

## IN BRIEF

## Fort Clatsop to host meeting on park accessibility plan

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park will host a virtual public meeting at 2 p.m. Wednesday to collect comments on a plan to improve accessibility for visitors.

The park's draft Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan examines key park experiences — such as sites that help visitors better understand the life the explorers of the Lewis and Clark Expedition led during their stay at Fort Clatsop — and evaluates each area's accessibility needs.

The plan will guide changes to the way existing services, activities and programs are provided in multiple locations throughout the park.

To register for the meeting, contact the park at Lewi\_socialmedia@nps.gov

## State seeks candidate for fish restoration board

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking candidates to serve on a board that reviews grant proposals for fish restoration and enhancement projects.

The Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program Board is overseen by a seven-member, volunteer board that includes representatives from sport fishing, commercial troll and gillnet fisheries and the seafood processing industry.

The position open now is the single public-at-large representative.

For more info, visit [dfw.state.or.us/fish/RE/board.asp](http://dfw.state.or.us/fish/RE/board.asp).

## County seeking applicants for tax board

Clatsop County is seeking applicants for three positions on the county Board of Property Tax Appeals for the 2020 to 2021 term.

The board reviews petitions from taxpayers seeking to decrease their real market or assessed value of real and personal property.

The board has up to five meetings in February and March to hear petitions and adjourns by April 15. Training is provided in January.

Applicants must live in the county, but cannot be employees of the county or any taxing district. The county Board of Commissioners will make appointments to a pool and the county clerk will select three people.

Applications are available on the county's website and are due by 5 p.m. Sept. 18. Contact the Clatsop County Clerk's office at 503-325-8511 with questions.

— *The Astorian*

## DEATHS

Aug. 17, 2020

**GILBERT, Kendra** June, 78, of Warrenton, died in Portland. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

**PETERSON, Bradley**, 71, of Edmonds, Washington, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

**POCHERT, Alan**, 75, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom

Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 16, 2020

**DAWSON, Darle Gertrude "Trudy,"** 91, of Glen Cove, New York, formerly of Astoria, died in Glen Cove. Whitting Funeral Home of Glen Head, New York, is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 10, 2020

**STEELE, Patrick**, 70, of Seattle, Washington, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

## BIRTH

Aug. 1, 2020

**SCHLOSSER, Serena** and Aaron, of Chinook, Washington, a boy, Howard Martin Schlosser, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Ann and Tom Orwick, of Portland, and Constance and Martin Schlosser, of Kennewick, Washington.

## ON THE RECORD

## Assault

• **Margaret Katerina Wilski**, 21, of Gearhart, was arrested Friday on Bristol Street and Florence Avenue in Astoria for assault in the fourth degree.

## Theft

• **Tiffani Wetterauer**, 45, of Raymond, Washington,

was arrested Thursday at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the second degree.

## DUI

• **Bryce Anthony Whitman**, 32, of Portland, was arrested Wednesday on Sunset Beach in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## MONDAY

**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

## TUESDAY

**Clatsop County Board of Commissioners**, 1 p.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

**Warrenton City Commission**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave., (electronic meeting).

**Astoria Planning Commission**, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St., (electronic meeting).

## the Astorian

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Hailey Hoffman/  
The Astorian

## SUMMER SIGHTS

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Boys played pickup basketball at Fred Lindstrom Memorial Park in Astoria on Tuesday afternoon. Dancers appeared outside the Barbey Maritime Center on Thursday. Nathan Morris gleefully holds a large rock he and his friends pulled up from the bottom of the swimming hole at Youngs River Falls on Tuesday afternoon.**



