

IN BRIEF

Pacific County prosecutor resigns

SOUTH BEND, Wash. — Pacific County Prosecutor Mark McClain resigned Thursday with an effective date of Aug. 3, citing unspecified “personal and professional reasons.”

He said the prosecutor’s office “is well positioned to continue to serve our community.” He expressed thanks for the opportunity to serve in elected office.

McClain has two years remaining in his second, four-year term. He was first elected in November 2014, defeating his former boss, then-Prosecutor David Burke, by a 59% to 41% margin.

McClain was reelected in 2018 by a similar margin versus challenger Pam Nogueira Maneman.

— *Chinook Observer*

Oregon putting names of ousted police online

SALEM — In the aftermath of the death of George Floyd in police custody, Oregon has released the names of over 1,700 officers whose transgressions over the past 50 years were so serious that they were banned from working in law enforcement in the state.

The online posting last week came after the state Legislature created a law requiring the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to establish a statewide public database of officers whose certification has been revoked or suspended.

“Those who are revoked have tarnished the badge and no longer have the trust of their community, their agency, or our agency as the certifying body,” department director Eriks Gabliks said.

The website includes a spreadsheet with the names of decertified officers going back to 1971. In at least one instance, a police officer who was decertified in Oregon obtained employment in law enforcement in another state, a situation that some say points to the need for a comprehensive, nationwide database.

— *Associated Press*

Forest threats include climate change, insects, disease and wildfire

Pacific Northwest forests face increased threats from severe wildfires, insects, disease and climate change, according to a new assessment released last week by the U.S. Forest Service.

The Bioregional Assessment evaluated 19 national forests and grasslands across the Pacific Northwest. It found that the Northwest Forest Plan and other directives were not fully achieving desired outcomes when it comes to the forests’ potential social, economic and ecological benefits.

Under the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, management plans changed dramatically for federal forests from the Canadian border into Northern California. The plan, adopted by the Clinton administration, curtailed logging and aimed to protect imperiled northern spotted owls and other species that depend on old growth forests.

The assessment came up with a list of recommendations from five different categories for the Forest Service and other federal land management agencies. They are required by law to develop plans that guide long-term management of public lands.

— *Oregon Public Broadcasting*

DEATHS

July 10, 2020

CARROLL, Rosalie, 85, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Criminal mischief

• Lori Suzanne Smith, 58, of Warrenton, was arrested Thursday on Sunset Beach Lane for criminal mischief in the second degree and disorderly conduct.

Criminal trespass

• Dorothy Virginia Olsen, 35, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on Fifth Street and the Astoria Riverwalk for criminal trespass in the second degree.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Seaside Community and Senior Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

Clatsop County Planning Commission, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting).

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

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

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 Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Professor preps students for climate change impacts

Rising sea levels main area of study

By MICHAEL KOHN
The Bulletin

BEND — Climate change models forecast plenty of doomsday scenarios that could play out over the rest of the century and into the 2100s. Elizabeth Marino wants to make sure young Oregonians are prepared for anything Mother Nature can throw at them.

Marino — a professor of anthropology at Oregon State University-Cascades — teaches environmental justice and social sustainability to students who aspire to become decision-makers at the local, national or even global levels. Her goal is to prepare them to manage disaster, without getting in nature’s path.

Instead of focusing on the construction of more infrastructure that was historically used to hold back nature, such as dams and levees, Marino teaches students how to analyze the social conditions of communities.

A better understanding of how communities function when faced with peril allows a society to be ready to respond to the specific needs of that area when disaster strikes.

“You can have a big hurricane with small impacts or a small hurricane with big impacts depending on what the social conditions are before the hurricane hits,” said Marino. “My students are trained to think about all the stakeholders that are going to be impacted by this (event).”

Variables can include housing density, wealth gaps, home construction standards and ease of access to evacuation sites, among others.

Marino’s main area of study has been rising sea levels, loss of sea ice and the impacts that these can have on communities from across the country. Last year, she



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Elizabeth Marino, a professor of anthropology at Oregon State University-Cascades, teaches environmental justice and social sustainability to students who aspire to become decision-makers at the local, national or even global levels.

was awarded a \$750,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study the effects of flooding on coastal communities.

Marino’s work includes “Fierce Climate, Silent Ground” — a book that describes climate change impacts in Shishmaref, an Alaskan village that is slowly being consumed by the sea.

While the threat of rising seas and disappearing beachfront property seems a long way from central Oregon, Marino said such a catastrophe can still impact the high desert.

Perhaps not this decade, or the next, but sometime later this century Marino believes coastal flooding could impact states beyond Florida and Louisiana — possibly rippling all the way to central Oregon — due to migrations and economic shocks.

“Between four and 21 million people are going to be migrating by the year 2100, linked to sea level rise, flooding and inundation and other events,” said Marino. “Big migration shifts will have an impact on the entire nation. Oregon receives migration from other states, and climate change may exacerbate that migration.”

