

IN BRIEF

Astoria to hold public information meeting on sidewalk project

Astoria and the Oregon Department of Transportation will host a virtual public information meeting Thursday to discuss upcoming construction projects along state Highway 202.

The projects include construction of a new sidewalk, bike lane, retaining walls and drainage improvements between Dresden Street and Fifth Street.

The city is also planning to replace an aging waterline along the highway between Alameda Avenue and Fifth Street.

State discloses virus case at local school

The Oregon Health Authority has disclosed one new coronavirus case at a school in Clatsop County.

The case was a student from Hilda Lahti Elementary School in Knappa, according to the health authority's weekly outbreak report.

Free fishing during Presidents Day weekend

Fishing, clamming and crabbing will be free statewide during Presidents Day weekend.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will not require fishing and shellfish licenses or tags. All other regulations, including bag limits and size restrictions, still apply.

Before harvesting crabs and clams, call the Oregon Department of Agriculture's shellfish safety hotline at 1-800-448-2474 or visit the website at oregon.gov/ODA to check for closures due to biotoxins.

County revises voter precinct numbers

Recent adjustments made to Clatsop County Board of Commissioners' district boundaries after the census have changed the numbering of voter precincts.

The county clerk's office has numbered the precincts 101 through 125.

Voter ID cards reflecting updated precinct and district numbers will be mailed out around early March, the county said.

March 8 is the deadline for potential candidates to file for county commission seats 1, 3 and 5 for the May election.

Tillamook man to run for state House

Logan Laity, of Tillamook, has filed to run in the Democratic primary for state House District 32.

Laity, a volunteer coordinator and a small-business owner, was one of the eight candidates nominated by the Democratic Party of Oregon to fill a state Senate District 16 vacancy. Laity finished fourth in voting at a party meeting in Seaside in January.

State Rep. Suzanne Weber, R-Tillamook, is giving up her seat to campaign for Senate District 16.

— *The Astorian*

Weyerhaeuser receives \$40,000 water quality fine from Washington state

LONGVIEW, Wash. — The Washington Department of Ecology has fined Weyerhaeuser \$40,000 for stormwater quality violations at its Longview mill.

According to a penalty notice issued to Weyerhaeuser, the department found 30 occasions where the mill's stormwater discharge broke the state limits on certain water quality parameters between October 2020 and November. The discharge violations largely had to do with the water's five-day biochemical oxygen limit and its turbidity, or relative clarity.

— *The Daily News*

DEATHS

Feb. 17, 2022

HAUKE, Skip, 78, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 16, 2022

SIMMONS, Paula Mary, 76, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

DUII

Tanner James Corkill, 20, of Seaside, was arrested on Feb. 4 near U.S. Highway 101 and Highlands Lane for driving under the influence of intoxicants, speeding, being a minor in

possession and consuming a marijuana item in a motor vehicle on a highway.

Robert Francis Cole, 45, of Astoria, was arrested on Feb. 1 on U.S. Highway 101 for DUII and reckless driving.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

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

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Ave. A, Seaside.

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

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

the Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)

Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

DailyAstorian.com

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

Circulation phone number:
800-781-3214

Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP

All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Astorian become the property of The Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT

Entire contents © Copyright, 2022 by The Astorian.



Printed on recycled paper

Subscription rates
Effective January 12, 2021

MAIL

EZpay (per month).....\$10.75
13 weeks in advance.....\$37.00
26 weeks in advance.....\$71.00
52 weeks in advance.....\$135.00

DIGITAL

EZpay (per month).....\$8.25



Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

MASK, LESS

Several Ilwaco High School students walked out earlier this month in protest over mask mandates to control the spread of the coronavirus. About 30 students, and several parents, amassed near the front steps of the high school, waving signs and voicing their concerns. Gov. Jay Inslee announced on Thursday that the mask mandate for schools and other places in Washington state would be lifted on March 21.

Outbreak: 'This surge seems to have passed'

Continued from Page A1

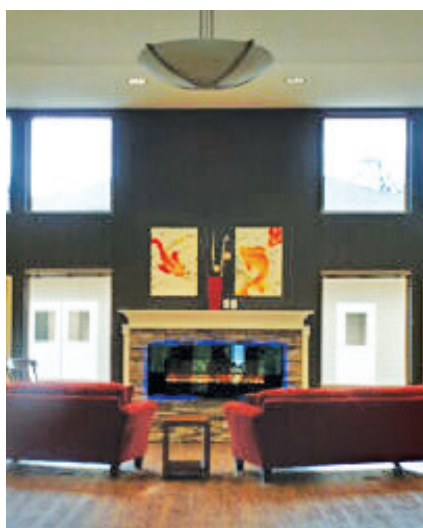
Last summer, Clatsop Care Memory Community, which houses residents with dementia, experienced an outbreak of 37 virus cases among residents and staff. Five residents died.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned early in the pandemic that care homes — where residents, who often have age-related health issues, gather in close quarters — were especially susceptible to COVID-19 outbreaks that could lead to severe illness or death.

