

IN BRIEF



Jay Pitman

A fire broke out Sunday near the Peter Iredale.

Fire at dunes near Peter Iredale

Firefighters responded to a fire on the beach Sunday evening just north of the Peter Iredale shipwreck in Fort Stevens State Park.

Officials say the fire grew to 50 feet by 200 feet, but firefighters were able to contain the fire to the beach.

Tourism summit stresses sustainability

GEARHART — The North Coast Destination Management Studio met at McMenamans this month to bring together local leaders to drive visitor traffic and promote sustainable tourism.

Travel Oregon Vice President Kristin Dahl described “a shift from destination marketing to destination management,” balancing natural resources, industries and business in communities from Astoria to Pacific City.

“To come together and bring stakeholders is not new,” Dahl said to the audience at McMenamans in Gearhart on March 9. “But what is new is how the network can function and function well.”

Dahl sees the role of the tourism studio to collaborate with people at the local level.

“One of the critical changes is listening to the local bodies, listening to resident perspectives, listening to local businesses and jurisdictions and government agencies doing the work on the ground,” she said. “It takes a lot for those stakeholders to come together, listen to what those priorities are, listen to what those opportunities are to engage in those things, which are fairly complex.”

— *The Astorian*

DEATH

March 13, 2020

HATFIELD, Louis, 78, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIAL

Saturday, March 21

TUTTLE, Morris Lee — Memorial at 1 p.m., Olney Grange Hall, 89342 Oregon Highway 202.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Douglas Steen, 55, was arrested Saturday on Avenue C and S. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside for assault in the fourth degree, harassment and disorderly conduct.

Harassment

• Adrien Mealey, 44, of Umatilla, was arrested Sunday on Ninth Avenue and N. Franklin Street in Seaside for harassment.

Menacing

• Steven Eugene Bentsen, 34, was arrested Friday near the Doughboy Monument in Astoria for

two counts of unlawful possession of a weapon with the intention to use and two counts of menacing.

DUII

• Hayden Lee Davis, 27, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday on state Highway 202 in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants. His blood alcohol content was 0.24%.

• Shane Baldwin, 38, of Seaside, was arrested Friday on Third Avenue and Necanicum Drive in Seaside for DUII.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

Seaside School District Board of Directors, 7 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin.

Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

THURSDAY

Astoria City Council, 1 p.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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

Virus challenges native communities

Sacred feast in Warm Springs goes on

By **EMILY CURETON**
Oregon Public Broadcasting

WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION — Faith communities are grappling with whether to shut their doors in a time of widespread fear and anxiety. Some churches are suspending services, others aren't. On the Warm Springs reservation in central Oregon, one of the most culturally important rituals of the year continued.

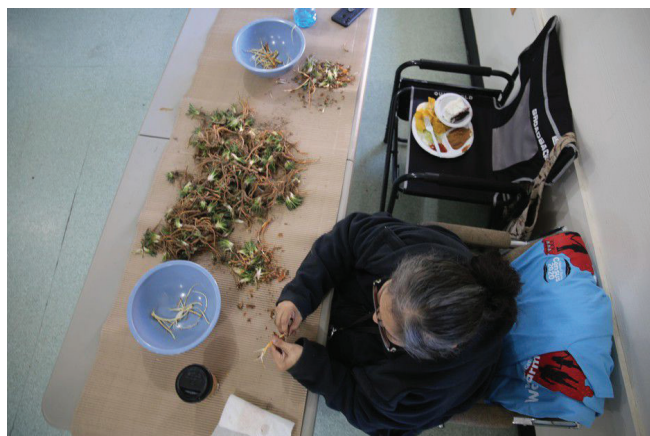
In a community building on the reservation known as a longhouse, different kinds of small green plants foraged from tribal lands were laid out on blankets, their roots to be eaten at a feast Sunday.

“It does take about four days to peel all these roots, but we have a big roomful, and we filled that whole room on that side,” said Cassie Katchia, an elder from Warm Springs who sat methodically cleaning each tender white tube by hand.

The preparations and prayers leading up to the Root Feast span five days. The work culminates in ceremonies to give thanks for the start of spring, and the renewal of first food sources like roots, berries and salmon.

But this is no ordinary spring.

Most large events have been canceled to try and stop



Emily Cureton/Oregon Public Broadcasting

Cassie Katchia works at a table for days to prepare first foods for a feast of gratitude.

coronavirus patients from overwhelming the health care system. Health leaders in Warm Springs are part of that effort, but they're not trying to cancel the Root Feast, which typically draws hundreds from far and wide to two longhouses on the reservation.

“It's part of who we are. If it doesn't go on, it's like removing a piece of us. Our culture. Our tradition,” said Caroline Cruz, Warm Springs' head of health and human services.

