

## IN BRIEF

## Gearhart fire displaces eight residents

GEARHART — A fire in an apartment building in Gearhart on Sunday morning displaced eight occupants, two dogs and one cat.

According to Gearhart Fire Department Lt. James Hutchinson, the fire was reported at 11:29 a.m. and originated in the rear of the building on Pine Ridge Drive. The cause was determined to be an accident because of heat from a propane barbecue.

Occupants were being assisted by the American Red Cross.

## County distributes \$30,000 in grants to social services agencies

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday awarded \$30,000 in grant funding to nine social and human services agencies.

The Human Services Advisory Council subcommittee reviewed applications for funding. The subcommittee recommended funding organizations that provide services countywide, demonstrate a return on investment and meet the social and economic needs of residents.

Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific will receive \$5,000; Astoria Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation will receive \$5,000; Camp Kiwanilong will receive \$2,000; Clatsop Community Action will receive \$2,500; Grace Food Pantry will receive \$750; the Healing Circle will receive \$2,000; Helping Hands Outreach Center will receive \$5,000; Lower Columbia Q Center will receive \$2,750; and Restoration House will receive \$5,000.

## County creates fund to track federal stimulus money

Clatsop County will be receiving about \$7.8 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan during the current and upcoming fiscal year that will be available for use through 2024.

The county is also eligible for up to \$4.1 million in reimbursement for costs related to vaccinating residents against the coronavirus.

The county has created a special revenue fund to better track the money.

## County commissioners fill vacancy on Planning Commission

Clatsop County commissioners on Wednesday appointed a resident from the northeast part of the county to the Planning Commission.

Cary Johnson, a general contractor and former planning commissioner, was appointed. He replaces Bruce Francis.

Randolph "Tad" Pedersen, the former deputy state fire marshal for the region, also applied for the seat, but county commissioners unanimously supported the appointment of Johnson.

— The Astorian

## ON THE RECORD

## DUII

• Noel D. Martin, 43, of Portland, was arrested Saturday on U.S. Highway 26 for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, recklessly endangering another person and failure to perform duties of a driver in an accident with property damage.

• Evelina A. Kulga-

vaya, 23, was arrested Saturday on Del Rey Beach for DUII.

• Stephani Leann Moede, 52, of Gresham, was arrested Friday in Astoria for DUII.

• Scott D. Mueller, 70, of Warrenton, was arrested Thursday on S.W. Second Street and S.W. Alder Court in Warrenton for DUII.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

**Clatsop County Board of Commissioners**, 10 a.m., work session, (electronic meeting)

**Clatsop Care Health District Board**, 3 p.m., strategic planning, (electronic meeting).

**Port of Astoria Commission**, 4 p.m., (electronic meeting).

**Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission**, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

**Gearhart Small Business Committee**, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

**Shoreline Sanitary District Board**, 7 p.m., Hertig Station, 33496 Westlake Lane, Warrenton.

## WEDNESDAY

**Astoria City Council**, 1 p.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

**Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee**, 3 p.m., 989 Broadway.

**Gearhart Parks Master Plan Citizens Advisory Committee**, 5:30 p.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

## THURSDAY

**Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce Council**, noon, (electronic meeting).

**Warrenton Urban Renewal Advisory Committee**, 3:30 p.m., special meeting, City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

**Cannon Beach Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).



## PUFFINS RETURN

Puffins return to nest at Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Protesters gathered in downtown Astoria on Friday to honor the life of Daunte Wright. A police officer shot and killed the 20-year-old Black man last week after a traffic stop in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

## Blood urgently needed amid 'perfect storm' of factors

By BRIAN BULL  
KLCC

Blood donations are down to critical levels, according to a regional organization serving Oregon and Washington state.

Administrators with Bloodworks Northwest say they're experiencing a "perfect storm" of factors that are creating the shortage for all blood types.

"There's still lingering confusion over if people are eligible to donate blood after their vaccination," explained business development representative Mark Smith. "Also, with this great, amazing

weather that we're having, we're noticing an increase of people canceling their appointments or not showing up."

Bloodworks Northwest stresses that it's fine to donate a pint after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Smith adds that normally at this time of year, they'll have a four to five-day blood supply, but with cancellations, no-shows and high demand from hospitals, they're down to an emergency 24-hour supply, so donors are urgently needed.

In fact, the need for blood is at its most urgent since the pandemic began a year ago.

Hospital usage for the past week has been 118% above normal.

Smith said due to pandemic restrictions, drop-in appointments can't be accommodated.

"We do accept same-day

appointments, so if someone wakes up in the morning and says, 'You know what, I've got a free hour to, I'd like to donate blood.' We just encourage them to go online and see if there's an appointment available," Smith 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:  
800-781-3214

Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP

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Printed on recycled paper

Subscription rates  
Effective January 12, 2021

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