

IN BRIEF

Astoria students can pick up belongings at schools

Students in the Astoria School District will be able to pick up personal belongings they left at school buildings next week.

Gov. Kate Brown announced this month that she was extending school closures for the remainder of the school year because of concerns about the spread of the coronavirus. Belongings students may have left behind after an initial closure in March have been packed in plastic bags and labeled with the child's name, according to school district staff.

People will not be allowed to enter school buildings and are asked to follow the state's social distancing guidelines. Staff will bring belongings out to families. Any items not picked up will be stored until the beginning of the next school year.

Students at Astor Elementary and Lewis and Clark Elementary will be able to pick up belongings from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 21. Parents are asked to call first and verify that their child has any belongings at the school.

Students at Astoria Middle School and Astoria High School can pick up belongings from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 22.

If a family has textbooks or library books to drop off, the school district is asking for those to be left in the book drop box.

Self-service gas rule extended

Oregonians will get to pump their own gas a little bit longer, after the Oregon State Fire Marshal announced Saturday he would extend a temporary rule lifting the state's prohibition on self-service gas through April 25.

The original rule, put in place to address coronavirus concerns, was set to expire Saturday.

The rule allows for gas stations to voluntarily let customers pump their own gas, in an attempt to reduce the spread of the virus and make sure frontline coronavirus workers could access fuel in case of a gas station employee shortage.

"These changes provide station operators flexibility to manage their operations and help to make refueling safer for both customers and service station attendants," State Fire Marshal Jim Walker said in a press release, "while keeping stations open at a critical time when COVID-19 is impacting gas retailers who serve our many essential workers statewide."

— *The Oregonian*

OHSU performs state's first heart transplant in two years

PORTLAND — Oregon Health & Science University officials say a heart transplant was performed there in late March, marking the first such procedure in the state since 2018.

A 68-year-old Oregonian is recovering after receiving the transplant on March 27, hospital officials said. It's the first transplant at OHSU since the university's Heart Failure and Transplant Program reactivated last August.

The hospital had to rebuild the program when five cardiologists and a transplant surgeon quit, and the state's only heart transplant program was put on hold in August 2018.

The departures followed a string of patient deaths in 2017, placing OHSU's program as among the worst places in the U.S. to receive a heart transplant, The Oregonian reported.

OHSU President Danny Jacobs committed to restarting the program and heavily recruited to replace the cardiologists who left.

Johannes Steiner, the transplant cardiologist OHSU hired in August 2019 to restart the program, said that the heart transplant team is happy with the results of the first transplant. Junior cardiologists Nalini Colaco and Luke Masha were hired shortly before Steiner.

— *Associated Press*

DEATHS

April 13, 2020

MARTIN, Oleana Lila, 83, of Gearhart, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

April 11, 2020

AUNE, Connee Jean, 73, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Monica Lynn Terrell, 57, of Warrenton, was arraigned Friday for assault in the second degree, assault in the fourth degree and harassment.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, noon, work session, (electronic meeting).
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Vietnam memorial goes up in Seaside

A monument in the Cove

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — One-hundred and three names on a new Vietnam War Memorial monument stand as a remembrance for veterans from Seaside High School.

The granite monument stands at the south edge of Seltzer Park in the Cove after the city's public works department cleared, excavated and installed the memorial on March 23.

"This is a place where survivors of the war and those that were deceased, their families can come there and sit out and reflect," Mark Hansen, a co-organizer of the project, from the Class of 1963, said.

The memorial, inspired by Seaside graduates and decorated war veteran Crayton Morris, received support from more than 40 individual donors who raised \$14,000.

"We still have money coming in," Hansen said.

Hansen teamed with John Alto, Ky Jennings and others throughout the community to lead the fundraising effort and make sure each of Seaside's Vietnam veterans received recognition.

"My class had 16 who went to Vietnam, who enlisted or were drafted, which I think is the most," Jennings said. "This memorial is to acknowledge all of them with respect and to welcome them home."

Hansen said the key to



Ky Jennings

A monument to people who served in the Vietnam War was installed in the Cove.



The imagery on the memorial honors veterans.

getting the monument funded and installed so quickly was "keeping it simple."

"We probably would have never gotten it built if we had a committee," he said.

