

IN BRIEF

No fireworks allowed in state parks, beaches

Fireworks are prohibited in state parks and beaches, including on the Fourth of July.

Officials say fireworks can hurt people, cause wild-fires and create litter and debris.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department said the best way to prevent wildfires is safely building and extinguishing campfires.

“This is critical now more than ever, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, when a revenue shortfall means fewer rangers are available to patrol and respond to incidents,” Chris Havel, the department’s associate director, said in a statement.

— The Astorian

United Grain in Vancouver resumes exports

United Grain Corp. on Wednesday reopened the West Coast’s largest grain export terminal, which had been closed for four days as the company and health officials moved to contain the coronavirus.

The terminal was closed the afternoon of June 26 after two workers tested positive for COVID-19. The terminal resumed operations after the facility was sanitized and workers who had been exposed to the two sick employees had been quarantined, company spokeswoman Stephanie McClintock said.

Company employees, along with longshoremen and state grain inspectors, were tested. The company had not yet received the results as of Wednesday, she said.

“We wanted to be cautious and get everyone tested,” McClintock said.

Anyone who tests positive will be isolated and their close contacts will be asked to quarantine for 14 days, according to Clark County Public Health.

The terminal has more than 290 silos for segregating wheat and corn. The elevator has the largest capacity on the West Coast, able to handle 5 million tons a year, according to the port.

“We were in the full swing of things and that all stopped,” McClintock said. “It was just putting our employees first. You hear about it happening to someone else, but when it happens to you, whoa!”

United Grain has continued to operate throughout the pandemic as an essential business. The company leases the terminal from the port.

Washington officials report progress in halting virus in top farm county

Health officials are crediting a recent decline in new COVID-19 cases in Washington state’s top farm county to more people wearing masks in public.

The trend in Yakima County in central Washington contrasts with rising cases in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties in western Washington, according to a report led by the Institute for Disease Modeling in Seattle.

Yakima County leads the state in farmworkers and still leads in per capita cases of the coronavirus. Health officials, however, say that efforts to control the virus since late May are showing signs of success.

“Progress from the peak, though minor at this point, is encouraging,” according to the institute’s June 25 report.

More than 1 in 4 hired farm laborers in Washington work in Yakima County, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s census. The value of farm goods produced in the county in 2017 was more than \$1.9 billion.

— Capital Press

ON THE RECORD

DUII

- Tara Anne Massey, 34, of Warrenton, was arrested Wednesday on Alternative U.S. Highway 101 in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants, resisting arrest, reckless driving and attempting to elude a police officer.
- Amy Hollander, 34, of McLouth, Kansas, was arrested Wednesday on S. Roosevelt Drive and Avenue N in Seaside for DUII.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY
Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

TUESDAY
Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 1 p.m., work session on strategic plan, (electronic meeting).
Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway.
Clatsop Care Health District Board, 5 p.m., (electronic meeting).
Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.
Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

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Astoria honors local preservation projects

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Rosemary Johnson, a former city planner for Astoria, spent the past 30 years preparing nominations for the city’s Dr. Edward Harvey Historic Preservation Awards while slowly fixing up her own home on 15th Street.

Johnson’s 1880 Italianate was the award’s residential recipient this year, along with the downtown Mary & Nellie Flavel Building in the commercial category and the First Presbyterian Church on 11th Street for civic institutions.

The awards are named for the preservationist behind many of the plaques throughout town denoting the brief history of buildings. The recognition has been given out yearly since 1987 to the owners of residential, commercial, or public buildings that have undergone major, historically sensitive renovations.

Johnson and her husband, Curt, a retired ranger with the National Park Service, bought their first home on 15th Street in 1992 after years spent living in government housing.

“We bought it with the intention of restoring it to as much of the original as possible,” Johnson said. “And we knew it was going to be a lot of work, but we did not realize how much until we got into it.”

While hiring contractors for certain projects, the Johnsons and their children have mostly done the work themselves, replacing and repairing parts of the house as money became available. The family is still working on the indoors, a project Johnson said is two-thirds complete and will likely continue past her lifetime.

“This is fantastic, because you see all the good that people

Edward Stratton/The Astorian
Curt and Rosemary Johnson have spent the past 30 years fixing up the outside of their 1880 Italianate home on 15th Street.

do throughout the years,” Johnson said. “And to finally be able to have mine selected really feels great. Because we’ve put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into this project.”

Marcus and Michelle Liotta bought the run-down, empty Mary & Nellie Flavel Building at Ninth and Commercial streets in 2016. The 1924 building, named after the late Capt. George C. Flavel’s wife and daughter, had been an eyesore for decades and one of the last holdings of the famous Astoria family.

