

IN BRIEF

Health advisory lifted for Cullaby Lake

The health advisory issued for recreational use at Cullaby Lake has been lifted.

However, officials still advise people to be alert for signs of cyanobacteria, or harmful algae blooms, because blooms can develop and disappear on lakes.

Only a fraction of Oregon's lakes and streams are monitored for cyanobacterial blooms.

Officials said people should avoid areas where the water is foamy, scummy, pea-green, blue-green or brownish-red in color, or if a thick mat of blue-green algae is visible or if bright green cells are suspended in the water.

Razor clamming reopens

Razor clams are open for harvesting along North Coast beaches following a conservation closure from July 15 through September, the Oregon Department of Agriculture reported.

The closure, which covered 18 miles of beaches between Astoria and Tillamook Head, was not related to biotoxins, which recent samples show are below the closure limit.

The annual conservation closure was enacted in 1967 to relieve harvest pressure on local razor clam populations.

Public comment open on Nehalem River Scenic Waterway

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is accepting public comments on potential rule changes for the Nehalem River Scenic Waterway.

The waterway begins at Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground and ends at the confluence of Cook Creek, near Cougar Valley State Park.

The proposed rules would guide future development within a quarter-mile of the riverbank along the 17 1/2-mile section of river designated as the waterway.

Public comments will be accepted through 5 p.m. on Nov. 4.

To make an online comment visit the department's website.

Written comments can go to Katie Gauthier, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR., 97301.

Email comments to OPRD.publiccomment@oregon.gov.

People can deliver comments in person from 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 28 at North County Recreation District, 36155 Ninth St., in Nehalem.

Shop fire in Olney

Olney Walluski Fire and Rescue responded to a fire at a large shop Thursday off of state Highway 202 in Olney.

Fire departments in Lewis and Clark, Astoria, Warrenton, Elsie, Seaside, Gearhart and Knappa assisted and supplied water.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

Sept. 29, 2019

CORDER, Steven Jay, 68, of Astoria, died in Vancouver, Washington. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Sept. 28, 2019

WILSON, Christopher Jay Douglas, 33, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

BIRTHS

Sept. 26, 2019

BALL, Kristi and Ty, of Astoria, a girl, Hailey Grace Ball, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Mark and Dorinda Schultz, of Astoria, and Sandra Ball of Efland, North Carolina.

ON THE RECORD

Robbery

• Everardo Machuca Cuevas, 57, of Astoria, was arrested Thursday at the Mini Mart West for robbery in the third degree, disorderly conduct in the second degree, interfering with a peace officer and resisting arrest.

Domestic violence

• A Seaside man was arraigned Thursday for

domestic violence crimes he allegedly committed on Sept. 21.

Aaron Joseph French, 37, was charged with kidnapping in the first degree, attempt to commit murder, rape in the first degree, sexual abuse in the first degree, coercion, unlawful use of a weapon, strangulation, menacing and interference with making a report.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Planning Commission, 10 a.m.,

Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

the Astorian

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LOG OUT



Kari Borgen/The Astorian

Large logs are stacked using heavy machinery during the Clatsop County Forestry Tour for community leaders in Warrenton.

Oregon Main Street honors Astoria, Warrenton

Heath named top downtown manager

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Sarah Lu Heath, the executive director of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, has been named the Main Street Manager of the Year by Oregon Main Street, among other revitalization honors for Astoria and Warrenton.

The downtown support agency, part of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, recently held its Excellence in Downtown Revitalization awards in Tillamook.

"This is just a job that takes a lot of time and effort and persistence, so this is very flattering and kind," Heath said.

Heath joined the downtown association three years ago after being director of development for Restore Oregon, a statewide non-profit focused on preservation. When she was contemplating the move to Astoria, Heath said, she was told by local historic preservationists John Goodenberger and Lucien Swerloff to focus on the former Waldorf Hotel, also known as the Merwyn, and the Riviera Building, which houses the Columbian Theater and Voodoo Room bar.

Heath's biggest accomplishment to date is helping attract Innovative Housing Inc. to buy the Waldorf Hotel building and develop 40 units of workforce housing. She has helped write numerous grants for facade improvements at the Riviera Building and a mural in the 13th Street Alley. More recently, she helped the owners of the Odd Fellows Building enter a nationwide historic preservation grant competition.

The downtown association is now looking at a more sustainable funding source for staffing and expanding lighting and other features downtown, she said.

Warrenton, which has over the past couple of years emphasized downtown re-



The Astorian

Warrenton was honored by Oregon Main Street for its efforts to improve downtown along Main Avenue, including a new veterans monument and park near the post office.



Krista Schram

Sarah Lu Heath, right, the executive director of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, cuts the ribbon on a new mural in the 13th Street Alley.

talization, took home the One to Watch award.

The city recently started a farmers market at the Warrenton Marina, moved its library downtown, cleaned up more than 10 nuisance properties and had three properties participate in a facade improvement program. Big River Construction recently started on a city contract to add planters, flowers and other landscaping along Main Avenue. The city has also pushed

increased participation in local events for the Fourth of July, a Halloween Fall Harvest Festival and a car-free Sunday Streets event happening next year.

"It's been an incredible ride over this last year," said Kevin Cronin, the community development director in Warrenton.

The award is a confirmation of the city's efforts, he said, along with a Reser Family Foundation Grant that will provide \$40,000

over four years to Spruce Up Warrenton, a downtown revitalization group.

The next steps are filling in vacant storefronts downtown, such as the brown Fenton Grocery Building at the corner of Main Avenue and First Street, Cronin said. He hopes to attract a craft brewery to the building, where owner Russell Maize is planning to renovate the upstairs apartments.

Marcus and Michelle Liotta, owners of the M&N Building, won an award for Best Historic Preservation Project. The couple purchased the building in 2016, stabilized the foundation with earth anchors and have gone about restoring and filling it with new tenants. Their efforts were one of 12 projects awarded the 2019 DeMuro Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation, the state's highest honor for the preservation, reuse and revitalization of architectural and cultural sites.

"The award winners serve as inspiration to communities across our network and reflect some of the highest level of revitalization success," Sheri Stuart, state coordinator of Oregon Main Street, said in a news release. "We are so inspired to see how our historic downtowns across Oregon are coming to life through the creativity, passion and plain hard work of community members."

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