

IN BRIEF

Astoria woman dies after crash on Highway 30

An Astoria woman died Friday after a two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 30. Debra Livingston, 67, was driving east in a Honda Civic at about 8:20 a.m. when she veered into the west-bound lane and collided with an oncoming Toyota Tacoma near milepost 94 east of the city, according to the Oregon State Police. Livingston was pronounced dead at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. The driver of the Toyota was treated for injuries at the hospital. The crash closed the highway for about two hours, police said.

Coast Guard rescues man suffering medical emergency

A 57-year-old man having a medical emergency was medevaced from a fishing boat off the coast of Westport, Washington, on Thursday, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Coast Guard Sector Columbia River responded to a report from the charter vessel Ranger, where a man with a faint pulse was having trouble breathing and staying conscious, according to the Coast Guard.

A crew aboard a Jayhawk helicopter lifted the man, along with his son, off the 51-foot boat, which was then about 57 miles out to sea. Personnel from the Coast Guard cutter Sea Lion assisted with the rescue.

The man was in stable condition when he came ashore, the Coast Guard said. The pair were eventually taken to Harbor Regional Health Community Hospital in Aberdeen, Washington.

Judge hears Gearhart firehouse ballot arguments

Circuit Court Judge Beau Peterson heard testimony Thursday on a legal challenge to the wording of a ballot measure seeking a \$13 million Gearhart firehouse bond. Residents Jack Zimmerman and Harold Gable asked the court to suspend the bond vote until costs for the project are more fully determined.

The timing of the legal challenge prompted the Clatsop County clerk to remove the ballot measure from the November election.

"We're going to simply try to protect the Gearhart voter and make sure that they are fully informed about what's happening and what is going forward," Zimmerman said at the court hearing.

Voters who are weighing a bond measure to build infrastructure understand that architecture and engineering will go into that, City Attorney Peter Watts said. "I only have 175 words in the summary," he said. "I'm not going to say whether the light bulbs are going to be LED or not."

Peterson said he will rule on whether the ballot title is "sufficient, concise and fair" for a future election.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

Sept. 13, 2021

CARPENTER, Janice Jeanne, 78, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

DUI

• Robert Linn Stampfle, 41, of Astoria, was arrested on Sunday at the Sunset Beach access in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants. • Lonny Gene Radford, 35, of Hammond, was arrested Saturday on

U.S. Highway 101 near milepost 20 for DUI and reckless driving. • Mark Alan Vasquez, 30, of Gearhart, was arrested Friday in the Warrenton area of U.S. Highway 101 for eluding a police officer, DUI, reckless driving and reckless endangerment.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

- Clatsop County Planning Commission, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting). Clatsop Care Health District, 5 p.m., (electronic meeting). Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., work session, (electronic meeting). Lewis and Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business. Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave. Clatsop Community College Board of Education, 6:30 p.m., (electronic meeting).

WEDNESDAY

- Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 10 a.m., work session, (electronic meeting). Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting). Astoria City Council, 1 p.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St. Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway. Seaside Transportation Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

the Astorian

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Rowan Haldeman, 6, waved to his mom, Danielle, as he walked toward the school bus in Ilwaco last week.

The Astorian recognized for general excellence

The Astorian

The Astorian was recognized by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association for general excellence for work published in 2020, the top honor among newspapers of similar size.

The award in the annual Better Newspaper Contest, announced Friday, marked the first time The Astorian earned the top prize in more than a decade.

"The coronavirus pandemic upended life on the North Coast and placed significant personal and financial demands on our newsroom," Derrick DePledge, the editor of The Astorian, said. "Our staff kept their focus and did their jobs in a climate that was often politically fraught and hostile to transparency."

"When it mattered most, our staff matched the moment."

Along with general excellence, The Astorian won several first-place awards for pandemic-related coverage.

Nicole Bales, now a reporter at The Bulletin in Bend, won for best government coverage for a story examining Clatsop County's response to a virus outbreak at Pacific Seafood in Warrenton. The story was based on information the newspaper obtained through the state's public records law.

Hailey Hoffman, now a multimedia journalist at the Cascadia Daily News in Bellingham, Washington, won best photo essay for Portraits in a Pandemic, a series of front-page photos that depicted how life on the North Coast was disrupted by the virus.

The Astorian won best special section for Hunter/rise/surge: Coronavirus 2020, produced by associate editor Jonathan Williams and designed by production manager John Bruijn.