Since then, the Liottas have spent more than \$1 million hiring contractors and working themselves to stabilize the building’s sinking foundation, replace and repair the brick and terra-cotta facade, refurbish windows and fix up the

several downtown storefronts. Along the way, the couple won the Art DeMuro Award for Excellence in Preservation, the state’s highest honor for the preservation, reuse and revitalization of architectural and cultural sites.

They have since filled the once-vacant building with several tenants, including South Bay Wild Fish House, Terra Stones and Wild Roots Movement and Massage. In a former Sears storefront, Michelle Liotta runs Reclamation Marketplace, a collection of booths for artisans and antique collectors.

“We love being part of the community and bringing people to that side of town,” Marcus Liotta said. “We are still working on various projects, the basement in particular.

We’ve been kind of cleaning that up and renovating it.”

Bill Van Nostran, the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, said there has been a concerted effort over the past decade to raise money and restore the iconic yellow church, its sanctuary originally built in 1903 with donations from the Flavel family. They hired contractors to strip, repaint and restain the building’s exterior, repair the roof, replace a boiler, rebuild staircases, improve access for people with disabilities and restore the historic windows.

“What remains in the major maintenance effort is that the metal caps that adorned the parapets — the 16 parapets surrounding the top of the bell tower— those were in bad repair,” he said. “And so they’ve purchased new ones, and have yet to get a contractor to put them back up there.”

About three-quarters of the repairs were paid for by parishioners, Van Nostran said, while the project also received some grant support, community donations and volunteer work performed on the inside by Clatsop Community College’s historic preservation and restoration program.

In addition to hosting the Astoria Conservatory of Music, The Spirit Moves Dance Co. and the Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the First Presbyterian Church plays host to the Clatsop Emergency Food Bank, providing supplies five days a week out of its basement to those in need.

“We’re really striving to be a community center,” Van Nostran said.

The city plans to present the awards at the Astoria City Council meeting on Monday.

New coronavirus case reported by county

The Astorian

Clatsop County reported a man living in the northern part of the county has tested positive for the coronavirus. The man is in his 70s and was reportedly self-quarantining at home.

The county has recorded 50 cases since March 23. Forty-six have recovered

and the others are convalescing at home, according to the county.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 9,294 cases and 209 deaths from the virus statewide as of Thursday morning.

The health authority tracked 2,487 test results in Clatsop County, including 49 of the positive cases.

Police investigating jewelry store burglary in Astoria

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Police are investigating a burglary that took place last week at Holly McHone Jewelers in Astoria.

At about 11:30 p.m. on June 26, three suspects reportedly used tools to cut through floors, walls and eventually the safe, stealing an undisclosed amount of jewelry.

After investigation and contact with other law enforcement agencies, police say the burglary appears to be consistent with the work of a professional burglary ring known to target jewelry stores throughout the county.

Police learned from the Federal Bureau of Investigation that people involved in burglary rings are known to stay in an area for days or

even weeks as they plan to target a jewelry store.

They are known to use vacation rental homes and rental vehicles.

Police are looking to identify and talk to individuals seen in the store’s video footage who visited the business a few days before the burglary.

Police believe they may have been staying in a nearby vacation rental and visited other stores and restaurants in the area going back to June 12.

At this time, police said they just want to identify the individuals to aid in the investigation, and it is unknown if they are linked to the crime.

Businesses in the area with video security are asked to contact Astoria Detective Cory Gerig at 503-298-2547 or cgerig@astoria.or.us.

Summer intern joins The Astorian

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Morgan Grindy hadn’t considered pursuing a career in journalism until she took an introductory journalistic storytelling class at Oregon State University.

She quickly developed a passion for the craft of writing.

“I like putting a lot of work into something before it is published or finished,” Grindy said “Crafting, building and finding all the parts I need for it and making it as perfect as it can be.”

Grindy, 20, is from Lake Oswego and will begin her senior year at Oregon State in the fall, majoring in marketing with a minor in journalism.

She joined The Astorian for the summer through the Snowden internship program offered through the University of Oregon.

Since Oregon State does not have a journalism major, Grindy took every journalism and creative writing class offered

Morgan Grindy

before the school developed a journalism minor last year.

She hopes to gain more professional experience during her internship, in addition to her experience working on Oregon State’s student lifestyle magazine, Beaver’s Digest.

Grindy became editor-in-chief of the magazine last year and led the transition from having a print product to moving exclusively online.

“It felt like more of a project than an ongoing thing,” she said. “I felt like I was creating something new because the magazine had a very small online presence when it was in print.”

Grindy said she looks forward to learning more about the North Coast, pursuing local feature stories and continuing to develop her writing skills. The Snowden internship places student journalists at newspapers throughout the state.

“I think I ended up in the perfect place,” she said.

Volunteer
Pick of the Week

Beau

Aussie/Cattle Dog/Heeler Blend

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