

IN BRIEF

Hospital to hold vaccination event for children at Astoria Armory

Children ages 5 to 11 can receive the Pfizer vaccine against the coronavirus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 13 at the Astoria Armory.

Children must be accompanied to the clinic by a parent or adult guardian. Only 320 slots are available, and people who RSVP at <https://cmhkidsvaccine.rsvpify.com/> will have priority over walk-ins.

"Parents, caregivers, school children and school staff have been waiting for this authorization," said Dr. Kelly Peekstok, a pediatric provider at Columbia Memorial Hospital, which will hold the event. "I think COVID-19 vaccines are safe, they're effective and they are what is best for our community."

Health officials in Oregon say they are expecting 180,000 initial doses of the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine, which is enough to cover nearly 53% of the state's roughly 342,000 children ages 5 to 11, the Associated Press reported.

Port receives grant for boatyard feasibility study

The Port of Astoria has received a \$45,000 grant from Business Oregon as part of the state's Port Planning and Marketing Fund. The money will be used to look at the feasibility of expanding the boatyard.

Along with the waterfront master plan, the Port is pushing for planning and development on the west side of the central waterfront, which includes the boatyard, Matt McGrath, the Port's deputy director, said.

— *The Astorian*

Long Beach OKs fireworks restrictions

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Come 2023, Long Beach will have new restrictions on fireworks over the Fourth of July holiday.

The City Council voted Monday to adopt an ordinance that cuts both the sale and use of fireworks from eight to five days. Under the ordinance, which cannot go into effect until one year from when it was adopted per state law, the sale of fireworks will be allowed within city limits from June 29 to July 3, and the discharge of fireworks will be allowed from June 30 to July 4.

The ordinance also limits the number of permits that the city grants for fireworks stands each year to two.

— *Chinook Observer*

Another Oregon county looks to join Idaho

BURNS — Another rural, conservative county in Oregon has expressed interest in becoming part of Idaho.

The Oregonian reported that voters in Harney County on Tuesday approved a ballot measure which requires local officials to hold meetings about moving the county into Idaho. The measure passed with more than 63% of the vote.

Harney became the eighth of Oregon's 36 counties to vote for considering adjusting Oregon's border to put much of rural eastern and southern Oregon in Idaho.

— *Associated Press*

DEATHS

Nov. 1, 2021
MORSE, Maxine M., 97, of Warrenton, died in Newberg. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 31, 2021
DAVENPORT, Douglas Doyle, 79, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

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HALL, Carla, 65, of Warrenton, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 30, 2021
JUST, Eunice Agnes, 90, of Knappa, died in Knappa. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault
• Elvis Pires Barbosa, 36, of Astoria, was arrested on Sunday on 35th Street in Astoria for assault in the fourth degree constituting domestic violence, reckless endangering and criminal mischief in the second degree. The crimes are alleged to

have occurred on Oct. 27.

Criminal conspiracy
• Shaquala Sherroyce Allen, 32, of Portland, was indicted on July 27 for two counts of criminal conspiracy, theft in the first degree and theft in the second degree. The alleged crimes occurred in Clatsop County in the second half of 2019.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council, 3 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Warrenton Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

the Astorian

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PUMPKIN DROP

Spectators watched as a crane raised the roughly 1,300-pound pumpkin before dropping it in Seaside on Saturday.

Lydia Ely/
The Astorian



County reports 28th virus death

The Astorian

Clatsop County reported a 28th death related to the coronavirus.

A 53-year-old woman

died on Oct. 13 at a local hospital, according to the county.

No other information was immediately available.

The Oregon Health

Authority, meanwhile, disclosed several coronavirus cases in the county.

The health authority reported four new virus cases on Tuesday, eight new

cases over the weekend and six new cases on Friday.

Since the pandemic began, the county had recorded 2,478 virus cases as of Tuesday.

Homeless: Concerns about safety downtown continue

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Such complaints are familiar to anyone who frequents downtown or has spoken with businesses in recent years. Astoria's homeless population has become more visible, and, by some estimates, much larger, while affordable housing and social services have not kept pace.

