

## IN BRIEF

## Property tax statements on the way

Clatsop County taxpayers will receive property tax statements for the 2019-20 tax year this week.

The statements account for \$90.9 million. The money will pay for county government services, city services, education, the Port of Astoria and rural fire and other special districts.

The amount is an 8% increase from last year due to several factors, including the 3% increase in assessed value on most properties, value due to new construction activity and new or increased taxing district levies and bonds.

— The Astorian

## DEATHS

Oct. 10, 2019

THOMAS, William, 86, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary and Cremation is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 7, 2019

CUDIAMAT, Harry, 78, of Seaside, died in

Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary and Cremation is in charge of the arrangements.

NEU, Brandon, 46, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary and Cremation is in charge of the arrangements.

## BIRTHS

Oct. 4, 2019

BROCKEY, Tracie and Brent, of Knappa, a girl, Kersey Jo Brockey, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Bob and Marilyn Brockey and John and Julie Nygaard, all of Knappa.

LORENZANA, Brianna, and HUDSON, Camren, of Warrenton, a boy, Julian Scott Hudson, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital. Grandparents are Cynthia Williams, of Napa, California, and Dayna Hughes, of Republic, Washington.

## MEMORIALS

Saturday, Oct. 19

KOLJONEN, Margaret Elaine (Shannon) — Celebration of life at 2 p.m., followed by a potluck, United Steelworkers Union Hall, 91237 Old Mill Town Road in Westport.

LOFGREN, Joanna — Graveside service at 11 a.m., Ocean View

Cemetery in Warrenton. OWENS, Gerry — Celebration of life at 1:30 p.m., Multnomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon St. in Portland.

WIRFS, Ralph — Celebration of life and memorial at 11 a.m., Liberty Theatre, McTavish Room, 1203 Commercial St.

## ON THE RECORD

## DUII

• Victoria Frances Crist, 25, of Seaside, was arrested Sunday on U.S. Highway 101 and Sunset Beach Lane for driving under the influence of intoxicants. Police said Crist crashed off the highway. Her blood alcohol content was 0.20%.

• Travis Randall Moore, 43, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday at Fort Stevens State Park near the Peter Iredale for DUII.

• Breda Joyce Davis Maloney, 25, was arrested Saturday on U.S. Highway 26 for reckless driving and DUII. Her blood alcohol content was 0.16%.

• James Monje Lara, 29, of Troutdale, was arrested Friday for reckless driving and DUII.

Police said he fell asleep while driving eastbound on U.S. Highway 26 when he crossed the lanes of the highway and drove into the grassy knoll of Sunset Rest Area.

## Domestic menacing

• Kelsey Dawn Nguyen, 22, of Portland, was arrested Saturday at the Safeway parking lot for domestic menacing and domestic harassment. Police said she threw a glass jar at her boyfriend, lacerating him above an eye.

## Weapon possession

• Robert Allen Brown, 39, of Astoria, was arrested Friday after a traffic stop on Koppisch Road and Heather Lane in Astoria for three counts of an ex-convict in possession of a weapon.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:15 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Seaside School District Board of Directors, 7 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin.

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

Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart

Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

## WEDNESDAY

Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District Board, 10 a.m., OSU

Seafood Lab Center, Conference Room 113, 2001 Marine Drive, Astoria.

Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## THURSDAY

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## FAST CROSSING



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

First-place runner, Nick Slenning, reaches the peak of the Astoria Bridge on Sunday morning during the Great Columbia Crossing 10K.

## Grocery workers ratify contract with Fred Meyer and Safeway

By MALLORY GRUBEN  
The Daily News

A “sizable majority” of members in a regional grocery workers union ratified a contract with Fred Meyer and other stores late Friday night, ending a 16-month period of sometimes tense negotiations, according to union officials.

The three-year contract guarantees employees a minimum 20-hour work week, provides wage increases for all workers and “aims toward” closing a perceived gender pay gap, said United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 spokeswoman Kelley McAllister.

The union, which represents about 18,000 grocery workers in Oregon and southwest Washington state, also didn’t lose any ground in negotiations, she said.

“The whole contract is pretty historic,” McAllister said.

In a prepared statement Saturday, Fred Meyer spokesman Jeffery Temple said the company is “pleased to have reached an agreement that secures increased wages, continued premium health care coverage and pension stability. We thank our hardworking associates for continuing to serve our customers and communities every day.”

