

IN BRIEF

County warns of contact tracing scam

The Federal Trade Commission has issued a warning about a text messaging scam involving people posing as government coronavirus contact tracers.

Clatsop County is urging people to use caution and not click on any links in a text message about contact tracing. Clicking on the link downloads software onto the phone that allows scammers access to personal and financial information.

Officials say legitimate text messages from a health department say that a call will be coming from a specific number. The contact tracer will not ask for money or any personal information like a Social Security or credit card number.

People who are unsure if a text message is legitimate should call the Clatsop County Public Health Department at 503-325-8500.

Family of late hiker raising money to support fire districts

The family of a 21-year old woman who died after falling on Neahkahnie Mountain last May has set up a GoFundMe campaign to help local fire districts buy new rescue equipment.

Michelle Casey was hiking with her boyfriend when she slipped and fell over 100 feet off the face of the mountain.

Nehalem Bay Fire and Rescue and Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue responded and were able to recover Casey, who died later that night after suffering severe injuries.

“As her family, we don’t want anyone else to ever go through this same tragic experience, so we asked what we could do to help both the Nehalem Fire and Rescue team and their neighbors to the north, Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue,” Casey’s parents wrote on the GoFundMe page.

They are raising \$30,000 to help pay for rescue equipment and training for crews.

— *The Astorian*

Cape Disappointment State Park reopens from virus restrictions

ILWACO, Wash. — Cape Disappointment State Park reopened on Sunday for day use, ending a two-month coronavirus-related safety closure.

Barricades were removed early Sunday morning to allow visitors to drive into the 2,023-acre site, one of the most popular in the Washington State Parks system.

Although never really closed to walk-in pedestrians, many Pacific County residents and the park’s countless fans around the region missed the option of driving in to observe waves crashing against the cliffs, fish on North Jetty, picnic on Benson Beach and enjoy other attractions.

Coastal fishing will reopen on Tuesday.

— *Chinook Observer*

DEATHS

May 24, 2020
ROEHR, Dolores Ann, 88, of Astoria, formerly of Long Beach, Washington, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the

arrangements.
May 22, 2020
ANNAT, James Stewart, 89, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Astoria Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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

Seaside Budget Committee, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

WEDNESDAY

Astoria Parks Board, 6:45 a.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Clatsop County Budget Committee, noon, (electronic meeting).

Astoria Budget Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., special meeting on budget (electronic meeting).

THURSDAY

Sunset Empire Transportation District Board, 9 a.m., (electronic meeting).

Astoria Budget Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Seaside Budget Committee, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

the Astorian

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DIGGING OUT



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

TOP: From left, Skyla Stone, Malia Laranger and Jenna West dig a giant hole in the sand at Sunset Beach on Saturday afternoon. Despite coronavirus restrictions, many people headed out to the beach to enjoy Memorial Day weekend. **ABOVE:** Dozens of cars lined the road to Sunset Beach on Saturday afternoon. Clatsop County closed beach access gates to restrict vehicles because of the coronavirus.

Larger creditors collect on Jessie’s debt

By ASHLEY NERBOVIG
Chinook Observer

ILWACO, Wash. — Jessie’s Ilwaco Fish Co.’s biggest creditor will get the proceeds from all inventory sales, while Turnford Restructuring Group will remain as receiver.

Jessie’s will begin paying down debt to its largest creditors, GemCap Lending I LLC, despite the fish processor filing for receivership in February.

Meanwhile, unsecured creditors, such as Ilwaco, filed documents that the city is owed about \$28,000 by the company. The city filed a proof of claim with Pacific County Superior Court because the city believes initial receivership documents undervalued what the city was owed by about \$10,000.

At this point, there is no indication whether or when fish processing might resume at the multidecade Port of Ilwaco institution. The plant was among south Pacific County’s largest employers and Ilwaco’s biggest water customer.

When Jessie’s filed for receivership, Superior Court Judge Donald Richter assigned Christopher Wain, owner of the Bellevue firm Turnford Restructuring Group, as receiver. Wain was recommended to be receiver by Donald Alber, owner of Alber Seafoods, which bought Jessie’s in 2013.

GemCap opposed Wain’s appointment. But GemCap agreed to allow Turnford



Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Jessie’s filed for receivership in February.

Restructuring Group to remain in charge of Jessie’s assets after GemCap was released from the automatic receivership stay, which prevented GemCap from collecting on its debts. The receivership also removed any claims to the collateral Jessie’s used to secure a \$5 million loan from GemCap. Jessie’s pledged all its company assets as collateral for the loan. The balance of the loan from GemCap as of March 3 was about \$1.9 million, according to court documents filed in April. GemCap will be prioritized above other lenders until its debt is paid, according to court documents.

GemCap is entitled to all collections of the company’s accounts receiv-

able and can sue for anyone in possession of its collateral. Any profit from inventory sold before the end of June will go to GemCap. After June, any remaining inventory will revert to the receivership’s estate, unless GemCap makes alternative storage arrangements.

Proof of claim documents submitted to the court by local fishermen, cities and others owed money by Alber Seafoods and Jessie’s are unsecured and won’t be a priority above GemCap and other creditors.

This includes money owed to the Marchand fam-

ily. A proof of claim submitted by A. Pierre Marchand Jr. Living Trust estimated it was still owed \$3.25 million. Pierre was the son of company matriarch, Jessie Marchand. Another member of the family, Doug Ross, filed a proof of claim for about \$193,400 through his company, PDP LLC.

The initial estimate that undervalued the debt owed to Ilwaco also may have done the same to the Port of Ilwaco’s debt, which it estimated was a little less than \$28,000, according to a proof of claim filed with the court.

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