

## IN BRIEF

## Walgreens employee in Warrenton stabbed in parking lot

A Walgreens employee in Warrenton was stabbed in the pharmacy's parking lot on Saturday night.

The suspect, a male wearing a black hoodie with white lettering, had fled on foot, running through Walgreens' east-side parking lot, Warrenton police said.

He was seen with a sharp weapon, which caused a serious but not critical wound to the 70-year-old male victim, who was transported for treatment at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. The victim lives in Warrenton.

Warrenton police have partnered with the Clatsop County Major Crime Team to investigate the incident.

Anyone with information is asked to contact officer David Yelton at [dylton@ci.warrenton.or.us](mailto:dylton@ci.warrenton.or.us) or 503-325-8661.

## Offices to close for Thanksgiving holiday

In observance of Thanksgiving Day, all federal and state offices are closed Thursday. County and city offices and services, including Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach city halls, are closed Thursday and Friday. All U.S. post offices are closed Thursday, and there is no mail delivery.

The Astoria School District and Clatsop Community College are closed Thursday and Friday. The Knappa and Seaside school districts are closed Wednesday through Friday. The Jewell and Warrenton school districts are closed Monday through Friday.

The Astoria Library and Warrenton Library are closed Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Seaside Library is closed Thursday and Friday.

The Port of Astoria offices and services are closed Thursday and Friday.

Recology Western Oregon garbage collection customers whose regular service is on Thursday will have their garbage picked up on Friday; customers whose regular service is on Friday will have their garbage picked up on Saturday. The Transfer Station is closed Thursday. City of Warrenton garbage collection customers whose regular pickup day is Thursday will have their garbage picked up on Friday.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside and the Astoria Aquatic Center are closed Thursday.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum, Oregon Film Museum, Flavel House and Carriage House are closed Thursday. The Uppertown Firefighters' Museum is closed for the winter.

The Sprouts Learning Center is closed Thursday and Friday. Fort Clatsop is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Columbia River Maritime Museum is closed Thursday.

Sunset Empire Transportation ("The Bus") is not running Thursday.

— *The Astorian*

## DEATHS

**Nov. 20, 2021**  
KILLION, David Clinton, 81, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

**Nov. 19, 2021**  
QUINN, Vivian, 95, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

the arrangements.

**Nov. 13, 2021**  
HAGMAN, Mark, 67, of Madras, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

**Nov. 1, 2021**  
MATTILA, Vickie, 82, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

## ON THE RECORD

**Theft**  
• Thai Clappe, 39, of Astoria, was arrested on Friday at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the second degree and criminal trespass in the first degree.

**DUII**  
• Richard Nelson Surgeon, 63, of Goodyear, Arizona, was arrested on Saturday on U.S. Highway 26 near milepost 4 for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

**Clatsop County Planning Commission-Countywide Citizen Advisory Committee**, 9 a.m., joint meeting, (electronic meeting).

**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District**, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

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

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

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

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

## WEDNESDAY

**Astoria Parks Board**, 6:45 a.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

## the Astorian

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## Experts advise eating one crab species to save another

By KALE WILLIAMS  
*The Oregonian*

Sometimes the best thing you can do to help a crab survive is to eat a crab.

At least that's the case when two species, one native and one invasive, are competing for the same resources, as has recently come to pass in Coos Bay on the southern Oregon Coast.

The European green crab, described by researchers as an "aggressive invader," has been making its way around the world's temperate coastlines over the past century. In the past six years, it has been making increasing inroads in Coos Bay, according to Shon Schooler, lead scientist and research coordinator at South Slough Reserve, which recently published a study on green crabs in the region.

"Green crab numbers have reached a critical point where we can begin to expect negative impacts on surrounding coastal and estuarine habitat and other organisms," Schooler said in a statement. "This in turn may impact our local fisheries."

Green crabs destroy eelgrass meadows, important food sources for other species, and they prey on clams, oysters and mussels. Most troublingly, though, the invaders also displace juvenile Dungeness crabs, which are native to the Oregon Coast, and make them more vulnerable to predators.

The spread of the green crab is not isolated to Coos Bay, either, said Sylvia Yamada, an assistant professor at Oregon State University.

"All estuaries follow similar trends," Yamada said in a statement. "In the past, green crab larvae were carried in warm ocean currents to Oregon from established populations in California. Now that green crabs are abundant in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, there is evidence some larvae are coming from the north, while others are reproducing locally. This doesn't bode well for the future unless we get a series of years when the water is colder."

Coastal residents, visitors and Dungeness crab lovers are not powerless against the tide of green crabs washing



Experts are hoping the public can help stem the tide of the European green crabs, an invasive species competing for resources with Oregon's native Dungeness crab population.

## Crab season: 'I think we're headed for some positive stuff'

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At the same time, domoic acid — and the diatom that produces the naturally-occurring marine toxin — seems to have almost disappeared from ocean waters off Oregon and Washington.