The union declined to share how many union members voted “yes” to ratify the contract.

UFCW 555 started negotiating a new contract with Fred Meyer, Safeway, Albertsons and QFC more than a year ago, but negotiations stalled due to a wage dispute. According to union officials, the company was offering “nickels and dimes” compared to requests by union

members.

The union was particularly upset with Fred Meyer, which union officials accused of unfair labor practices during the negotiations.

The standstill led union members to approve a strike authorization vote in August, and later ask customers to boycott Fred Meyer stores.

The union and the companies reached a tentative agreement about a week after the boycott.

“I have no way of knowing why (the companies) finally moved. I would credit two elements, and one is the boycott,” McAllister said. “The boycott had a nearly instantaneous impact. Our

the contract and “schedule B” employees, such as bakery and deli workers, with a 90-cent raise each year of the contract. That’s a 25-cent and 50-cent boost over previous contract offers for schedule A and schedule B workers. The average hourly wage for schedule A workers was \$17.22 and the average hourly wage for schedule B workers was \$13.69 before the new contract, according to the UFCW 555 website. It was unclear how those average hourly wages would change under the new contract.

Central Checkouts employees, or CCK workers, will receive 60-cent raises

Although the contract doesn’t completely close the \$3.53 difference union officials found between the schedules, it is a step in the right direction, McAllister said.

“This will raise schedule B up \$1.05, so it will cut that gap by almost a third,” McAllister said.

If that rate of raise continues, the union could close the gap in just nine years, she said. Previous estimates, based on past raises, show it would take 35 years to close the gap.

New language in the contract also makes it easier for workers to transfer from schedule B jobs to schedule A jobs, McAllister said.

“In the past, it was just at the whim of the manager. What was happening was people, more often than not women, were asking to move over to schedule A, and the company would deny the request,” McAllister said. And then the company would sometimes proceed to hire a new employee to fill the schedule A vacancy.

“What will happen now, I think, is that we will see schedule B is made more and more of new folks, and people of experience will move over to schedule A,” McAllister said.

Union officials also highlighted the 20-hour work week guarantee, which will make all workers eligible to receive benefits, McAllister said.

The 20-hour work week guarantee may also “snowball for people” because it incentivizes employers to give their workers more hours instead of hiring new people, McAllister said.

The contract carries a universal three-year term in all contracts and all areas within UFCW 555’s jurisdiction, according to the union. The contract begins the day after any current contract expires. For contracts that expired before the agreement was reached, the new contract will be retroactively applied back to the expiration date.

“We feel like the union negotiations team’s collective position was that all of their needs were met,” McAllister said. “Our long-term fight is to make grocery work a solidly middle class job again. ... (With this contract) we took a big step in that direction.”

**‘OUR LONG-TERM FIGHT IS TO MAKE GROCERY WORK A SOLIDLY MIDDLE CLASS JOB AGAIN. ... (WITH THIS CONTRACT) WE TOOK A BIG STEP IN THAT DIRECTION.’**

Kelley McAllister | United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 spokeswoman

customers were ready and they stood with us.”

McAllister said a federal mediator, who met with the groups the week before the settlement, may have also played a role in the company’s change of heart.

Temple said his company’s “top priority is to do what is best — provide our customers with the freshest products and the friendliest associates.”

The contract provides “schedule A” employees, such as grocery checkers and courtesy clerks, with a 55-cent raise each year of

each year of the contract, McAllister said.

The contract also raises “nonfoods” wages up to schedule B rates, McAllister said. Some of those employees previously made less than schedule B workers, though amount of the difference varied from city to city.

“In Portland, the bump was a dime, but in Longview the bump was \$1,” she said.

The raises are the highest the union has ever received, McAllister said. A portion of the raises will be supported financially by health care reserve money the union is giving up to the companies, she said.

“On one hand, we would love for this to be higher,” McAllister said. “But on the other hand, this is two times more than we’ve ever gotten before on schedule A and 3 1/2 higher than we’ve ever gotten on schedule B.”

The contract also lessened the gender pay gap at the companies, McAllister said. That gap was created by the different pay scales between schedule A, which employs more men, and schedule B, which employs more women.

## the Astorian

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