

## IN BRIEF

## Coast Guard rescues couple from boat off North Coast

A U.S. Coast Guard aircrew rescued two people and a dog Saturday morning from their boat off the North Coast.

A 55-year-old woman and a 56-year-old man aboard a 44-foot recreational boat got caught in 12 foot seas and 25 mph winds.

A rescue swimmer was lowered to the vessel and assisted the woman, who was hoisted into a rescue basket.

As conditions worsened, the rescue swimmer had the man and dog enter the water to be hoisted into the helicopter.

They were all safely taken to Sector Columbia River and declined medical services.

The owner, Jeff Magnuson, of Anacortes, Washington, said he and his wife were caught in a storm Friday night and could not go over the Columbia River Bar, which was closed.

"We just got battered and bashed," he said.



Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian  
**A boat washed ashore at Arcadia Beach.**

## Seaside gets offers on school properties

SEASIDE — Three of four Seaside School District properties are under contract or have pending offers.

"We currently have an offer on Seaside High School and multiple offers on Gearhart," Superintendent Sheila Roley said.

A third district property — the Cannon Beach Elementary School — is now under a signed contract, for a price of \$400,000, with Cannon Beach. The city could use the building as an interpretative arts or event center.

"At this point the city and district are in the due diligence phase," Cannon Beach City Manager Bruce St. Denis said.

## Brownsmead Dike Road closed for maintenance

Brownsmead Dike Road could be closed until April while crews conduct bridge maintenance on the Blind Slough Bridge.

Ziak-Gnat Creek Lane, Barendse Road and Aldrich Point Road can be used as detours.

— The Astorian

## Six-day clam dig on Washington state coast

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Razor clam diggers can round up their shovels, clam guns and tubes for a six-day dig beginning Friday.

State shellfish managers with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife approved a dig on evening low tides after recent marine toxin tests showed the clams are safe to eat.

— Chinook Observer

## ON THE RECORD

## Theft

• Domenika Galpren, 32, was arrested Friday at Fred Meyer in Warrenton for theft in the second degree and criminal trespass in the first degree.

## Drug possession

• Michael Trumble, 34, was arrested Sunday on E. Harbor Drive in Warrenton for possession of methamphetamine.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

**Seaside Community Center Commission**, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

**Clatsop County Board of Commissioners**, 12 p.m., work session, 800 Exchange St., Suite 430.

**Clatsop Care Health District Board**, 5 p.m., Clatsop Care Health and Rehabilitation, 646 16th St., Astoria.

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

**Port of Astoria Commission**, 5:30 p.m., 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.

**Seaside Library Board**, 5:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

**Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board**, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

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

## WEDNESDAY

**Seaside Improvement Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## THURSDAY

**Seaside Parks Advisory Committee**, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

## the Astorian

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian  
**Harry Moore, of Palmer, Alaska, plays guitar and sings about life as a fisherman at Astoria Brewing Co. on Friday night. The annual FisherPoets Gathering drew people downtown over the weekend.**

## Gearhart won't pursue fire bond in May

## City missed Friday deadline

By R.J. MARX  
The Astorian

GEARHART — The city missed a Friday deadline to place a new firehouse bond on the ballot for May.

At February's City Council meeting, councilors unanimously approved a request for up to \$25,000 from the building reserve fund to coordinate work to date, review materials and prepare a cost estimate for a bond to place a new fire station on North Marion Avenue with the hopes of putting the measure to the voters this year.

The deadline came and went as city officials, without comment, did not schedule the special council meeting necessary to place the measure on the May ballot.

Cost estimates for the new firehouse come after more than three years of outreach and research to replace



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

The Gearhart fire station on Pacific Way was constructed in 1958.

the fire station at 670 Pacific Way, a cinderblock building constructed in 1958 and considered vulnerable in a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami.

The proposed North Marion site known as High Point includes three separate parcels, two owned by Gearhart's Murphy family, and one owned by the Palisades Pipeline Co., represented by the Palisades Homeowners Association.

A right of way owned

by the Palisades homeowners would also need to be negotiated and purchased by the city, in order to provide space for the new station. The right of way is undeveloped and reserved for potential access to the two parcels owned by the Murphy family.

Estimated costs for the High Point station project reach about \$5 million, of which \$3.4 million would go to a 12,800-square-foot public safety building.

Purchase of the property is estimated at an additional \$3 million. With a total cost estimate between \$6 million and \$9 million, the cost per \$1,000 of home value would be \$0.66 to \$0.99. A \$400,000 home, for example, would be assessed \$264 to \$396 per year if a bond were to pass.

Aug. 14 is the last day for a ballot title to be completed by the city to meet the filing deadline for the November election.

## New trails draw mountain bikers to county

By R.J. MARX  
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Mountain bikers and volunteers are making quick work building trails at Klootch Creek, North Coast Trail Alliance President Steven Blakesley told the Seaside Downtown Development Association last week.

"We have five trails finished and three or four more ready by summer," he said. "We're doubling our mileage very fast."

In late September, the North Coast Trail Alliance began clearing out future riding areas on Lewis & Clark Timberlands north of Klootch Creek County Park, 6 miles of downhill, single-track trail to start, with a goal of expanding to 40 connected miles over the next few years.

Trails are one way up — designed to reach the top of Twin Peaks at an elevation of between 1,500 and 1,600 feet — and one way down. Eventually, trails could connect directly to the city.

"This is a destination mountain bike area," he said. "Visitors say, 'Do you have any idea of what you're sitting on up here?' The views, the topography are just perfect."

Started in 2015, the



Boy Scout Troop 642

Scouts and volunteers clear brush on the trails at Klootch Creek.

North Coast Trail Alliance is a subchapter of the Portland-based, 1,200-member Northwest Trail Alliance, which provides insurance and acts as a fiscal agent. An expanded parking lot, a new information kiosk and trails leading to forestry land have

also been added, along with picnic tables installed with the help of Boy Scout Troop 642.

The county plans to add vaulted toilets similar to others seen in state parks.

"The whole park has been repurposed and cleaned up,"

he said.

Two big bike companies are helping the trail alliance raise money. "They want their name on our trails. They want to help us promote. And that's not an easy feat, to get those folks looking at what we're doing," Blakesley said.

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