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Wyden convenes panel on crisis response

Federal money could help hire clinicians

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Federal money may help Clatsop County expand mobile crisis response.

Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, the county's mental health provider, has a mobile crisis team available to help law enforcement handle crisis calls, but inadequate funding and staffing has kept it from being a more effective resource for police.

The county plans to invest some of the \$7.8 million it is projected to receive in American Rescue Plan Act money to hire more clinicians.

Help may also become available through legislation led by U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden. The Oregon Democrat has pushed to enhance federal funding so states can expand on ideas like CAHOOTS, a crisis intervention program of the White Bird Clinic in Eugene.

"Under this approach, when there's a 911 call dealing with someone experiencing a mental health crisis, CAHOOTS sends trained health professionals as first responders instead of just police."

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Families struggle to get travel refunds

Student trips delayed by the pandemic

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Vicky Rutherford had always been told that if her son had a chance to go on the annual eighth grade history trip to Washington, D.C., they should jump at the opportunity.

So when her son was in seventh grade at Astoria Middle School in 2019 and it was time to sign up for the June 2020 trip, she didn't hesitate. She also signed up to join him as a chaperone.

But then 2020 arrived and, with it, the coronavirus pandemic. The trip, coordinated by Educational Travel Services Inc., based in Milwaukie, was suddenly in limbo, postponed until August 2020 and then to later in 2021.

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A NORTH COAST FOURTH

Fireworks light up the sky above Astoria on the Fourth of July.

Photos by Hailey Hoffman/
The Astorian

Locals and tourists celebrated a spirited Fourth of July with community events, parades and fireworks throughout the day Sunday.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Warrenton High School cheerleaders wave in the parade. • A person in a blow-up dinosaur costume walks down Main Avenue in Warrenton. • A miniature horse decked out in red, white and blue navigates the parade route. • A vintage truck rolls through the end of the parade. See more photos at [DailyAstorian.com](https://www.dailyastorian.com)



Patrick Webb/Chinook Observer

In publishing poetry, Andrew Puzauskas celebrates a lifelong passion for sharing ideas with the written word.

Ocean Park poet reflects on colorful past

Puzauskas has published two books

By PATRICK WEBB
Chinook Observer

OCEAN PARK, Wash. — He lives in southwest Washington state. It is clear his heart is in Lithuania. But Andrew Puzauskas is content.

The artist and poet became a Buddhist at 19 and the Zen concepts of mindfulness and balance permeate his adult life.

He has just published a second book of poetry. He hopes "Poetic

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people

States of Mind" will give readers "a warm afterglow." It follows last year's self-published "Journeys Backwards into Inner Space."

Identity infiltrates many verses of the new book, subtitled "Changing As We Go." "Exactly who I am is a decision I have postponed making," one poem declares.

Puzauskas was born in 1942. His earliest memories are of fleeing his native Lithuania, seeking refuge in defeated Germany. The Baltic nation, which dates to 1253, was occupied by the Germans during World War I, then by the expanding Soviet Union, then by the Nazis. As World War II ended, Soviet tanks rumbled back.

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