In a letter to the City Council, Britney Brim, an employee with Caring for the Coast, a business that provides in-home care for the elderly and disabled, said the business has been dealing with unwanted and unsettling behavior from homeless people in front of their Commercial Street office for months.

"This is affecting the business's daily operations and the care we are providing to others in the community who also need assistance," she wrote.

'I want to help our community'

LIFEBoat Services opened in August in a space previously used by the Capricorn Pub. The move was the realization of a long-held goal to provide an indoor place for the homeless to access resources.

LIFEBoat combines Beacon Clubhouse, a members-only center that provides mental health support and other services, and Filling Empty Bellies, a nonprofit that serves meals to anyone in need and connects homeless people with services. Filling Empty Bellies previously served people at public parks.

For LIFEBoat Services, the complaints raised at Monday's meeting are frustrating.

Some of the issues pre-date the nonprofit's move to Commercial. Others are beyond the control of LIFEBoat's only two paid employees, said Osarch Orak, the director of Filling Empty Bellies. He runs LIFEBoat Services with his partner Erin Carlsen, the director of Beacon Clubhouse and former director for Filling Empty Bellies.

When LIFEBoat moved to Commercial, Orak said he reached out to neighboring businesses and told them to contact him if they had any questions or concerns. But he hasn't heard from anyone. Instead, people go to city councilors, police and the mayor with their complaints, he said.

"I don't want to create problems," Orak said. "I want to help our community."

"I just don't appreciate all the negativity because there are better ways to deal with people's concerns," he added. "Let's talk about it."

The community and city and county leaders recognize homelessness is an issue that needs to be addressed, but Orak said he has seen little to no tangible, financial support from local governments for the work he and Carlsen are engaged in. He works seven days a week and pays himself a token salary.

If LIFEBoat had better financial support from groups that benefit from the gaps the nonprofit fills, Orak said he would be able to hire more employees. He tries to address illegal or concern-

ing behavior outside the LIFEBoat facility — when he sees it.

"I don't have time to go stand on the sidewalk," he said. "I can't make them do anything, but it would help if we had more manpower."

Police caught in the middle

Hilton would like to see people engaging in bad or harassing behavior arrested, even just for 24 hours "so they get some idea that they can't cause trouble in our city," he said on Monday.

Police Chief Geoff Spalding feels caught in the middle between people who want the city to do more to help the homeless and people who feel the city isn't doing enough to address issues that impact the rest of the community.

Concerns about safety downtown continue to remain a matter of perception, he said. Other homeless people are still predominately the victims of crimes committed by the homeless. Most of the complaints officers field do not concern illegal activities. Instead, callers report feeling uncomfortable or unsafe.

City leaders may revive a discussion about creating exclusion zones, defined areas where someone who persists in bad behavior could be banned from entering. Exclusion is based on conduct, not hous-

ing status, but these types of zones may be tricky to create or enforce given new legal protections for the homeless.

Spalding is not surprised about the complaints on Commercial Street. Similar complaints followed Filling Empty Bellies at the public parks.

"It's just one of the unintended consequences of providing a meal to a bunch of individuals who have nowhere else to go before or after," he told The Astorian.

But for several years now, the stretch of Commercial between Ninth Street and 11th Street has been a place where people without homes socialize and sleep. A previous owner of the Astoria Downtown Market, next door to LIFEBoat, had regular homeless customers and provided help when he could, sometimes offering people a place to sit and get out of the bad weather.

Still, Spalding senses a rising tension and a growing frustration among some people in the community. Police are fielding increasing calls about the Garden of Surging Waves, where a number of homeless people take over sections of the park.

For now, Spalding plans to reach out to Clatsop Community Action's homeless liaisons and monitor the Commercial Street area more closely.

GAME MEAT PROCESSING



Debbie D's will be at **Cash & Carry** in Warrenton at **10:00 a.m. every Saturday** to pick up and deliver meat for processing.

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