

# Celebrating culture

## IN BRIEF



Master Sgt. John Hughel

Oregon National Guard Lt. Col. Wesley Risher and members of the squadron salute during a mobilization ceremony at Astoria High School.

### Air control squadron to deploy to Asia

Family and friends gathered at Astoria High School on Sunday for a mobilization ceremony for the Oregon Air National Guard's 116th Air Control Squadron. More than 100 airmen are deploying to Southwest Asia.

The squadron is based at Camp Rilea in Warrenton.

### Seaside approves new fee on vacation rentals

SEASIDE — The City Council has approved a new \$400 fee on vacation rentals.

The fee will be added to the three-tiered license structure for the city's 275 vacation rental properties. The cost is \$75 for one to five occupants, \$100 for six to 10 occupants and \$150 for 11 or more occupants.

Money from the fee will be used to finance a code enforcement officer.

But the increase could lead to further discussion about how funds are distributed. Currently, the first \$100,000 collected will go toward a code enforcement officer to monitor local rentals, City Manager Mark Winstanley said. The next \$65,000 is distributed to the Seaside Chamber of Commerce and the Seaside Downtown Development Association.

— *The Astorian*

## DEATHS

Nov. 3, 2019

**BERGSTROM**, Donna Dean, 90, of Astoria, died in Seaside. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

SLOTTE,

Darlene J., 72, of Seaside, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

arrangements.

Nov. 2, 2019

**STULTZ**, Carl, 71, of Astoria, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 31, 2019

**OLIVER**, Annie, 69, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

## MEMORIALS

Saturday, Nov. 9

**HAGNAS**, Carl Axel — Memorial and open house from 2 to 4 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 350 Niagara Ave. Hagnas, 70, of Ontario, formerly of

Warrenton, died Thursday in Ontario.

**HAWKINS**, Bart Alan — Celebration of life at 1 p.m., Seaside Assembly of God Church, 540 S. Holladay Drive in Seaside.

## ON THE RECORD

Strangulation

• Richard Ellis Kendrick, 44, of Seaside, was arrested Sunday on Avenue U in Seaside for strangulation.

Menacing

• Joseph Ontario Haynes, 30, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday at Sunset Lake Campground

& RV Park for menacing and harassment.

DUII

• Eric Thor Nyman, 56, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on the 300 block of W. Grand Avenue for driving under the influence of intoxicants. His blood alcohol content was 0.22%.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

**Seaside Community Center Commission**, 10:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community 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.  
**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District**, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.  
**Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board**, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway

101 Business.

WEDNESDAY

**Seaside Improvement Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.  
**Gearhart City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

THURSDAY

**Northwest Oregon Housing Authority**, 10 a.m., 147 S. Main Ave., Warrenton.  
**Clatsop County Board of Commissioners**, 12:30 p.m., work session, 800 Exchange St., Astoria.  
**Seaside Parks Advisory Committee**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Crystal García-Álvarez, 8, performs with Mi Cultura, a Latino folkloric dance group, at the Día de los muertos celebration Saturday at the Barbey Maritime Center. Día de los muertos is a holiday originating in Mexico and Central America that celebrates the spiritual journey of family and community members who have passed. The event was hosted by Lower Columbia Hispanic Council.

## Woman leads police on wild chase on the peninsula

By JEFF CLEMENS

*For the Chinook Observer*

ILWACO, Wash. — A California motorist who fled from a traffic stop in Raymond on Sunday morning was arrested in Ilwaco following a lengthy chase on U.S. Highway 101.

Gina Marie Garcia, 49, of Sacramento, faces a charge of felony eluding, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

Raymond police requested aid from surrounding agencies after the driver of a yellow and white 2014 Fiat 500L sped out of Raymond just before 9 a.m. Police initiated the stop after the vehicle was allegedly

clocked going 20 mph over the speed limit in the southbound lane of the highway.

The vehicle continued southbound, reaching speeds of 90 mph toward South Bend.

In South Bend, the vehicle swerved around a South Bend police vehicle and continued to flee southbound.

