

RELIGION BRIEFS

Crossroads Community
SVENSEN — Crossroads Community Church, a Friends Fellowship, at 40618 Old Highway 30, is holding a Free Family Film Friday at 6:45 p.m. Friday. Come enjoy a film and fellowship. All are welcome. For information, call Shawn Leonard, pastor, at 503-949-5033.

Community HU sing
SEASIDE — A Sound Of Soul Event, Singing HU (Hue), an ancient name for God, takes place at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, sponsored by ECKANKAR, The Path Of Spiritual Freedom. For information, contact Seann Valen at eckcoast@gmail.com

Cannon Beach Community
CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach Community Church, 132 E. Washington St., holds an Evensong service at 6 p.m. the first and third Sunday of the month. All are welcome.

Evensong features Wes Warhmund (guitar, flute and clarinet) and meditative songs, Psalms, readings, candlelight and time for quiet reflection.
For information, call the church at 503-436-1222.

Grace Episcopal
The “Greening” of Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Ave., begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, following a tradition of hanging cedar boughs which began in 1886.

Grace celebrates the Third Sunday of Advent at the 10 a.m. Sunday Holy Eucharist service, when the third candle of the Advent wreath will be lit.

A “Bread & Bible with Betty+” takes place at noon Thursday. Bring a lunch and discuss the different birth narratives in the Bible, led by the Rev. Betty McWhorter.
For information, call the church at 503-325-4691 or go to graceastoria.org

Flip phone logic

Dear Annie: I am the proud owner of a flip cellphone, and I probably wouldn’t have it if public telephones still existed. I use about 100 minutes a month and have sent, in my lifetime, no more than 300 text messages, most of them one or two words in response to a text sent to me. I use no data. I still use physical maps to navigate car trips.

However, I use a computer at my job for most of the day, so it’s not like I’m a Luddite.

But I say all this because I notice an increasing separation between myself and much of the rest of society, even my wife to some extent, regarding phone use. My wife has a smartphone and is on it frequently. I wouldn’t say she’s on it too much, at least compared to a lot of other smartphone users. She has hobbies besides her phone, but I’ve noticed that the phone eats up more of her time than consumer technologies did years ago.

I notice, too, when I go to parks with my kids or take them to swimming lessons or soccer practice that many parents sit there looking at their phones. And I just shake my head, shocked at how quickly everything has changed in a mere 10 years or so.

I’m in my early 40s but feel like I’m in my 70s, wishing for the “good old days.” I’m not so much angry as I am saddened.

Am I alone in feeling this detachment from our device-centric world? I’m curious if any of your readers are troubled by these trends? — *Doesn’t Compute*

Dear Doesn’t Compute: Thank you for your letter. You raise a very important conversation. On the one hand, technology is absolutely amazing and has helped our society in so many ways. But it can also be dangerous when used too much. Social connections, face to face, are the healthiest form of connections. Being able to really see another person is a gift that we can all give to each other.

That gift is often lost because of texting or other forms of social media. I think you might be onto something that people are increasingly wishing for the good ol’ days when we were not bombarded with a constant blue light glow. That they make glasses that block the hazardous blue lights of our phones and devices shows that this problem is becoming increasingly widespread.

On the one hand, screens have reduced boredom; there’s always something to see, read or watch. On the other hand, they have taken away boredom, which can become a space where creativity and imagination bloom. This is especially true with children. You sound wise beyond your years. I commend you for bringing back the flip phone.

Dear Annie: In a neighborhood where there are no sidewalks, streets are narrow and many drivers speed, is it OK for leashed dogs to walk on the edges of lawns if the dog walker is diligent about picking up solid waste? — *Doing My Best*

Dear Doing My Best: My initial response is “yes,” but it might depend on what are the local laws of your neighborhood. If there are such restrictions, you could take your dogs to a public park and walk them there.

Seaside Elks deliver Thanksgiving food boxes



On Nov. 23, Seaside Elks Lodge 1748 members delivered 147 Thanksgiving food boxes to local families. Chairwoman Joy Cruz said this program would not be successful without the support of local businesses, donations by individuals and the help of the Tsunami Skippers, who sorted and packed food, and the more than 20 volunteers who collected, packed and delivered the boxes. For information about Seaside Elks Lodge, call 503-738-6651 or stop by 324 Avenue A.

Wyndham associates donate to food bank



Associates of WorldMark by Wyndham in Seaside raised \$4,000 and purchased 7,000 pounds of food that will be distributed to the local food bank before Christmas to help families in need. 'I think it's important to share the local wins,' Angela Pember of Wyndham Destinations said. 'Together we can all make a difference no matter how big or how small.'

Warrenton students advance in international debate contest

The Astorian

The Brewer Foundation and New York University have announced that the Warrenton High School debate/essay team has advanced to the “Round of 64” at the 19th annual International Public Policy Forum.

