

## IN BRIEF

## Downed power line causes outage, lane closure in Warrenton

A Cannon Beach man was arrested Friday after driving his vehicle into a power pole near alternate U.S. Highway 101 and Dolphin Road in Warrenton.

Zachary Leray Lyons, 26, was arrested for hit and run of property, driving under the influence of intoxicants, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

Police say Lyons was not at the site of the crash when officers arrived. They found a pile of clothes in the middle of the road and then later found Lyons naked.

One lane of alternate U.S. Highway 101 was expected to be closed for part of Friday to repair the downed power line.

Power outages were reported in the area. Warrenton schools were closed as a result of the outages.

## Two people arrested for assault of Seaside man

SEASIDE — Two men were arrested for allegedly assaulting a Seaside man Tuesday night outside of the Bridge Tender Tavern.

Kelsey Jason Scott, 33, of Warrenton, and Leonard “Danny” Tilton, 34, of Seaside, fled the scene, but were later arrested for assault in the second degree.

At about 11:20 p.m., police found a 42-year-old Seaside man bleeding from injuries sustained from an assault. The man was taken to Providence Seaside Hospital for serious facial injuries.

Anyone who witnessed the assault or has additional information is asked to contact Detective Shauna Stelson of the Seaside Police Department at 503-738-6311.

— The Astorian

## Appeals court rules against Clarno on forestry ballot measures

SALEM — The Oregon Court of Appeals said Wednesday that Secretary of State Bev Clarno incorrectly asserted that a slate of prospective ballot measures didn't comply with the state's constitution.

The court reversed a decision by Marion County Circuit Judge Daniel Wren that had favored Clarno and sent it back down for a ruling favoring the petitioners. The petitions sought to restrict certain logging practices and protect forest waters from herbicides and pesticides.

Still, voters may never see the measures.

The forest industry and conservation groups announced this week they have agreed to work together on updating the state's forestry practices in a landmark agreement between the historic adversaries.

Each side also agreed to drop their proposed ballot measures. The forestry industry had lobbied back with its own set of petitions seeking to insulate current practices from change.

Clarno, who oversees state elections, had said that the three measures violated a constitutional requirement that each petition cover a “single subject.”

— Oregon Capital Bureau

## ON THE RECORD

## Hit-and-run

• Jose Enrique Gutierrez-Sanchez, 25, was arrested Saturday on Nehalem Avenue in Astoria for hit-and-run and criminal mischief in the second degree.

## Menacing

• Anthony Edward Stoinich, 59, of Astoria, was arrested Wednesday on Nimitz Drive in Astoria for misuse of 911, resisting arrest, menacing and disorderly conduct in the first degree.

## Trespass

• Miguel Alexander Valdiva-Boyd, 23, of Castle Rock, Washington, was arrested Wednesday on Industry Street in Astoria for trespass, giving false information to a police officer, resisting arrest and harassment.

## DUII

• Carter David Wallace, 22, of Astoria, was arrested Thursday on U.S. Highway 101 for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. His blood alcohol content was 0.24%.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

**Union Health District of Clatsop County**, 8 a.m., Providence Seaside Hospital Education Center, Room B.  
**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District**, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.  
**Astoria City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.  
**Shoreline Sanitary District Board**, 7 p.m., Gearhart Heritage Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.  
**Seaside School District Board of Directors**, 7 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin.  
**Seaside Planning Commission**, 7 p.m., work session, City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## the Astorian

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Shirley Bamburg, 107, talks with her daughter, Linda Schaeffer, while celebrating her birthday with other residents and staff at Clatsop Memory Care on Wednesday. Bamburg was born in 1913 in Kelso, Washington, and traveled around the country before returning to the Northwest for retirement.

## Travel Oregon dinged by audit

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — The semi-independent Oregon agency overseeing tourism initiatives should be more transparent about managers' pay and strengthen controls on contracting, Secretary of State Bev Clarno said in an audit report released Thursday.

