

IN BRIEF

County approves new budget

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday night approved the budget for the fiscal year that starts in July.

The budget is \$103 million, up from about \$85 million this fiscal year.

County commissioners chose to increase a contingency for capital purchases in the special projects fund by \$84,370 to complete two projects that were budgeted for this fiscal year, but were delayed because of timing and coronavirus-related purchasing setbacks.

The board also approved an increase of \$12,400 for materials and services in the general fund to pay for new software for staff.

Without a Seaside display, officials brace for illegal fireworks

SEASIDE — No fireworks show this year could cut down on visitor traffic, City Councilor Tita Montero said.

But with the Fourth of July falling on a Saturday, that reduction could be offset with an influx of tourists taking advantage of a long weekend.

Officials addressed potential issues on the holiday, especially long-standing concerns of fireworks noise and safety.

It will be a “very different Fourth of July,” City Manager Mark Winstanley said at Monday’s City Council meeting. “As far as I can remember we’ve had some kind of professional show.”

Fire Chief Joey Daniels said he hopes people will take others into consideration by using legal fireworks and keeping a safe distance.

“We understand everybody wants to have a good time and everybody’s been locked up in their own house, but we want them to do it safely,” he said. “Hopefully, we don’t really need to do a lot of enforcement. But if we do have a bunch of illegal fireworks, they will be confiscated.”

Seaside parks, playgrounds reopen

SEASIDE — Life got a little easier for Seaside families as the city reopened parks and playgrounds.

The city imposed emergency orders in March due to the coronavirus pandemic, closing parks and playgrounds.

At Monday’s City Council meeting, City Councilor Steve Wright asked the city to lift those orders in parks and playgrounds after the state issued new guidance this month allowing playgrounds to reopen.

The council unanimously voted to lift the closures.

Cannon Beach Library book sale canceled over virus

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach Library canceled an annual Fourth of July book sale because of the coronavirus.

The multiday event usually draws hundreds of people every year and is a major fundraiser for the library.

Phyllis Bernt, the library board’s president, said that, “given the coronavirus pandemic, the large number of people who work together to organize the sale and the hundreds of people who come to the sale, we don’t think it would be safe for our volunteers and patrons.”

The library will remain closed until Clatsop County enters phase three of Gov. Kate Brown’s reopening plan. However, the library is continuing to accept used book donations.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

June 25, 2020	June 24, 2020
CHELINI , Jeannette Adele, 94, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell’s Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.	LITTLE , Bonnie Louise, 67, of Warrenton, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Disorderly conduct • Joseph McCoy, 35, was arrested Thursday on S. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside for disorderly conduct in the second degree.	Hospital in Astoria for criminal trespass in the second degree, resisting arrest and harassment.
Criminal trespass • Patricia Marie Hill, 33, of Astoria, was arrested Wednesday at Columbia Memorial	DUII • Carl Cadonau, 75, of Portland, was arrested Thursday on Third Avenue and N. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY
Seaside City Council , 6 p.m., workshop on outdoor seating, City Hall, 989 Broadway.
TUESDAY
Astoria Library Board , 5:30 pm, Astoria Library, 450 10th St.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The remodeling of Astoria Middle School began with demolition of part of the campus this week.

Warrenton OKs \$42.2M budget

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

WARRENTON — The City Commission has passed a nearly \$42.2 million budget for the coming fiscal year, uncertain of how much the city will have in resources after the coronavirus pandemic and related closures blew a hole in local lodging and other tax sources.

Budgets throughout the state are due by the end of the month.

City Manager Linda Engbretson said that while the city was conservative in revenue forecasts, it will be necessary to monitor the budget and staffing levels moving forward.

“There was a lot unknown as we were preparing this, a significant impact to the general fund, a reduction because of the transient room tax dollars,” Engbretson said before the City Commission approved the budget Tuesday.

The city budgeted more



The Astorian

The Warrenton City Commission recently approved a \$42.2 million budget for the coming fiscal year.

than \$4.9 million for general daily operations, including \$2 million for police, \$855,000 for the fire, \$1.1 million for city administration, \$292,000 for community development, \$163,000 for parks, \$160,000 for Municipal Court and \$235,000 for contingency.

Engbretson pointed to the city’s beginning reserve balance, a \$250,000 reduction from this year’s budget, as a sign of the challenges the city will face.

Warrenton had planned to increase water rates by 5% and sewer by 4% to help pay for the increased cost of services but canceled the increases because of the virus impacts. The city also canceled a planned increase of two part-time support staffers in the police department, while laying off a marina worker and cutting seasonal help for parks.

