

IN BRIEF

Helping Hands receives \$85,000 grant from state

Helping Hands in Clatsop, Tillamook, Yamhill and Lincoln counties received an \$85,000 grant from Oregon Housing and Community Services to strengthen winter shelter for people who are homeless.

The state gave over \$1.7 million in grant money to organizations across the state that provide shelter.

The funds aim to help organizations secure facilities to operate shelters, increase the number of shelter beds, expand operating hours, provide extended outreach, fund shelter staff and purchase bedding, mats and blankets.

Housing authority seeks applications for board vacancy

The Northwest Oregon Housing Authority Board of Commissioners is seeking applications for an open seat.

The housing authority owns and manages housing for low- and moderate-income people and administers federal housing assistance programs in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties.

The open seat is for a four-year term representing Clatsop County. The board usually meets once a month, rotating locations in each county.

To apply, visit the Clatsop County Manager's Office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, or the county's website. The deadline to apply is Dec. 13.

—The Astorian

DEATHS

Nov. 18, 2019

De ZWART, Viola Maxine, 95, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Nov. 16, 2019

LONG, Cheryl Anne, 65, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Nov. 15, 2019

PICARAZZI, Mario Christopher, 65, of Simi Valley, California, died in Southern California. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 8, 2019

MEYER, Roger B., 68, of Astoria, died in Portland. Omega Funeral & Cremation Service of Portland was in charge of the arrangements.

BIRTH

Nov. 6, 2019

BUCKNER, Arianna, and BROWN, William, of Warrenton, a boy, Maverick Brown, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Older sister is Kimberlynn Young, of Astoria. Great-grand-

parents are Peggy Massey and Burt and Cindy Young, all of Warrenton, and Judy Brown, of Astoria. Grandparents are Liz Young and Sean Meldrum and Phil and Martha Brown, all of Astoria.

ON THE RECORD

DUI

• William Micheal Lynn, 62, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday on the 300 block of W. Marine Drive in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and reckless endangerment. Police say Lynn hit another vehicle while pulling out of a parking spot. His blood alcohol content was 0.11%.

• Christopher Joseph Kietke, 46, of Astoria, was arrested Sunday in Astoria

for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and hit and run of property. Police say Kietke drove into a retaining way on the 400 block W. Lexington Avenue and drove away. His blood alcohol content was 0.21%.

• Austin Micheal Barter, 22, of Astoria, was arrested Sunday on U.S. Highway 101 and Marlin Avenue in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Union Historic District of Clatsop County Board, 8 a.m., Providence Seaside Hospital, Education Center, Room B, 725 S. Wahanna Road, Seaside.

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., Port offices, 10 Pier 1 Suite 209.

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

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

Seaside School District

Board of Directors, 6 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

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

Seaside Tree Board, 4 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

THURSDAY

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

FANCY FOOTWORK



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Patty Teague leads her dog Libby up the A-frame obstacle using a small treat at the dog recreational agility event at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds on Saturday. The host of the event, Classy Canines 4-H Club, taught quick workshops to train the dogs to run through tunnels, over seesaws and across narrow beams before holding timed races.



Mitch Eckhardt

Audience members raise bidding numbers at the Liberty Theatre Gala.

Liberty Theatre Gala exceeds fundraising goal

Event raised \$324,000

By **LUCY KLEINER**
The Astorian

The Liberty Theatre raised \$324,000 at this year's Liberty Gala event Saturday evening. The funds brought the theater to a total of \$1.62 million raised and a step closer to the capital campaign goal of \$3.5 million, which will support external and internal renovations as the Liberty expands.

The multiyear campaign kicked off at last year's gala, where \$300,000 was raised. Jennifer Crockett, the theater's executive director, was amazed to see the 2019 gala bring in even more money.

"It's crazy," she said. "Our goal going into this was \$250" thousand, though when advance pledges started nearing \$300,000, the team revised the goal and aimed to beat what they raised at last year's gala. Even with fewer guests

and auction items than last year, this year's gala exceeded all expectations. Combined pledges from before and during the event totaled about \$315,000, Crockett said. The fundraising team is still calculating how much money was brought in by the raffle, but they estimate roughly \$9,000, bringing the total to \$74,000 more than the initial gala goal.

An elegant evening

About 150 people attended, dressed in their best to match the event's elegant atmosphere. The local 46 North Farm decorated the setting in winter greenery, folk-American duo Siren Songs performed onstage and a special appeal by state Sen. Betsy Johnson rounded out the evening.

Now, the campaign approaches the halfway point of its funding goal.

"We know that parts of this campaign — to raise \$3.5 million — is going to be hard. Capital campaigns

aren't easy. I think we've been really well supported this last year," Crockett said. "But I know that the second half is typically the hard half."

Breaking ground

Thanks to the campaign's early success, the theater's exterior construction is starting immediately.

"We are breaking ground on the front of the theater," she said. "We'll have to bring some people in through side doors for some shows and we'll probably have to serve some concessions from folding tables in the lobby. You'll see us a little dusty."

The list of immediate next steps for the theater's exterior includes plugging a water leak, repairing plaster, repainting, fixing the floor, replacing poster cases and more.

"Our historic chandelier has been restored and will hang. The box office is flipping around to the inside and the little kiosk is going to get power and heat so we can

use it," Crockett said. "Then, I believe, the very last piece will be the glass door."

At the same time, construction on the concession stand will happen. Those improvements are scheduled to finish by early February.

"While all of that work is happening, now our attention is turning to the stage and the back area," including the dressing room, Crockett said. "We're finalizing plans with the architect for that, so that once we are done with the front and done with concessions we can start making the changes we need to the stage and the back areas."

The plan is to have the entire renovation project completed by fall 2022.

"I am totally blown away," Crockett said. "We have a really committed steering committee, we have consultants that are helping us. The community is really excited about this. I think we're going to be able to do it. We have a lot of people that really want to see this project happen."

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Oregon's population continues to show growth

By **MEERAH POWELL**
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon's population increased by more than 40,000 people over the last year — or 1%, according to an estimate out Friday from Portland State University's Population Research Center.

Since 2010, the state has added more than 400,000 residents.

Still, this year has seen

slower growth than in the recent past. Last year, Oregon's population increased by 54,200 people. The year before that, the population grew by 64,750.

PSU's research center said this slight slowdown in growth mirrors "the slowdown in employment growth."

The state's aging population and a declining birth rate has also contributed to the slowdown. In its report, PSU said Oregon's births

outnumbered deaths in the past year by less than 6,000.

A continuing trend is that the state's growth relies more on people moving to Oregon, rather than new residents being born here.

In this past year, the number of people moving to the state has been the main factor of population growth, accounting for 86% of new residents.

The Portland metro area accounted for nearly half of the state's growth from

2018 to 2019. Multnomah and Washington counties each added more than 7,000 new residents, PSU said, and Clackamas County added almost 4,000.

Other counties with a large number of new residents included Deschutes, with more than 4,000, and Lane and Marion, both with about 3,700 new residents.

The largest percentage of growth occurred in Morrow and Crook counties, with 6.7% and 3.2% growth.