

RELIGION BRIEFS

Astoria Christian Church
For service information and updates, go to astoriachristian.org or bit.ly/AstoriaChristian, call 503-325-2591 or email Astoria-Christian@gmail.com

Astoria First Baptist Church
First Baptist Church, 349 Seventh St., holds an in-person worship service at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. Social distancing is practiced, face coverings are required and hand sanitizers are available. The service is also broadcast at fb.me/astoriafirstbaptist

Astoria First United Methodist Church
For livestream service information and updates, email the church office at office@unitedmethodistastoria.org or call 503-325-5454.

Grace Episcopal Church
For updates, food pantry hours and in-person and livestream service information, call the church at 503-325-4691, email graceastoria4691@gmail.com or go to graceastoria.org or fb.me/GraceAstoria

Peace First Lutheran
For service information, go to astoriafirstlutheran.com under “Worship & Music/Videos & Resources” or bit.ly/FLCAstoria. To receive a DVD of the services and bulletin, call the office and leave a message.

Pioneer Presbyterian Church
WARRENTON — For service information, call the church at 503-861-2421 or go to pioneer-churchpcusa.org

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish
For information about the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry hours, and service and livestreaming information at both the Astoria church and Hammond mission, call 503-325-3671, email office@stmaryastoria.com or go to stmaryastoria.com or bit.ly/stmaryastoria

Carter wins Elks award

The Astorian

SEASIDE — Seaside High School senior Westin Carter was selected as the Most Valuable Student boy in the Northwest District of the Oregon State Elks Association. The judging was held at the Newport Elks Lodge, with competitors ranging from St. Helens to Florence. As a district winner, Carter will receive \$1,800. As a state finalist, his application has been forwarded to the association to compete against students throughout Oregon for further awards. He was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the Seaside Elks Lodge. Carter’s goal is to attend a university on an accelerated program, allowing him to graduate in four years with both a bachelor’s and master’s degree. He plans to major in business finance and minor in marketing.



Westin Carter

Fort George raises over \$28,000 for nonprofits

The Astorian

Fort George Brewery helped raise \$28,824 in 2020 for nonprofits and donated thousands of dollars in goods and services. Benefit Night is held on the last Tuesday of each month, culminating in November with the Magnanimous Mug Awards, and raised about \$21,000 in 2020 for local nonprofits. Since its inception in November 2016, Benefit Night has raised over \$375,000. Fort George also released two beers in 2020 specifically for fundraisers. The Resilience Beer Project helped those affected by the Australian bush fires. Through the sale of cans of the Black is Beautiful beer, 100% of proceeds went to the Black Resilience Fund of Portland. Together, those projects raised \$7,792 for their respective causes. In addition, Fort George’s kitchen staff donated meals on a regular basis to Filling Empty Bellies and the Astoria Warming Center. Local nonprofits interested in participating in Benefit Night can apply at fortgeorgebrewery.com by clicking the community link.

