The Seaside School District purchased the signs through a grant from the Northwest Education Service District and started putting them up in late August as part of a campaign to both increase attendance and create a positive environment.

"As a community, if we just have constant reminders that every person matters, I just can't see where that's a negative thing," Seaside Vice Principal Jason Boyd said.

One of the goals in the school district's five-year strategic plan is that by June 2024, all students K-12 will develop social and emotional skills to be positive community members. There are three performance indicators for that goal, including "all students will attend 95% of school days," the indicator which Boyd is monitoring.

Boyd borrowed the idea for the yard signs from a similar community effort implemented in Newberg a cou-



Signs in Seaside with positive messages are meant to help improve school attendance and create a better social environment.

ple of years ago in response to the increasing teen suicide rate. Although the signs were intended as an anti-suicide campaign, the Newberg School District also saw a rise in their attendance rates, Boyd discovered.

He is working to distribute the signs to individuals and businesses throughout the school district's boundaries. Although he hopes it will have an effect on attendance similar to what Newberg experienced, the campaign is also about reinforcing the idea of treating people with respect.

"In an environment that seems to be a little more 'you vs. me' than it's been in the past decade, we're a community that's going to support everyone, even those we don't agree with politically, socially, or even their lifestyle," Boyd said.

Getting students to school

Last year, the school district team worked on several initiatives to gather data about

attendance and start promoting awareness. The high school sent an "attendance nudge letter" to all households, 464 in all, delineating between excused absences, unexcused absences and regular attendance — or students attending school 90% of the time.

Although some students can handle missing school without it negatively impacting their grades, teachers can't give children the best education possible when they are not in class, Boyd said.

"Everything is a building block, so it's just that much harder to get the next piece," he said. "And you don't know what day is going to be the day that the light bulb comes on for that student to say, 'Wow, now I know what I want to do for my career.'"

The letters included comment cards for parents and guardians to fill out. They were asked if the letter provided new information, if it influenced them to encourage their students to attend school, and if they would work to help change the community's culture regarding attendance and promote school as a priority.

Boyd also experimented with a few programs that included tangible rewards. For one of them, the administration picked random days to stop by all the classes and give a prize — such as a sheet cake or popsicles — to those with 100% attendance. Typically, about one-fourth of classes would be eligible.

For another program, the school received a \$50 gift

card from Del's Chevron and purchased hundreds of other \$5 gift cards using another grant from the Northwest Regional ESD. Any student who met the attendance goal of 90% for a month was entered into a drawing for the \$50 gift card, and those who weren't picked still got a \$5 gift card. The program was done for both the months of April and May, and the school saw the attendance rate improve significantly.

Although Boyd doesn't anticipate bringing back either of those program this year, he feels they accomplished their goal of "promoting attendance, raising awareness, getting kids talking about it."

The high school's regular attendance rate rose from approximately 65% in 2017-18 to about 70.2% in 2018-19.

Continuing the effort

Looking ahead, Boyd is interested to see the impact of the sign campaign. He is hesitant to try multiple initiatives at once or in quick succession, as it deters their ability to gauge the effectiveness of each one.

The high school will continue a few of the efforts implemented last year, however.

In place of study lab, the school introduced 25-minute classes with about 30 to 34 students and two instructors per class. The students will stay with their class and instructors throughout their whole high school career, regardless of grade level.

Ladies of the Lake Quilt Guild of Longview Presents "Quilting for the Art of It"



\$5 Admission

Fri, Oct 4, 10am-5pm; Sat, Oct 5, 10am-4pm
Youth & Family Link Building
907 Douglas Avenue, Longview, WA

Over 150 Quilts • Demonstration • Door Prizes
Vendors • Raffle Quilt • Country Store • Bed Turning

Featuring "Giving Back to the Community" Quilt Display
Proceeds Support: Local Veterans, Children's Justice & Advocacy Center & Luggage of Love

Like us on Facebook: Ladies of the Lake Quilt Guild
Additional Information at: www.lolquiltguild.org

VOLUNTEER PICK OF THE WEEK

Banjo
6-7 year old
Lab/Pit/Ferrier Blend

The hope & faith in his eyes reflect the valor in his heart. He will be a kindly, lordly friend.

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