Pacific County Sheriff's Office deputies and Washington State Patrol joined the pursuit.

Units attempted a spike strip near milepost 42 that was unsuccessful, before another attempt at milepost 30 that took out the driver-side tires.

Units tried again near milepost 17 and took out the passenger-side tires.



A California woman who led police on a high-speed chase crashed in Ilwaco.

The vehicle continued southbound on Highway 101, reaching speeds near 100 mph on bare rims, before being pitted in Ilwaco by a Ford Explorer driven by a state trooper. The Fiat collided into a 2000 Ford F-350 pickup owned by an Astoria man and crashed up onto a curb and into an apartment complex yard.

The pursuit intervention technique consists of bump-

ing a vehicle from the side near the rear wheel, causing the vehicle to spin out.

Garcia was apprehended at the scene. There were no injuries during the chase or the stop, Washington State Patrol Sgt. Brad Moon said.

The highway just east of Ilwaco's main intersection was closed, with a short detour in place, while authorities concluded their investigation.

## Oregon poplar acreage headed for auction

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI

*Capital Press*

More than 3,000 acres of farmland along the Columbia River in Oregon will be auctioned off as a timber investment firm discontinues growing poplar trees.

Greenwood Resources, an investment company that owns and manages forestland, is selling off the final 12 parcels of what was once part of a much larger 31,000-acre poplar operation in Oregon and Washington state.

"This was the last asset in this investment," said John Rosenthal, president of Realty Marketing/Northwest, a real estate company that's handling the auction.

The minimum bid for all the Columbia County properties combined is nearly \$8 million, but potential buyers may also bid on individual parcels ranging in price from about \$100,000 to \$2.6 million each. Sealed bids are due by Nov. 13.

Roughly 2,000 acres still have poplar trees growing on them, more than 500 acres



GeoTerra, Inc.

Poplar tree farm in Columbia County.

are fallow farmland and the remaining acreage is considered "non-commercial" land that can be dedicated to wildlife habitat and recreation.

Nearly 1,400 acres have water rights for irrigation and the parcels are located near the Port Westward Industrial Park, Rosenthal said.

"It's an interesting collection," he said. "It's an unusual asset."

Representatives of Greenwood Resources did not respond to request for comment, but timber industry experts say the company's withdrawal from poplar production was likely motivated by the tough economics of

growing pulpwood for a U.S. paper industry facing stiff international competition.

The low profit margins of producing poplar probably weren't enough to justify growing the trees on irrigated land in a desirable climate, said Gordon Culbertson, director of international business for the Forest2Market timber industry consulting firm.

"I think the owners of the timber came to the conclusion it was more valuable as ag land," he said.

Poplar plantations arose in the aftermath of steep logging declines on federal land in the Northwest, when paper companies worried about acquiring sufficient wood chips to run their plants, Culbertson said.

However, the anticipated wood chip shortage never materialized, he said.

Using the trees as biomass for energy production also encountered economic problems, since such feedstocks must necessarily be inexpensive, said Richard Zabel,

executive director of the Western Forestry and Conservation Association.

"The price they're paying for biomass is so low, it's not worth the time and expense to harvest your trees," he said.

Since transporting cheap wood chips over long distances is financially unfeasible, pulpwood producers are dependent on the fortunes and demand of nearby mills, Zabel said.

"You need someone close by who's going to buy it," he said. "That's always been the weak link. You just can't afford to haul it very far."

The economic problem becomes worse during downturns in the market, and the U.S. paper industry faces strong headwinds, said Todd Hansen, fuel procurement manager for the Biomass One energy company.

"For years, the pulp and paper business has been shrinking across the U.S.," he said. "Other places produce it cheaper."

Efforts to grow poplars to a larger size so they could be milled for hardwood furniture were complicated by competition from alder trees, which are highly valued in the furniture industry, Zabel said.

Alder trees grow naturally as volunteers amid the Northwest's Douglas firs and they've been able to satisfy the furniture market without having to be managed as plantations, he said.

"It's an aggressive plant that comes in after a clear-cut," Zabel said.

# the Astorian

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