The city cleared the spot for the monument, Jennings

said. The foundation was donated by Daryl Gosser Concrete Construction. The granite was made, delivered and installed by O.M. Stone Co. in Hillsboro.

With the city closed to visitors during the corona-

virus pandemic, organizers delayed the formal dedication to September.

Seltzer Park, on the east side of Sunset Boulevard in the Cove, was chosen for its historical connection to the community, view of the beach and accessibility to visitors.

"We really want to thank the donors," Hansen said. "This thing wouldn't have come together without them. We basically had a little pipe dream, we did it, and it all came to fruition."

Hansen said he anticipates the monument will provide a lasting legacy.

"This has got everything on there you need to know about what happened at Seaside High School in terms of people that were in the military in Vietnam," he said.

Pacific County urges second homeowners not to visit over virus concerns

By ASHLEY NERBOVIG
Chinook Observer

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Second homeowners are asked not to visit Pacific County until after Washington Gov. Jay Inslee lifts the stay home order in the state.

On Thursday, Pacific County Health Officer Dr. Steven Krager reissued his beach and hospitality lodging closure, adding more guidance for homeowners who do not live in the county full time.

The order also limited any future long-term rentals of 30 days or more by banning new rentals after Thursday.

Second homeowners and members of their households may still visit their properties, but are discouraged from doing so. The order emphasized that visiting a second home for anything other than essential business violates the governor's non-essential travel ban.

Letting others use a person's second home also violates the governor's ban, and the county intends to enforce this prohibition.

The county is contacting vacation rental owners and requesting they remove postings for rentals in Pacific County.

The order is meant to help



Ashley Nerbovig/Chinook Observer

A view of the empty beach approach at Sid Snyder Drive.

protect the county's limited resources, such as grocery store supplies and health care facilities.

Violators of the ban can be punished by a fine, up to 90 days in jail or both.

There are exceptions for people who have lived in hospitality lodging since March 17 or who are essen-

tial workers.

The new guidance was unanimously supported by city and county officials during the Pacific County Emergency Operations Center teleconference on Friday, including all three county commissioners, all four of the county's mayors and Sheriff Robin Souvenir.

Fire engulfs 80 acres at Swanson Bark

The Daily News

LONGVIEW, Wash. — The Easter Sunday fire that started in a bark dust pile later engulfed the entire 80-acre site of Swanson Bark and Wood Products along Tennant Way and continued smoldering at midday Monday, according to Longview fire officials.

"Buildings, machinery, vehicles and conveyors were damaged and/or destroyed. Firefighters deployed multiple hand lines and two aerial ladder trucks, flowing in excess of 2.5 million gallons of water in their suppression efforts. The incident commander requested a firefighting helicopter to assist, but none were locally available," according to a fire department press release issued late Monday morning.

"Strong winds out of

the northwest coupled with access issues to the multiple piles of recyclables, smoke and visibility challenges and the available water supply all created difficult tactics and strategies for firefighters. With the other active fires, staffing was also below normal," the press release added.

Swanson Bark and Wood Products turns wood waste into firewood, mulch, bark dust, soils and biomass. Smaller fires there are common because of heat generated by the composting and decomposition process. For this reason, staff at Swanson use temperature probes to assess the risk, according to fire officials.

A passerby reported the fire at 2:37 p.m. Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue already was fighting fires on Ragland Road in the Coal Creek



Longview Fire Department

A firefighter walks through burning piles of wood waste at Swanson Bark and Wood Products.

area and Astro Drive in the Ostrander area, limiting the initial number of personnel that could respond.

Eventually, firefighters from Longview, Kalama, Cowlitz Fire District 1, Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue and Woodland fought the Swanson Bark fire, marshaling water pumps, ladder trucks, water tenders and brush rigs.

Firefighters have yet to complete an investigation, and no damage estimates were available at this time. No staff or firefighter injuries were reported.

Although fire suppression wrapped up at 4 a.m. Monday, dozens of bark and wood products piles were still smoldering, creating a smoke cloud that continues its wind-driven drift, according to fire officials.

Swanson Bark staff is conducting mop up fire suppression and has contracted with two helicopter services to assist.

"It is expected that this fire could smolder for days, and if winds pick up, active fire could again be encountered," the fire department press release said.

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