Cruz said she recognizes the public health emergency created by coronavirus.

“We know how to mobilize. We've been through this. Maybe not to this degree, because this is so unknown,” Cruz said.

States of emergency are familiar, though. She mentioned a long list — including a global flu pandemic 10 years ago, wildfires, or last year when the reservation's

water system failed.

“We went through a three month, collectively maybe close to six months, water crisis. We didn't have drinking water. This community mobilized. We dealt with it,” Cruz said.

The threat of fast-moving diseases and social restrictions imposed by the government hold echoes of the past, explained Elizabeth Woody, a historian and author who lives in Warm Springs. She recounted relatives who died in an influenza outbreak a hundred years ago.

“My grandmother lost her brother, her mother,” Woody said. And my grandfather lost all of his siblings except for one, and he lost both of his parents.”

That was 40 years before her birth. At the time, the federal government prohibited many aspects of Native American religion and sacred ceremonies.

Fire chief: ‘We’re extremely short volunteers’

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The fire district, which serves Cannon Beach to Falcon Cove, has historically struggled with reception because of the mountainous terrain between radio repeaters. Certain areas are known to be dead zones.

Reception will not improve until Seaside dispatch sets up new simulcast sites. But there is no timeline for the project.

“I think our system does need to be upgraded, and that's what we're working on,” said Mitch Brown, the communication's manager at the Seaside Police Department, which oversees the dispatch center. “I think we need to have a more redundant, robust system and that's what we're working towards.”

Brown said they are in the beginning phases of organizing a plan before going to the Seaside City Council for approval to fund the costly upgrades. He said public safety concerns are why they are moving forward with the improvements.

The Cannon Beach fire district has said reception would likely improve under Astoria 911 Dispatch, which serves most of the police and fire agencies in Clatsop County.

Astoria has already made major upgrades as part of a response to a 2015 study by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The study also recommended consolidation between the Astoria and Seaside dispatch centers.

Separate studies in 2008

and 1999 that analyzed 911 dispatch in the county also recommended a consolidated dispatch center. One center could maximize limited staffing and resources and improve the coordination of emergency response and communication.

The study in 2008 was initiated after the mayors of Astoria, Cannon Beach, Warrenton, Seaside and Gearhart sent a letter to the county Board of Commissioners asking them to investigate consolidation. The mayors said the time had come to move to a “single, more effective and cost efficient system.”

“Every one of these studies says the exact same thing; that we need to merge dispatch centers. That the current situation is insufficient, does not work, lives are at stake —

there's three studies that say it and yet we're still doing the same thing,” Reckmann said.

Even if the two dispatch centers do not merge, he said, they should at least work off of the same channel to improve communication and response time.

Brown said he doesn't think moving to the same channel would necessarily improve communication. He said it could create other problems.

“I know there's a way. It's the willingness to do it ... It's not can we, it's will we?” Reckmann said.

“We're extremely short volunteers and when you start having pagers not go off that makes it even more short and also it kills morale ... That kills their motivation,” he said.

Heated yoga: Virus concerns postpone grand opening



Fire Station Yoga

From left, Trudy and Djordje Citovic and Jamie Savva run Fire Station Yoga on the top floor of the Uppertown Firefighters Museum at the corner of 30th Street and Marine Drive.

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Trudy Citovic's dad, former Mayor Willis Van Dusen, put the partners in touch with the Clatsop County Historical Society, which opened the Uppertown Firefighters Museum in 1989. Atop the museum is a former gym where Van Dusen remembered playing basketball.

“The fact that I was able to set it up here, and the fact that it's a fire station, and we're doing hot yoga — it was meant to be, basically,” Djordje Citovic said. “It kind of named itself.”

Accessing the studio involves a trip through fire-fighting history, past historic tools and engines used to fight the region's blazes. In recent weeks, the partners have been building out the yoga studio inside the space, with local artists creating the studio's signage and flames running up the stairwell to the studio. A grand opening during Second Satur-

day Art Walk was postponed because of the coronavirus.

The classes attract a lot of firefighters, police and U.S. Coast Guard families, said Savva, an instructor at the studio who is also a local instructional assistant and a military spouse. The classes, including beginner and advanced sessions, are meant for men, women and people of all body types and physical abilities, Savva said.

“This is a chance for people who like sauna,” she said. “That is tapping into the (history) in this community.”

The lease to Fire Station Yoga is also a boon for the historical society's lightly trafficked museum. The building started as part of the North Pacific Brewery, once the largest in Astoria before succumbing to prohibition in 1914. It reopened as a condensed milk factory in 1916, was remodeled into a fire station by 1928 and by 1989 became the firefighter's and children's museum.

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