The Oregon Tourism Commission — also known as Travel Oregon — is a small agency that is supposed to help boost Oregon's \$11.8 billion tourism industry.

While Travel Oregon is subject to government ethics and public records and meetings laws, it is exempt from some laws that govern public spending and pay.

“Travel Oregon is not subject to many of the existing mechanisms that provide oversight, transparency and accountability for taxpayer dollars,” auditors wrote. “With continuous funding, autonomy and exemption from some state laws, it is therefore even more important for Travel Oregon to be independently transparent and accountable about its use of taxpayer dollars to ensure appropriate stewardship of public funds.”

The agency's budget has tripled in the past decade, due in part to an increase in the lodging tax rate in 2016. That's where the agency gets its revenue.

Oregon, at about \$32 million per year, now has



Travel Oregon

An audit report raised concerns about transparency at Travel Oregon.

the eighth-largest state tourism budget in the country and ranks sixth among state governments spending on tourism per capita.

The agency could seek more competitive pricing for services like marketing, the auditors wrote. About half of the agency's two-year budget goes toward marketing.

Auditors looked at 77 contracts the agency entered between 2017 and 2019, finding that Travel Oregon has sufficient procedures to oversee contracts. But some vendors didn't issue invoices that had the level of detail that the contracts required, and in two cases vendors sought reimbursement for travel expenses not allowed in their contracts.

Auditors also pointed to management salaries, finding that managers at Travel

Oregon “are some of the highest compensated managers” compared to managers at state agencies who “oversee more expansive and complex budgets; manage large numbers of employees and contractors; and perform many diverse, technical and critical government services, including essential public health and public safety responsibilities.”

Executive salaries at Travel Oregon have increased 76% since 2012. Its CEO, Todd Davidson, received gross pay of about \$31,000 a month as of June.

“While the Oregon Tourism Commission has the freedom to set the CEO's compensation and the CEO to set the employees' compensation, the agency should take steps to ensure it is accountable to taxpay-

ers for how it decides to compensate staff with public monies,” auditors wrote.

Auditors said the agency could improve its controls over contracts, should consider whether to put all contracts out for a competitive bid above a certain cost, and retain studies by consultants and other documents to “support compensation decisions” and provide compensation information to the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Office when the agency reports its revenues and expenses.

In a response to the audit, Davidson said the agency agreed with auditors' recommendations and would put them into place.

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group, Pamplin Media Group and Salem Reporter.

## Offices close for Presidents Day

The Astorian

In observance of Presidents Day on Monday, all federal, state, county and city offices and services, including Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach city halls, are closed. All U.S. post offices are closed, and there is no mail delivery.

Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Warrenton/Hammond and Seaside (including Cannon Beach and Gearhart) school district schools, and Clatsop Community College, are closed.

The Astoria Library, Seaside Library and Warrenton Library are closed.

The Port of Astoria administrative offices are

closed.

Garbage collection through Recology Western Oregon and the city of Warrenton garbage collection are not affected by the holiday. Recology Western Oregon's transfer station is open.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside is open. The Astoria Aquatic Center is open.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum is closed. The Oregon Film Museum and Flavel House are open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Carriage House is open

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Uppertown Firefighters' Museum is closed for the winter.

Lil' Sprouts is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fort Clatsop is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Columbia River Maritime Museum is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Seaside Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunset Empire Transportation (“The Bus”) is running.

The Astorian offices are open.

FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM

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DAVE HUGHES

presents

A Sort of (Fly Fishing) Life

Notes on a fly fishing liar's life: confessions, a bit of history, stories, and some trite bits of advice, at times useful but more often of no use whatever, from Dave's 40 years as a writer about the mysteries and mastery of fly fishing. Dave grew up in Astoria, spent his first 45 years living here, with excursions to go to college and attend the dustup in SE Asia. He is a founding member of the Rainlanders, which he still considers his home club, so there will be stories with local connections.

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VOLUNTEER  
PICK OF THE WEEK



Dominic

Adult American  
Shorthair

Love reveals that special needs can also bring an extra measure of rewards.

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