Fibre Federal Credit Union supports law enforcement

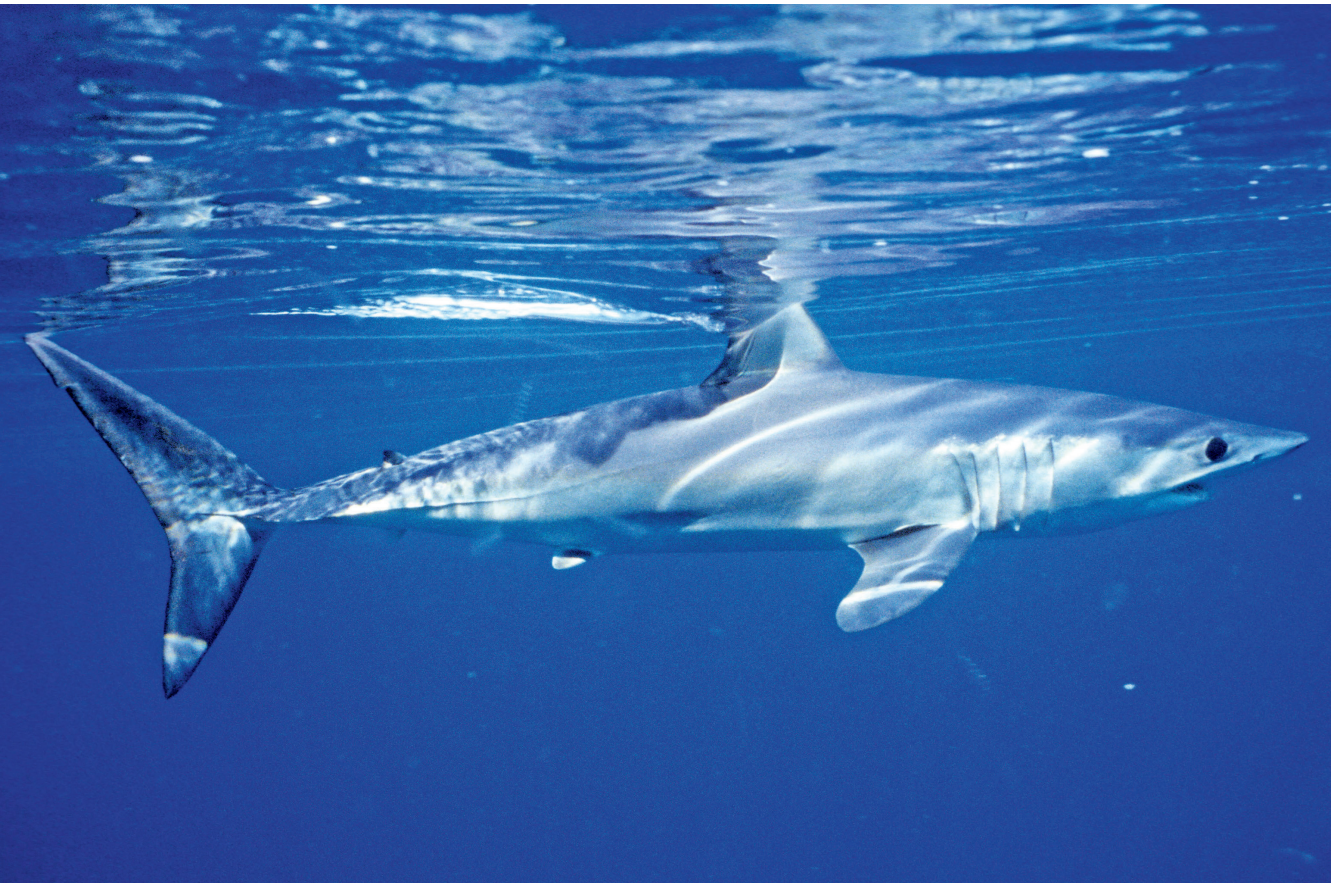
The Astorian

National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day was Jan. 9. In an effort to focus community attention on local heroes, Fibre Federal Credit Union and its division, TLC, celebrated the event during the first full week of January. All week, Fibre and TLC accepted donations for the Behind the Badge Foundation of Washington and the Oregon Fallen Badge Foundation. On Jan. 8, branch staff delivered “cop-cakes” to all local police, sheriff and state patrol officers as a token of appreciation for the officers’ service. And, for a small donation, staff members opted to wear Law Enforcement Appreciation badge stickers and dressed in blue and black clothing. At the end of the week, a total of \$521.78 was raised for the Behind the Badge Foundation and \$225 for the Oregon Fallen Badge Foundation.

Hospital holds AED funding contest

The Astorian

Columbia Memorial Hospital is holding its second annual automated external defibrillator contest in February, which is also American Heart Month. Two community organizations will win \$1,300 toward the purchase of AEDs to boost the survival rate of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. Any business, church or organization with a physical location in Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia, Wahkiakum or Pacific counties is eligible to enter the contest. Organizations can enter to win by writing a 250-word essay explaining why they need an AED on site. The entry form is at bit.ly/3phpwRO; entries are due by 5 p.m. Feb. 28. Winners will be chosen by the leadership of the WomenHeart of the North Oregon Coast in March, and announced afterward. Last year’s winners were the Hamlet Rural Fire Protection District and the Astoria Elks Lodge. Any organization that entered the contest last year and did not win is welcome to enter again.



Greg Skomal

A shortfin mako shark off the coast of Massachusetts in 2001.