The city, one of the largest in Oregon by land area, which can make providing utilities a challenge, has more than \$15 million going toward the Public Works Department. The spending will include more than \$11 million related to water treatment, more than \$2.5 million to storm sewers and nearly \$1.5 million toward sanitation.

The city also has about \$9.3 million in inappropriate reserves.

Late Seaside man identified as suspect in Kelso homicide

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

A Seaside man who started a fire in his home on S. Columbia Street before killing himself in February is the suspect in a murder in Kelso, Washington.

After a seven-month investigation, detectives with the Cowlitz County Sheriff’s Office identified Stephen Scott Penwarden, 69, as the suspect in the murder of Rick Huckaby.

Huckaby was shot multiple times by a suspect who entered his Kelso home in November. Huckaby’s wife was in the home at the time of the shooting but did not recognize the suspect.

The woman helped provide details about the suspect for a sketch artist to develop a composite. Investigators also recovered six .32 caliber casings from the scene.

Detectives obtained about 40 search warrants and subpoenas during the course of the investigation.

They later learned the Huckabys were friends with Penwarden, who committed suicide by shooting himself with a .32 caliber pistol in February before setting his Seaside home on fire. Officials say details from that investigation showed Penwarden used the same brand of ammunition that was used to shoot Huckaby.

Examination of the pistol by the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory confirmed it was the same pistol used to kill Huckaby,

and that it was purchased by Penwarden in 2008.

Officials say the investigation also revealed Penwarden purchased gasoline at Fred Meyer in Warrenton at 5:45 p.m. on the night of the murder. Huckaby was shot at 7:11 p.m., and the drive time from this gas station to Huckaby’s home is one hour and fifteen minutes.

Penwarden’s vehicle was also similar to a vehicle seen in Kelso at the time of the shooting.

The suspect sketch and the physical description of the suspect by Huckaby’s wife also bears resemblance to Penwarden.

Investigators say Penwarden was known to be a loner by family and neighbors, aside from his friendship with Huckaby. The two reportedly stayed at each other’s homes numerous times and were friends up until about six years ago, when Penwarden began to display mental problems and paranoia.

Penwarden reportedly believed Huckaby was at the center of a conspiracy against him, and blamed him for the loss of his job, divorce and other problems.

Penwarden’s home was in foreclosure. He also had a lengthy criminal history, including a case that involved assaulting teenagers.

Officials say all the evidence indicates Penwarden acted alone in murdering Huckaby, and that the investigation will be considered closed.



Stephen Scott Penwarden

ICE seeks to detain Seaside man

Arrested for domestic violence

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

A Seaside man arrested last week for crimes related to domestic violence is the subject of a detainer by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Saturnino Romero Martinez, also known as Jonathan Alejandro Luna, is a Mexican citizen and has been twice convicted of possession of controlled substances and trespassing, according to ICE. The federal agency also says he is an alleged member of a transnational criminal street gang known as the “Sureños.”

Martinez, 31, was arrested for attempted murder, strangulation, assault in the fourth degree, menacing, harassment and interfering with a police officer.

ICE lodged an immigration detainer with the Clatsop County Jail.

Martinez was arrested by ICE in 2010 in Denver, Colorado, for overstaying his term of admission into the U.S., and an immigration judge ordered him deported to Mexico.

U.S. Border Patrol arrested Martinez near Santa Teresa, New Mexico, later that year and he was convicted in federal court for illegal reentry, sentenced to eight months incarceration and deported to Mexico in February 2011, according to ICE.

That same month, U.S. Border Patrol arrested Martinez again near the Bridge of Americas. He was again convicted and sentenced to 21 months in prison before being deported to Mexico in 2013.

“Following his 2013 removal, Luna illegally entered the U.S. at an unknown time and location without being admitted or paroled by an immigration officer,” a spokesperson for ICE said.



Saturnino Romero Martinez

the Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)
Published Tuesday, Thursday
and Saturday by EO Media Group,
949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR
97103 Telephone 503-325-3211,
800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR
97103-0210

Circulation phone number:
503-325-3211
Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP
All advertising copy and illustrations
prepared by The Astorian become the
property of The Astorian and may not
be reproduced for any use without
explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©
Entire contents © Copyright,
2020 by The Astorian.

Printed on
recycled paper

Subscription rates
Effective May 1, 2019
MAIL (IN COUNTY)
EZpay (per month)\$11.25
13 weeks in advance\$37.00
26 weeks in advance\$71.00
52 weeks in advance\$135.00

Out of County Rates available at 800-781-3214
DIGITAL
EZpay (per month)\$8.00