

IN BRIEF

Seaside delays homeless ordinance

SEASIDE — The City Council wants more information before adopting a new camping ordinance designed to address homelessness.

The ordinance, presented at a December meeting and modeled on a similar regulation in Coos Bay, would help the city respond to federal court rulings and a state law that limit restrictions on public camping unless there are adequate shelter beds.

The City Council voted Monday to schedule a workshop on the topic prior to the next council meeting.

County residents invited to participate in survey

Clatsop County residents are invited to take a survey to rate the county's livability, economy, public services and other measures of overall health.

Participants will be asked about topics like health care and housing, jobs and traffic, whether the county is worth visiting and what it is like to raise a family here.

The survey is meant to inform the county Board of Commissioners and county staff as they craft policy and determine budget priorities in the service of long-term goals.

The survey began in the fall with 3,200 households receiving mailed survey forms or postcards that directed them to online links, the county said. Those households, which represent a random sample of the community, can still complete the survey if they haven't already.

Visit the county's website to participate. The deadline is Jan. 26.

County seeks applicants for 4-H council

The 4-H & Extension Service Advisory Council is seeking to fill open positions.

The council, which meets quarterly, works with the Oregon State University Extension Service and Clatsop County's extension staff to ensure extension programs are addressing local needs, the county said.

Applications are available via the county's website.

— *The Astorian*

Pacific County facing 'worst point' of pandemic

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The worst wave of the coronavirus pandemic to date has arrived in full force in Pacific County.

According to the county health department, 189 new cases of COVID-19 were reported locally over the past week, even as a lack of widespread testing remains an issue after a company that provides virus testing had to postpone the beginning of its testing operations in the county last week due to a staffing issue.

"We're officially at the worst point in the entire pandemic," Katie Lindstrom, the county's health director, said.

— *Chinook Observer*

DEATHS

Jan. 9, 2022

BEUGLI, David Scott, 81, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIAL

Saturday, Jan. 15

NIELSEN, Kaare M. — Memorial at 11 a.m., Finley-Sunset Hills Mortuary, 6801 S.W. Sunset Highway in Portland.

ON THE RECORD

Burglary

Andrew James Benson Oyler, 25, a transient linked to Seaside and Astoria, was indicted last week for burglary in the second degree, theft in the second degree and criminal mischief in the second degree. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in July 2020.

DUII

Russell Stewart Mason, 59, of Portland, was arraigned in December on charges of driving under

the influence of intoxicants, unlawful possession of methamphetamine, driving while suspended or revoked and failing to drive within a lane. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in August.

Jody Ann Wickett, 52, of Hammond, was arrested on Saturday at the Mini Mart on E. Harbor Drive in Warrenton for DUII, refusing to take a Breathalyzer test and improper lighting equipment.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission,

5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

the Astorian

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Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Parts of state Highway 202 were flooded during stormy weather last week.

State works to repair culvert and reopen Highway 202

Highway closed outside Olney after heavy rains

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian

State Highway 202 is expected to reopen soon once a metal culvert that collapsed southeast of Olney last week during heavy rains gets replaced, the Oregon Department of Transportation said.

The culvert failed beneath the road near milepost 10.5 on Jan. 6 due to the recent wet and stormy weather, the department said. The road has been impassible and flaggers have been blocking travel. "It's unsafe to cross,"

Angela Beers-Seydel, a public information officer with the department, said.

"It looks like you could drive over it," she said, "but it wasn't designed to be a bridge, and right now, with nothing supporting it, that's basically how it's functioning."

ODOT has hired a contractor to do repairs and hopes to have the road open this weekend.

Lewis & Clark Timberlands has given residents who live off Highway 202 access to a logging road during daylight hours to avoid the blockage. It can also be used for emergency services access.

"We accept a lot of liability

when we open our property for any kind of motor vehicle access, but in an emergency, we viewed it as more important to serve our community than to have liability be the driving factor there," Chad Washington, the stewardship and community engagement coordinator at Lewis & Clark Timberlands, said.

The closure has also interrupted mail service.

"It's inconveniencing about 40 families," David Enslow, who lives in the area, said.

Enslow said his neighbors, not knowing how long the road would be disabled, wondered if they would need to put up a campsite some-

where or get temporary living quarters elsewhere.

Beers-Seydel said it will take a bit of work to get the culvert replaced and that department personnel "appreciate people understanding that our goal is to keep everyone safe."

"This time of year, especially with the weather we've been having, people just need to be extra cautious, because roads are open, but travel isn't normal," she said. "We still are seeing a lot of debris on the road, high-water areas and other issues."

"And so we appreciate just people being careful out there, driving with caution, and when they do see something, let us know."

Liberty Theatre sees virus-related cancellations

By ABBEY McDONALD
The Astorian

The Liberty Theatre is playing its event schedule by ear for the next few months as coronavirus cases are expected to increase statewide.

The Astoria theater has had 15 cancellations of shows and private events this month, but remains open.

The Liberty still plans on a screening of the film "What Happened, Miss Simone?" on Sunday and a performance by the band Five Letter Word hosted at Fort George Brewery on Jan. 20.

"At this moment, everything that's on the website is moving forward," said Jennifer Crockett, the theater's executive director.

To determine cancellations, she said that they have been consulting with performers and patrons about their comfort level in advance.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

A recent surge in coronavirus cases has taken a toll at the Liberty Theatre.

"It's a big collaboration. We try not to make deci-

sions on our own," Crockett said.

The theater also sends an online survey to its mailing list of around 7,000 patrons. Sometimes, the results say the majority aren't comfortable returning to the theater.

If a show is canceled or postponed, the theater contacts ticket holders to offer them a choice between a refund or credit toward a future show.

"So far, the events that are coming up, we have 640 seats and ticket sales are still down. I think a large portion of our audience is not ready to come back yet," Crockett said. "And so there's plenty of room to spread out."

She said the upcoming shows have around two-thirds vacancy. The theater has stopped selling concessions, likely until mid-February, to encourage attendees to keep their masks on.

The theater will continue to evaluate its schedule two weeks at a time, considering county virus case numbers.

Coast Guard cutter Steadfast postpones patrol after virus cases

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian

The Steadfast, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter that homeports in Astoria, has postponed a scheduled patrol due to a coronavirus outbreak among the crew.

The Coast Guard did not say how many crew members contracted the virus but said the infected individuals are isolating to contain the spread and minimize transmission.

"The protection of our workforce and those we serve remains our highest priority," Lt. Cmdr. Scott Carr, a public affairs officer, said in an email.

"Coast Guard cutter Steadfast's crew closely followed the unit's pandemic



Coast Guard

The Steadfast has postponed a patrol over coronavirus cases.

plan and multiple steps are being taken to ensure operational readiness is main-

tained," Carr wrote.

The Steadfast, a 210-foot Reliance-class cutter under the command of the Coast Guard Pacific Area, typically patrols the western waters off North and Central America. The crew focuses on homeland security, search-and-rescue operations, enforcing laws, pro-

tecting marine sanctuaries and other missions.

"The science will determine when they're able to safely depart," Carr said in an interview.

Seventy-six people are normally assigned to the cutter, but the Steadfast is operating with additional personnel.

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