Crabbing vessels can begin to set gear on Nov. 28 and could begin pulling ocean crab pots on Dec. 1.

It is the first time in years that Oregon has cleared meat fill hurdles in the first round of tests, said Tim Novotny, spokesman for the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission.

A starting price per pound still needs to be set, but, Novotny said, "we are over one big hurdle to a potential Dec. 1 opener for the first time since 2014."

Last season, the state gave commercial crabbers the green light in mid-December but regional price talks and elevated levels of domoic acid in Washington delayed the start of season.

Still, with the all-clear from the state this season, fishermen and buyers can begin to prepare in earnest earlier than has been normal for a while.

Crab could be at markets in time for Christmas this year, another first in a long time, said Dan Ayres, coastal shellfish manager with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Commercial Dungeness crab is one of Oregon's most valuable fisheries.

Despite a delay last year, fishermen still landed 12.2 million pounds coastwide in Oregon for an ex-vessel value of \$60.6 million. The West Coast fishery is managed under a tri-state agreement between Oregon, Washington and California.

Cold water off the coast now could also mean domoic acid is unlikely to be an issue this winter. The toxin load in razor clams — an important indicator species when it comes to tracking the presence of domoic acid — is in the single digits and dropping in Washington state, Ayres said.

In Oregon, domoic acid and pseudo-nitzschia, the diatom that produces the toxin, is just "background noise at this point," said Matt Hunter, shellfish project manager with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"You never give it 100% confidence, but I think compared to past years it certainly looks better than it was," he said.

The good meat fill results may also be a boon for the fishery beyond allowing for an earlier start. Fishery managers do not use the tests to predict crab abundance, but Ayres said they did see a higher number of crabs in pots they pulled.

It is impossible to predict very far in advance for any fishery, however.

"We'll see what we see when we get there," Ayres said.

But, he added, "I think we're headed for some positive stuff ahead."

up on Oregon's shores, however. Officials and experts alike are asking the public to do its part by catching and consuming some of the uninvited crustaceans.

The South Slough Reserve even published some culinary recommendations for eating green crab, including how to identify, clean and trim the critters

— for both soft- and hard-shell varieties — as well as recipes for green crab ceviche, green crab fried rice and green crab stock, among others.

## Knappa Fire: Women were subjected to sexist comments

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Although both Olheiser and Sue Stunkard, a fire district board member, said Lenz did not apply for the lieutenant rank, they acknowledged that the fire district did not have a formal application process in place. In the absence of a process, promotions happened by appointment and at the chief's discretion.

Lenz was "both the only woman to hold an officer role and was also the only officer who was not given the lieutenant ranking," the report said.

"Chief Olheiser was unable to explain why he had not given (Lenz) an officer ranking and therefore could not provide a legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason for his actions," the report said.

Fire Chief Kurt Donaldson put a formal application process in place after he replaced Olheiser in 2019.

The bureau found that Lenz and another female colleague were not given the same chances to participate in training needed to advance professionally.

In addition, women on the



A longtime Knappa firefighter faced gender discrimination, the state found.

crew were subjected to sexist and degrading comments. One male coworker described a woman as "too fat and short to be a firefighter" and claimed that women "should not (be) on the fire service," the report said.

This same coworker "refused to let the women perform certain aspects of their jobs, berated and demeaned them in front of others, including new recruits, and may have affected the way others in the fire district perceived or treated" the women on staff,

the report said. Lenz discussed the harassment and discriminatory treatment with Olheiser, who did not take corrective measures.

She also shared her concerns with Stunkard and the rest of the fire board, but the unprofessional behavior went unaddressed.

Olheiser also made it clear he did not appreciate that Lenz had gone to the board, according to the report.

In April 2019, Lenz was "suspended from conflagration fires for one year." She discovered that the fire district had "replaced her as EMS officer without notifying her." Lenz, who had been with the district since 2003, perceived these moves as retaliation.

Lenz filed her complaint the next month.

The Bureau of Labor and Industries' report said the fire district denied many of the allegations, including that women on staff were denied career opportunities based on their gender. The district said in its defense that Lenz had "never officially reported unlawful conduct to the board, and only raised concerns during an unofficial get-together of board members."

The report, however, found that "admissions, witness statements and text messages are substantial evidence that (Lenz) reported gender discrimination to Chief Olheiser, Sue Stunkard, and to the board, and that (the district) did not take immediate or appropriate corrective action."

Asked about the state's findings and Lenz's potential lawsuit, Donaldson said the fire district does not comment on personnel matters.

It is worth discussing, he said, "how woefully unrepresented women are in the American fire service overall."

Donaldson said the fire service "should strive to look like the folks that we work for, and we don't."

The fire chief said, "We as a service need to be doing everything we can to get more equal representation in our ranks."

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