Marino said future generations will need to find ways to keep migrants safe, and ensure that their movement is done in a planned way, rather

than a hurried, mass migration. Human rights and dignities need to be assured, she said.

Marino’s classes take a deep dive into such migration scenarios, and students learn how to deal with them from the ground up. She explains the tools needed to protect people suffering a slow-moving tragedy, as well as ways that the community receiving the migrants can help where needed.

“The next generation of thinkers — whether they be in Bend, Salem, Portland or Washington, D.C. — need to understand best practices in managing environmental risk and disasters when they arrive,” said Marino. “Especially since Oregon may itself be affected.”

Preparing for challenges that could occur decades from now doesn’t mean that students can’t also apply what they’ve learned from Marino when facing today’s challenges. Many of the disaster readiness programs she advocates can be applied to other crises, such as a coronavirus pandemic.

“Training my students to solve these very complex problems at both the national, state and local levels is good for our community,” said Marino.

While central Oregon doesn’t have a coast to be flooded, it does face climate

change challenges, including warmer winters and extended drought conditions that are already impacting the area’s farming communities. Weak snowpack and early melt-offs leave farmers short on water, resulting in fewer crops planted.

While farmers are already feeling the impacts of water shortages, further dwindling of central Oregon’s snowpack due to climate change could also impact municipal water supplies and fish habitats, said Scott Oviatt, snow survey supervisory hydrologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“Each facet of historic water use could be impacted,” said Oviatt. “While some uses might be able to adapt to modified consumption, others could not absorb shortages.”

In case such unfortunate circumstances come to fruition in central Oregon, Marino wants to make sure the next generation is able to step up and make the decisions based on what is best for the future residents of this area.

“For central Oregonians, questions revolve around water availability: who is affected, how are we affected, what are we going to do about water,” said Marino. “I think my students will be able to help answer that question.”

Gospel tent gathering opens with a small footprint

City clarifies allowed attendance

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

An old-fashioned gospel tent meeting opened on Sunday in Astoria, drawing an estimated 30 people to each of the two services held on a vacant lot near Dairy Queen.

The weeklong gathering, organized by Anchor Baptist Church, is one of the first larger events planned in Clatsop County since fears about the spread of the coronavirus led organizations to cancel or postpone most events beginning in March.

Mayor Bruce Jones stopped in for part of the afternoon service Sunday and drove by again during the evening service. Everyone he saw at the afternoon service wore face masks and followed public health guidelines, he said.

Family groups kept 6 feet of distance between each other. Attendees were asked to sign in before entering the tent in case contact tracing was needed later. The tent was fully open on three sides and partially open on a fourth.

Some residents voiced concerns to city and county officials last week about the timing of the tent meeting. They feared it could draw a large crowd and result in new cases of the virus.

“On the way home I drove through downtown and saw many more places where I would be more worried about the risk of transmission, if I were worried about the risk of transmission outdoors,”



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Bella Byers plays the piano at the start of the service on Sunday afternoon.

Jones wrote in a Facebook post, “which, based on the evidence, I am not.”

He told The Astorian he saw a much larger crowd at the Astoria Sunday Market. Crowd concerns, however, are greater when it comes to indoor gatherings and if people are not wearing masks, he noted.

Kevin Byers, the pastor of Anchor Baptist Church, is pleased with how the event has gone so far. Services are scheduled through this Sunday.

“You hope for the best and it’s really kind of in line with what I assumed we would have at the very beginning of all of this,” he said. “Capacity hasn’t been a problem and that’s good.”

The people who have come “understand we’re being scrutinized and that it’s important we follow instruction,” he said, adding, “We don’t want trouble. We want

to tell people about Jesus, and we have.”

Jones had said previously he wished the church had delayed the event. He said he understood why people were worried.

But, he wrote on Sunday, “Bottom line: all the right people and agencies have been contacted and spoken to about this event. Let’s stop assuming the worst, but rather hope (and verify) all public health guidelines are followed, and attendance is moderate.”

Under Gov. Kate Brown’s phase two reopening guidelines, indoor gatherings are restricted to 50 people and outdoor gatherings are limited to 100 people. However, churches, cultural groups and others have more fluid guidelines, with the ability to go up to 250 people if physical distancing of 6 feet is maintained.

Ahead of the weekend,

state health officials asked people to voluntarily limit indoor gatherings to fewer than 10 people for the next three weeks and to not host or attend larger gatherings. The tent meeting in Astoria was considered an indoor gathering, but city officials believe organizers have leeway with capacity because it is a church-related event.

The city issued two standard noise amplification and building permits for the gathering, but county and city officials say there is no other local oversight. Any violation of state safety guidelines will be handled by the state, they said.

Jones said he has spoken with the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which has the authority to enforce phase two guidelines for events. The city will notify the state if officials witness any violations or non-compliance issues, he said.

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

DailyAstorian.com
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

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