Schools close to contain spread of coronavirus

Classes canceled from Monday through March 31. By KATIE FRANKOWICZ The Astorian. With Gov. Kate Brown's decision to close public schools in Oregon to help contain the coronavirus, Jenny Wilson and her wife are according to "I just put in for it this morning."

Cruise ship visits canceled over pandemic

No Astoria stops through April 10. By EDWARD STRATTON The Astorian. The number of cruise ships visiting the Port of Astoria this spring continues to plummet.

'IT HIT THEM PRETTY HARD'

The Astoria girls basketball team waves out the window of Astor Elementary School as they drive by before their trip to Forest Grove.

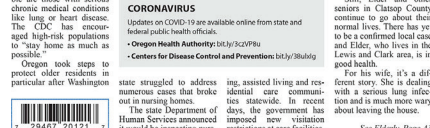


For the elderly, virus brings extra concern

Older people are at greater risk. By KATIE FRANKOWICZ The Astorian. Attendance has dipped at the Clatsop Care Center since Bill Elder goes for karaoke. With the arrival of the new coronavirus in the Pacific Northwest, Elder is careful to wipe the karaoke microphone between singers and he's abiding by federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, washing his hands frequently.

Events pause on the North Coast over virus fears

A precaution against threat of COVID-19. By JONATHAN WILLIAMS The Astorian. The Liberty Theatre is going dark through late April. Events at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center are canceled. Commuters from Astoria to Cannon Beach are being called off or postponed.



A sign outside Clatsop Care Center in Astoria reminds people to wash their hands. The care home has hundreds of other such facilities around the state, but new restrictions on who can visit residents over concerns about COVID-19.

Sears closes amid national pullback

A retail loss for downtown. By EDWARD STRATTON The Astorian. The owners of the Sears HomeStore store have closed up shop in Astoria, blaming issues with getting the right merchandise. As the national retailer and its specialty business continue to struggle, the store is being sold.

The Astorian won first place for front-page design.

The Astorian won best editorial and best editorial page for editorials calling on the county to be more transparent about workplace outbreaks and supporting cap-and-trade legislation as a step forward on climate change.

Alyssa Evans, who now works at Columbia Memorial Hospital, won for best lifestyle coverage for a story on how the arts adapted to the pandemic.

awards for work that was not related to the pandemic. Katie Frankowicz won best education coverage for a story about a new approach to math.

Gary Henley won best feature — personality for a look at a former Major League Baseball player who owns Grizzly Tuna. Hoffman won best news photo for a picture of the Warrenton teenager who organized local Black Lives

Washington state has little capacity to help Idaho virus patients

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

SEATTLE — Washington state is facing its own COVID-19 crisis and has little capacity to help neighboring Idaho deal with an overwhelming surge of cases driven by unvaccinated people, state hospital executives and doctors said Monday.

Taya Briley, the executive vice president of the Washington State Hospital Association, called the situation "very sobering" during a media briefing, saying Washington faces its worst COVID wave since the pandemic began — even before big recent events like fall fairs and a return to school.

Hospitals are canceling necessary surgeries and taking longer to deal with heart attacks and strokes because COVID patients are taking up so many beds. Nearly 1,700 patients are hospitalized with COVID, up from 350 in June and early July before the delta variant's spread among the unvaccinated drove the spike, Briley said.

More than 95% of hospitalized patients are unvaccinated — a staggering amount of unnecessary suffering, Briley said. Some 260 patients are on ventilators.

"When you walk down a hall that is full of COVID patients, it becomes very real," Briley said. "These

patients cannot catch their breath. ... They are, in effect, drowning. It's horrible for the patients and it's also something that causes horrible anguish for our staff."

About two-thirds of Washington residents age 12 and older had been fully vaccinated as of last week, and 74% have received at least one dose, according to Washington Department of Health data.

In conservative northern Idaho, only about 4 in 10 eligible residents are fully

vaccinated. Hospitals there are so packed that authorities announced last week facilities would be allowed to ration care, potentially giving lifesaving care to some patients at the expense of others.

Hospitals there have sent patients to hospitals in Washington, particularly in Spokane, though how many is not clear. The New York Times reported Monday that as of last week, Providence Sacred Heart in Spokane had patients from Idaho taking up 29 beds.

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