

IN BRIEF

Man dead after RV park fire

A man died after his RV caught on fire at Sunset Lake Resort & RV Park on Sunday morning.

Sheriff deputies found Michael David Murphy, 64, on the ground outside the blaze with burn injuries.

Officials say Murphy died on Sunday after he was released from the hospital. They say he also had a terminal illness.

Firefighters were called just before 7 a.m. to a 40-foot RV fully engulfed in flames and threatening two other nearby trailers.

Residents of the RV park used garden hoses to help keep the fire from spreading to other trailers while waiting for firefighters to arrive.

They were able to contain the fire to the RV. However, there was some damage to a neighboring RV. A deputy helped the man in the neighboring RV vacate through a window. The man was also taken to the hospital.

The cause of the fire is undetermined.

Murphy is the second person to die as a result of a trailer fire at Sunset Lake. George Bolles burned alive when his trailer caught on fire in 2018. His family is suing the park and its owner, Ken Hick, of Resources Northwest Inc., for wrongful death and negligence. Another lawsuit was filed against the park in February by a former tenant, Sandra Holloway, alleging negligence over living conditions.

— The Astorian

NEW CITIZENS WELCOMED AT MARITIME MUSEUM



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Archana Bongale, with her daughter, Arnika Kolekar, was one of 42 people who became U.S. citizens Monday at the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria. Bongale moved to the U.S. from Karnataka, India, in 2009. She is a software developer and lives in Portland with her husband and two children. India was one of 19 countries represented at the naturalization ceremony. Other people moved from countries including Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines and Iraq. Astoria Mayor Bruce Jones, who is also the deputy director of the museum, invited the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to Astoria and was the keynote speaker at the ceremony. 'Immigration is an integral part of the Columbia River Maritime Museum's story and Astoria's story,' Jones said. 'So, how can you not have a naturalization ceremony here. It's just the perfect venue to do it, and I was just very thrilled that they wanted to come here. And we'll do it again.'



LEFT: Ronald Shung claps with the crowd after taking the oath of allegiance to the United States. RIGHT: After receiving his naturalization certificate, Alaa Alabbasi bumps elbows with Astoria Mayor Bruce Jones. Alabbasi is originally from Iraq.



March 6, 2020

DRUMMOND, Karen Joanne, 65, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

March 1, 2020

VANDERBURG, Luther L. "Lu," 54, of Sherwood, formerly of

Knappa, died in Tigard. Attrell's Funeral Chapel in Newberg is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 17, 2020

CAMPBELL, Edward Donald, 79, of Astoria, died in Warrenton. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Theft

• Jonathan Walgren, 29, was arrested Sunday at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the third degree and criminal trespass in the first degree.

• Nicole Bowers, 24, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday at Fred Meyer in Warrenton for theft in the second degree.

• Joseph L. Duncan, 34, of Ocean Park, Washington, was arrested Friday on 17th and Exchange streets in Astoria for eluding a police officer, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, theft in the second degree, criminal trespass in the second degree and interfering with a police officer.

He also had warrants from Washington state.

Criminal trespass

• Jason Tinnian, 44, was arrested Friday at the Shilo Inn in Seaside for criminal trespass.

DUI

• George Owen, 37, of Warrenton, was arrested Sunday on N. Roosevelt Drive and Third Avenue in Seaside for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. His blood alcohol content was 0.14%.

• Travis Wagers, 30, of Hammond, was arrested Saturday near the Hammond Marina for DUI, menacing and criminal mischief in the second degree. His blood alcohol content was 0.16%.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Planning Commission, 10 a.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Knappa School District Board of Directors, 6:45 p.m., work session, Knappa High School Library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District Board, 10 a.m., Astoria Post Office, 750 Commercial St., Room 207, Astoria.

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.

Wickiup Water District Board, 6:30 p.m., 92648 Svensen Market Road, Svensen.

Astoria School District Board of Directors, 7 p.m., Gray School, 785 Alameda Ave.

Warrenton-Hammond School District Board, 7 p.m., Warrenton High School Library, 1700 S. Main Ave.

THURSDAY

Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

Warrenton Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

the Astorian

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Police investigate dog's death

'Saucy' was a Chihuahua mix

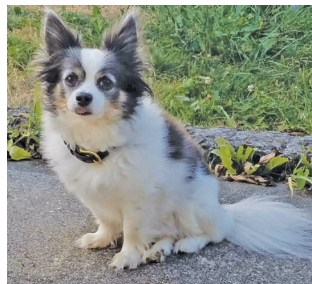
By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Police are asking for the public's help in locating who is responsible for killing an Astoria family's dog.

Shellyene Winans said her dog, "Saucy," was with a dog sitter when he got loose last Saturday near Kensington and Skyline avenues. She said they immediately began searching for him and hanging up flyers around town.