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian



Morgan Grindy/The Astorian

## Protections sought for freshwater mussel

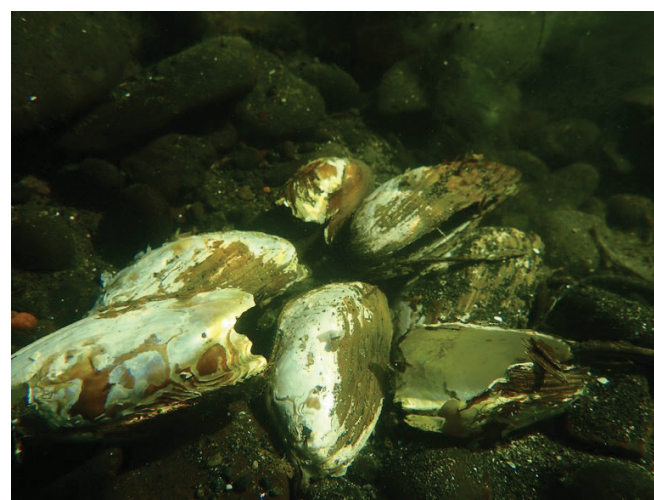
By **MONICA SAMAYOA**  
*Oregon Public Broadcasting*

A nonprofit conservation group has filed a petition for Endangered Species Act protections for a unique species of mussel that is vanishing from rivers and streams in the Pacific Northwest.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation's petition is aimed at improving the chances of survival for the western ridged mussel. It's found in the Pacific Northwest, along with some areas in California and Nevada. The species can live for many decades in rivers and streams and provide many benefits, such as filtering water where they are located.

When they're young these mussels hook onto sculpin and other native fish. By doing this, they can expand into other parts of the river, where they bury themselves in the sediment and filter and clean the riverbed.

The Xerces Society, along with other agencies and organizations like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian



Teal Waterstrat

**Empty western ridged mussel shells from a recent die-off found in the John Day River in Eastern Oregon in August.**

Reservation, have been working on several projects over the past two decades to learn more about this unique species. Some of those projects include tracking and monitoring populations and investigating recent die-offs in different river basins.

A 2017 analysis looked at historic versus recent distributing areas of the species and found that the populations have declined by almost 50% of its historic range and has been accelerating in recent years.

"We've been finding that

populations of this species are being hit by some kind of unexplained die-off that's causing many mussels to just die off over the course of a single event or sometimes over the course of several years," Emilie Blevins, a senior conservation biologist for the Xerces Society, said.

Blevins said the species can live for many decades and reach a mature age for reproduction in 15 years. She said the recent massive die-offs are alarming and protections are needed in order to learn more about the species and its threats.

Some of those threats include habitat destruction and degradation, impacts to water quality and quantity, pollution, warming rivers due to climate change, inadequate protection from recreational harvest and invasive species.

Mussels often look like rocks and can be hard to see. As such, they can be unintentionally destroyed by construction work — even when Pacific Northwest rivers are being restored to help salmon recovery.

"These mussels are totally open to the river

environment. They filter constantly. They spend their entire lives in the bottoms of rivers and so as a result anything that's affecting a local river can be causing harm to these species," Blevins said. "They can be very sensitive. They are able to really put up with a lot, but drying rivers, polluted rivers, warm rivers, all those can have a real impact on them."

Alexa Maine is the freshwater mussel project biologist for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. She said the western ridged mussels are important in two ways; historically and culturally for the Umatilla tribes and for the ecosystems they are found in. The tribes traditionally boiled or dried the mussels in the fall and stored them over winter as a supplementary food supply. Their shells were also used for jewelry, beads, ornaments and ceremonies.

"The cultural aspect is highly important and in the tribal culture we don't separate the cultural importance from the ecological importance," Maine said. "It has to do with this whole interconnection between the species and the river system. It's like the house of cards, you take one away and the structure might be still stable but less stable."

Maine called these mussels "the liver of the river" because of the way they filter and clean the water at a rate much higher than their body mass would suggest.

"If we can get more people on board and interested in mussels, I think we have a really good chance of helping these guys continue living and helping rivers," Maine said. "They can only help, they can't hurt. If we can help them, they can help us."

**Volunteer Pick of the Week**

**Mike**  
4 year old Tabby Cat

Limited vision does not curtail this sunny fellow's sunny disposition - he's just a lovely gentleman.

(Read about the pet of the week on Facebook)

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