

## IN BRIEF



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Michelle and Marcus Liotta have been awarded the 2019 DeMuro Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation by Restore Oregon for their restoration of the M&N Building in Astoria.

## Liottas honored for restoring M&N Building

The M&N Building in Astoria was one of 12 projects awarded the 2019 DeMuro Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation by Restore Oregon.

Launched in 2013, the award is the state's highest honor for the preservation, reuse and revitalization of architectural and cultural sites. It is named for the late architect Art DeMuro, who, among other projects, designed the Mill Pond neighborhood in Astoria.

Marcus and Michelle Liotta purchased the M&N Building in 2016. They restored the building, once listed among Restore Oregon's Most Endangered Places, and stabilized the foundation using earth anchors. The Liottas have since filled the building with several new tenants, including South Bay Wild Fish House, Hill's Wild Flours, Terra Stones and the Reclamation Marketplace, a vintage bazaar run by Michelle Liotta.

The Liottas will receive the award Nov. 1 at the Restoration Celebration gala.

## Hunters and fishermen get their day

Saturday is National Hunting and Fishing Day.

The date coincides with the opening of buck deer season — the biggest day of the hunting year. More than 100,000 hunters are expected to participate. Elk, duck and pheasant hunting seasons open in the coming weeks, and 2019 marks a record year for tuna, with recreational anglers catching more than 100,000 fish.

Oregon's estimated 703,000 hunters and anglers spend more than \$929 million on hunting and fishing, supporting an estimated 14,700 jobs, according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

## Sunset Empire transit district seeks applicants

The Sunset Empire Transportation District seeks to fill two open positions on the district's board.

Applicants must be registered voters in Clatsop County. Applications will be accepted through Oct. 14 at 5 p.m.

The appointees will serve until the next district election in 2021. The board is responsible for operations policy and oversees a budget of about \$8 million.

Applications are available on the transit district's website or may be picked up at the Astoria Transit Center, 900 Marine Drive, or the Seaside Transit Office, 39 N. Holladay Drive.

Completed applications may be emailed to [jeff@ridethebus.org](mailto:jeff@ridethebus.org) or dropped off at either location.

— The Astorian

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**MONDAY**  
**Seaside City Council/Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., joint workshop, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Astoria City Council**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

**TUESDAY**  
**Seaside Community Center Commission**, 10:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Center, 1225 Avenue A.  
**Port of Astoria Commission**, 4 p.m., Port offices, 10 Pier 1 Suite 209.

**Seaside Library Board**, 4:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway.  
**Clatsop Care Health Dis-**

**trict Board**, 5 p.m., Clatsop Care Memory Community, 2219 Dolphin Ave., Warrenton.

**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District**, 5:15 p.m., workshop, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Astoria Library Board**, 5:30 p.m., Astoria Library Flag Room, 450 10th St.

**Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board**, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

# STRIKING FOR CLIMATE



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Renée Rowe, of Indivisible North Coast Oregon, flashes her sign to passing cars during the Global Climate Strike in Astoria on Friday. Dozens lined Marine Drive to raise awareness for the need to act on climate change.

## Grocery Outlet to break ground in Seaside

By R.J. MARX  
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Grocery Outlet will break ground in Seaside on Monday, representatives of the discount grocery chain confirmed.

In March, the Plan-

ning Commission gave its unanimous OK for the new 18,000-square-foot Grocery Outlet.

A 175-foot-long "turn pocket" along U.S. Highway 101 southbound into Avenue N will satisfy the state Department of Transporta-

tion and the Planning Commission's requirement for a left-turn lane. The turn pocket will be developed before the new store opens.

In Astoria, developers want to build a 16,000-square-foot building on a triangle-shaped lot

where Commercial Street runs into Marine Drive. The back of the store would face 23rd Street, across from the new Astoria co-op slated to open in December.

An Astoria Design Review Commission decision could come in early October.

## Wildfire council tells governor to update firefighting tools

By SAM STITES  
Oregon Capital Bureau

Improving Oregon's ability to fight wildfires could cost an estimated \$4 billion, according to the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response, which has outlined more than 50 recommendations the state needs to update its firefighting priorities and techniques.