Saucy was found dead Tuesday in the area of 12th Street between Jerome and Irving avenues.

Astoria Police Chief Geoff Spalding said a veterinarian



'Saucy' was killed last week.

ian has verified, with a high degree of certainty, that Saucy was intentionally killed by a human and not another animal. He said the crime is being investigated as animal cruelty in the first degree.

"I feel really, really sorry that this happened to my dog," Winans said. She adopted Saucy, a long-haired Chihuahua mix, about 10 years ago. "Saucy had a family," she

said. "He had a grandma and a grandpa who loved him very much. He had a lot of people around him who really loved him."

She said she wants to find who is responsible to make sure another animal is not harmed.

"This community has been amazing," Winans said. "The (Facebook) posts were shared over 200 times. There was people out there looking that I didn't even know. Neighbors who knew Saucy, but weren't super close to me were searching. It was a really incredible response."

She said a \$1,000 award is being offered to anyone who finds who is responsible. People with information are asked to call Astoria police officer AJ Duryea at 503-325-4411.

"Astoria officers have been diligently investigating this crime by knocking on doors and speaking with neighbors," Spalding said in an email. "Officers are working with businesses and homeowners to see if any video was captured."

He said the act is an isolated incident and that police are not aware of any similar cases.

Winans thanked police and others for their support in a Facebook post on Saturday.

"I am at a loss about how to move forward right now," she said. "What I continue to do is light a candle, cry when I need to, laugh when I can and do a kind act or send a kind thought when I drift into horrible thoughts about the person who did this."

Forestry bills left in short session

Bills for pesticide spraying, wildfire risk reduction

By CASSANDRA PROFITA
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Two highly consequential forestry bills were among the piles of unfinished business Oregon lawmakers left behind when they ended their session last week.

One of the bills affirmed an historic agreement between environmental groups and the timber industry on forest management issues including aerial pesticide spraying and stream protection. It was designed to avoid a ballot measure fight that now could be on its way to voters.

The other bill would have launched Gov. Kate Brown's multi-faceted plan to reduce wildfire risk statewide and would have directed nearly \$25 million toward that goal.

The Legislature ended the session without voting on either bill after nearly all of the state's Republican lawmakers walked out of the Capitol and left Democrats without a quorum.

Senate Bill 1536 was built around the conclusions of the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response, which met for about a year before giving

the governor a \$4 billion recommendation. The council's conclusions and the subsequent legislation supported reducing fuel load — forest undergrowth and thickets of young trees — through logging and prescribed burning in the forests, adding firefighting resources, safeguarding homes, reducing transmission line safety risks and improving wildfire smoke protections for at-risk communities.

Matt Donegan, who chaired the governor's wildfire council, said he was encouraged by all the work lawmakers did to advance the bill and the bipartisan support it had before the Republican walkout. He's hoping to see some action on the wildfire response plan before next year.

"Obviously it's very disappointing that the session wound down without that going through," he said. "I think the nightmare scenario is going to be if we have a horrible fire season. If the recommendations we made could have been helpful in preventing some kind of tragedy and because of the walkout the recommendations weren't followed. I don't think anyone wants to see that."

In a written response, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Department of Forestry,

which stood to receive most of the funds from the bill, said regardless of what happens to the legislation, the agency will continue to work with the governor's office on protecting the state's natural resources from wildfire.

A spokeswoman for the governor's office also sent a written response to questions about what will happen to the governor's proposal.

"In light of the Legislature adjourning (Thursday), a lot of plans and concepts will have to be addressed at another juncture, or via other means," Kate Kondayen, deputy communications director for the governor's office, wrote.

The governor had also coordinated the new forestry management plans outlined in House Bill 4168, which was also left to die at the end of the session.

The bill solidified a commitment made by timber companies and environmental groups last month to participate in a mediated process to develop a plan for how private forests should be managed to protect species and water resources. The legislation would have funded those mediated discussions while also putting new requirements on aerial pesticide spraying.

Environmental groups

had planned ballot measures aimed at increasing protections on waterways and limiting aerial pesticide spraying. Timber interests had their own ballot measures that would require compensation for landowners if their ability to log was limited by state regulations and to change the makeup of the Oregon Board of Forestry, which manages state forest policy.

Without the legislation, backers of the proposed ballot measures could decide to move forward with their original plans, according to Ralph Bloemers of the Crag Law Center, who has been working on several ballot measures on behalf of conservation interests.

"As a result of Republicans walking off the job, that settlement now hangs in the balance," Bloemers said. "Unless they return to pass it, there's a good chance that folks will go back to the ballot."

Democrats have said they intend to hold a special session to address budget issues within the next 30 days. The governor said she would be willing to call a special legislative session if lawmakers bring her a plan for a "functioning session." It remained unclear on Friday whether the forestry bills could be addressed in a special session.