Shark populations have dropped 71% since 1970

By CHRISTINA LARSON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When marine biologist Stuart Sandin talks about sharks, it sounds like he’s describing Jedis of the ocean. “They are terrific predators, fast swimmers and they have amazing senses — they can detect any disturbance in the ocean from great distance,” such as smells or tiny changes in water currents. Their ability to quickly sense anything outside the norm in their environment helps them find prey in the vastness of the open ocean. But it also makes them especially vulnerable in the face of increased international fishing pressure, as global fishing fleets have doubled since 1950. “You drop a fishing line in the open ocean, and often it’s sharks that are there first — whether or not they’re the primary target,” said Sandin, who works at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Scientists have known for decades that individual shark species are declining, but a new study drawing on 57 global datasets underscores just how dramatically worldwide populations have collapsed in the past half century. Globally, the abundance of oceanic sharks and rays dropped more than 70% between 1970 and 2018, according to a study published Wednesday in the journal Nature. And 24 of the 31 species of sharks and rays are threatened with extinction, while three species — oceanic whitetip sharks, scalloped hammerhead sharks and great hammerhead sharks — are considered critically endangered. “The last 50 years have been pretty devastating for global shark populations,” said Nathan Pacoureau, a biologist at Simon Fraser University in Canada and a co-author of the study. Sometimes sharks are intentionally caught by fishing fleets, but more often they are reeled in incidentally as “bycatch,” in the course of fishing for other species such as tuna and swordfish. Sharks and rays are both fish with skeletons made of cartilage, not bone. In contrast to most other kinds of fish, they generally take several years to reach sexual maturity, and they produce fewer offspring. “In terms of timing, they reproduce more like mammals — and that makes them especially vulnerable,” Pacoureau said. “Their populations cannot replenish as quickly as many other kinds of fish.” The number of fishing vessels trolling the open ocean has risen steeply since the 1950s, as engine power expanded ships’ range. And while climate change and pollution also imperil shark survival, increased fishing pressure is the greatest threat for every oceanic shark species. “When you remove top predators of the ocean, it impacts every part of the marine food web,” said Stuart Pimm, an ecologist at Duke University, who was not involved in the study. “Sharks are like the lions, tigers and bears of the ocean world, and they help keep the rest of the ecosystem in balance.”

Rising Stars virtual competition opens

The Astorian

Miss Oregon Volunteer and Miss Oregon Teen Volunteer 2021 are holding a virtual competition fundraiser. The competition, Rising Stars, is for children ages 12 and younger, and will help increase the organizations’ scholarship awards. For \$25, a child can compete in all areas of competition available for the child’s age or only specific categories. The fee is nonrefundable. For information, rules and to apply, go to missoregonvolunteer.com and click on “Rising Stars.” All applications must be received by Feb. 7. After applying, submit a video of the child in action in MP4 format. Videos must be submitted no later than Feb. 28. Winners will be selected by online voting at the same website, which begins March 1 and ends March 27. The highest number of votes determines the winner in each category and age group. All winners will be announced March 28.

SELF-HELP GROUPS

- Al-Anon (Astoria)** — For information, call 503-325-1087.
- Al-Anon (Clatskanie)** — For information, call 503-728-3351.
- Al-Anon (Nehalem)** — For information, call 503-368-8255.
- Al-Anon (Seaside)** — For information, call 503-810-5196 for information.
- Al-Anon (Tillamook)** — For information, call 503-842-5094 or 503-730-5863.
- Al-Anon Family Groups information** — Oregon Area Al-Anon website, oregonal-anon.org
- Alateen (Tillamook)** — For information, call 503-730-5863.
- Alcoholics Anonymous** — To find a meeting in Clatsop County, call 971-601-9220, in Tillamook County, call 503-739-4856, or go to aa-oregon.org
- Celebrate Recovery** — Faith-based 12-step recovery from hurts, habits and hang ups. For information, call 503-738-7453.
- Sexual Purity Recovery Group** — Part of the Pure Life Alliance (purelifealliance.org) in Portland. For information, call the confidential voicemail at 503-750-0817 and leave a message.
- Narcotics Anonymous** — For full schedule details, as well as upcoming special events, call the helpline at 503-717-3702, or go to na.org
- Overeaters Anonymous (Astoria)** — For information, call 425-287-0806.
- Overeaters Anonymous (Seaside)** — For information, call 503-738-0307.
- TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) (Astoria)** — For information, call Trisha Hayrynen at 503-298-9058.
- TOPS (Seaside)** — For information, call 509-910-0354.
- TOPS (Warrenton)** — For information, call Cheryl Nitz at 503-338-2132.



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