The team members, Mara Dowaliby, Serena Moha, Isabella Morrill, Caitlyn Sanders and Elizabeth Whitsett, are under the direction of English teacher Dana McMakin.

This year, the forum received qualifying round essays affirming or negating the topic, “Resolved: When in conflict, a

nation’s self-interest should outweigh its international commitments to migrants.” Judges determined the “Top 64” teams based on the overall quality of each 2,800-word essay.

The Round of 64 begins immediately. A panel of judges reviews the essays in the order they are presented; the winning schools advance to the “Top 32” round.

The final eight teams, the “Elite 8,” earn an all-expenses-paid trip to the forum’s Finals in New York City in April. The champion is awarded a \$10,000 grand prize and the Brewer Cup.

State co-champion’s composition premieres Saturday

The Astorian

WARRENTON — Warrenton High School music student Isabella Morrill became co-state champion at the high school level after competing in the Oregon Music Education Association state music composition contest. It is the highest individual honor a student can receive, and she is the first Warrenton student to earn this honor.

Her composition, “Hymn to the Rain,” premieres at the Columbia River Symphony concert at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Liberty Theatre in Astoria. There is no cost for this event, which is open to the public. The doors open at 6 p.m.

The concert, titled “Holiday Gifts,” features the symphony performing traditional and contemporary symphonic and choral music with the Warrenton middle and high school choirs.

In addition, Morrill is being honored at the annual Oregon Music Education Association banquet for music teachers, Jan. 18 in



Warrenton High School music student Isabella Morrill, who won co-state champion in the high school division at the Oregon Music Education Association state music composition contest, and her music teacher, Michael McClure.

Eugene, when a recording of her composition will be played.

SELF-HELP GROUPS

Al-Anon (Astoria) — 7 p.m. Tuesday, Peace Lutheran Church, 565 12th St.; 12 p.m. Wednesday, First United Methodist Church, 1076 Franklin Ave. For information, call 503-325-1087.

Al-Anon (Clatskanie) — 7 p.m. Monday, Faith Lutheran Church, 1010 N.E. Fifth St., Clatskanie. For information, call 503-728-3351.

Al-Anon (Nehalem) — 7 p.m. Monday, Riverbend Room, North County Recreation District, 36155 Ninth St. For information, call 503-368-8255.

Al-Anon (Seaside) — 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, call 503-810-5196 for information.

Archery club leaders sought

The Astorian

The Clatsop County 4-H program is looking for two adults to start and run an archery club.

The 4-H program will provide training, mentoring and equipment for the adults and children to use. There are many children on the waiting list.

For more information call Sandra Carlson, the programs coordinator, at (503) 325-8573.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Washington State Parks have two free days in January

ILWACO, Wash. — The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is offering two free days in January: Jan. 1, which gives visitors the opportunity to take part in a First Day Hike; and Jan. 20, in honor of the holiday celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. This means visitors to state parks will not need a Discover Pass for a day-use visit.

The Discover Pass is required to access lands managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. For information, go to parks.state.wa.us

Fee to increase for national park

Beginning Jan. 1, the park entrance fee at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park will increase from \$7 to \$10 per adult (age 16 and older) to make it in line with similar national park sites.

All revenue from entrance fees collected at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park stays at the park. These funds preserve natural and cultural resources, improve visitor facilities and provide educational and recreational opportunities.

Entrance fees are not charged to people younger than 16 or holders of the America the Beautiful-The National Parks pass and federal recreational annual, senior, access, military or volunteer passes.

Fourth-grade students are eligible for the Every Kid Outdoors pass which enables them to bring up to three adults to federal lands for free. These passes may be obtained at the park.

For information, go to nps.gov/lewi/index.htm

Photos with Santa will benefit senior dogs

Photos with Santa are available at Petco, 1619 S.E. Ensign Lane in Warrenton, from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, with a \$9.95 donation to the nonprofit Angels for Sara Sanctuary.

One hundred percent of the donations will go directly to the sanctuary, which provides quality care to senior dogs left at shelters, who have little hope of being adopted. For information, go to fb.me/angelsforsarasanctuary

Gifts that Make a Difference set for Saturday

United Way of Clatsop County presents Gifts That Make a Difference from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday in the McTavish Room at the Liberty Theatre.

During the event, representatives from Clatsop County nonprofits recruit new volunteers, accept donations and sell gifts that directly benefit the mission of each of these agencies.

There will be music, refreshments and a family-friendly crafts to make.

For information, contact Jennifer Holen at 503-325-1961 or uwccdirector@pacifier.com

‘Tools for Sustainability’ lecture series continues Dec. 19

The second “Tools for Sustainability” lecture is at 7 p.m. Dec. 19 in Columbia Hall, Room 219, at Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Ave.

Pacific Power will cover how community solar projects relate to the area and Stephen Schumacher answers questions on energy storage.

The monthly speaker series, which continues through April, focuses on making choices that are beneficial to the environment and pocketbook.

— The Astorian