At its final meeting Thursday, the council presented nine months of work that it will give to Gov. Kate Brown in early November.

When the governor created the council in January, it was asked to determine if the state was set up for success, said Matt Donegan, the council chairman.

"Is what we have today sustainable given the increase in wildfires that we're seeing?" Donegan said. "I think the general message back from our committees is no. Many of these systems were built for another era and need to be updated and modernized."

The primary charge of the 20-member group, Donegan said, was to find the right strategy that hit key areas of interest, such as saving human lives and protecting public health, protecting homes and buildings, removing excess fuel from forests, creating green jobs and revitalizing rural communities.

The council determined that the state needs to reorient some older systems in its firefighting protocol that are outdated for the modern wildfire realities. That includes the way the state monitors public health related to wildfires and smoke, emergency response to the fires, disaster recovery measures, public education about wildfires and improved research efforts at Oregon

State University.

### Spending more resources

Proposed changes would include a multibillion dollar, multidecade fuel mitigation initiative to reduce the proliferation and severity of Oregon wildfires. An investment in fuel mitigation is expected to come from both state and federal dollars, as well as expanded private sector investment and public-private partnerships.

"The estimates that we hear, it's going to be \$4 billion in terms of total costs," Donegan said. "It's larger than any one entity. This is going to take the collective power of the public-private partnership."

Recommendations to expand fire suppression efforts could mean major changes to the state's wildfire response, specifically in areas that will help protect firefighters, safeguard buildings and structures, and help the state meet social, ecological and economic goals, Donegan said.

"In an era of climate change, fuel buildup and population growth, we're going to have to spend more resources in suppressing fire," he said. "There is a hope that a correlation between fuel loads and suppression, overtime as we invest more in mitigation both with the wildland-urban interface and the landscape, that we can see our suppression cost decline."

Donegan said state land use planning tools could be used to create cost savings by taking hard looks at defensible space fire control methods — creating landscaped buffers around structures designed to reduce fire danger — as well as building and zoning codes to create state-



Sam Stites/Oregon Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown addresses the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response at the World Forestry Center in Portland on Thursday.

wide standards in community fire suppression planning.

After the council presents its recommendations in November, it will be up to the governor and the Legislature to develop options, set priorities for recommended actions and find a way to fund the estimated \$4 billion of investment in state's wildfire preparedness, response and suppression.

"I'm really pleased with the council's work," Brown told reporters after the council meeting. "This is a diverse group of Oregonians that came together to spend a lot of time and energy to address the changing needs of our communities across the state as it relates to wildfire. It is absolutely instrumental that the state play a role in bringing all the parts together to create healthier public lands, healthier forests and, of course, healthier and safe communities for Oregonians."

### Smoky summers for some

Improved fire response, more resilient landscapes and better fire and smoke adaptive communities to keep Oregonians healthy topped the governor's list of priorities after hearing Donegan's pitch.

As an example of fire and smoke adaptive communities, Brown pointed to the Rogue Valley, where, for the past several summers, residents have dealt with horrid air quality due to wildfires. "The Oregon Shakespeare Festival typically does an outdoor production. They had to cancel about 24 or 25 of their outdoor productions

in 2018," Brown said. "I want to make sure our communities like Ashland and Medford have places to go if there is that type of smoke so that vulnerable populations, whether its seniors, children or people with asthma, have places to go."

"We don't want the Rogue Valley smoked-in for six to eight weeks. It destroys their summer. It's not healthy, and it's not good for the economy."

Speaking with reporters after the council meeting, Brown didn't say where the state would find the \$4 billion it could need to make changes suggested by the council. She promised to find ways to provide Oregon's Department of Forestry — which faces a four-year, \$100 million backlog of debt for fighting fires on federal and private land — with the necessary resources it would need to continue fighting state wildfires.

"We're asking (the Department of Forestry) to work under a structure that was created in the 1900s to fight fire in what we're seeing is substantially changing conditions," Brown told reporters. "I'm relying on the work of the fire council to make recommendations to changes in structure, changes in finance and changes in tools the (agency) needs to do their jobs. This department is a one of the finest in the country, and we want to make sure they have tools and resources they'll need in the future."

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group, Pamplin Media Group and Salem Reporter.

## 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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