Clarissa Barrick, the administrator at Clatsop Care Health & Rehabilitation, another facility under the health district umbrella, said that, at this stage in the pandemic, an outbreak would not necessarily keep residents from seeing their loved ones. "It's so important, to just daily life, to be able to receive visitors," she said.

The health authority also disclosed that an outbreak reported at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria in late January now stands at 24 virus cases. The investigation started on Jan. 19.

Nancee Long, the hospital's communications director, said in an email that the hospital has no new informa-



Clatsop Care Health District

The state reported a coronavirus outbreak at a local memory community.

tion on the outbreak. "CMH, like most other organizations and hospitals, experienced a surge in COVID cases at the end of January and early February," she wrote.

Long said that none of Columbia Memorial's cases associated with the outbreak originated in the hospital, and that all caregivers notified the hospital's employee health department.

"We are grateful that this surge seems to have passed and we continue to care for the community," she wrote.

Long urged people to consider getting vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19, and to "maintain good hygiene habits as we fight this pandemic together."

In Seaside, Suzanne Elise Assisted Living Community is listed in the weekly outbreak report as having 12 virus cases — up from an initially reported eight — tied to an outbreak first reported on Jan. 11.

Administrators at Suzanne Elise referred The Astorian to Avamere Heath Services LLC, the facility's owner-operator based in Wilsonville. Avamere Heath Services could not immediately be reached for comment.

State health officials have said the wave of virus cases related to the omicron variant has crested. Oregon's indoor mask requirement is slated to end by March 31.

The health authority reported 11 new virus cases for Clatsop County on Thursday and 14 new cases on Wednesday.

Since the pandemic began, the county had recorded 4,448 virus cases as of Thursday.

Former inmate sues county over spinal injury

By ERICK BENGEL
The Astorian

A Portland man is suing Clatsop County and sheriff's office personnel for actions he claims led to a spinal injury that required emergency surgery.

In a complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Portland in August, William Darmody, 59, claims that in August 2019, when the sheriff's office drove him from Marion County Jail's prisoner exchange hub to Clatsop County Jail, he was not safely secured in the vehicle.

He claims that while the vehicle was moving at least 50 mph on state Highway 217 in Tigard, the driver hit the brakes, causing Darmody to lurch from his bench seat, strike the seat in front of him and end up on the floor.

He alleges that jail staff did not offer him proper medical treatment when he asked.

When Darmody was released from Clatsop County Jail a few days later, he went to Oregon Health & Science University Hospital, was diagnosed with cauda equina syndrome, indicating pressure on nerves in his spine, and underwent sur-

gery, according to his lawsuit.

The injury, Darmody alleges, has led to a host of medical issues in his lower body.

Darmody claims his civil rights were violated.

In the county's answer to Darmody's complaint, the defendants deny that Darmody pleaded for help or that he was injured on the trip as he describes.

The lawsuit is in the early stages of discovery, according to Aaron Tillmann, Darmody's Portland-based attorney.

"The sheriff's office has a moral, ethical and legal responsibility to provide adequate medical care for every human being in its custody. Every defendant named in this lawsuit failed to meet that responsibility over and over again," Tillmann said in a statement. "As a result of these repeated failures of the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, Mr. Darmody suffered irreversible damage. We intend to hold the defendants accountable for those failures."

Sheriff Matt Phillips said his office has been advised not to comment on pending litigation.

Offices to close for Presidents Day

The Astorian

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

Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Warrenton/Hammond and Seaside (including Cannon Beach and Gearhart) school district schools, and Clatsop Community College, are closed.

The Astoria Library, Seaside Library and Warrenton Library are closed.

The Port of Astoria offices and services are closed.

Garbage collection through Recology Western Oregon and the city

of Warrenton garbage collection are not affected by the holiday. Recology Western Oregon's transfer station is open.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside is open. The Astoria Aquatic Center is closed for maintenance.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum and Uppertown Firefighters' Museum are closed. The Oregon Film Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Flavel House is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Carriage House is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Sprouts Learning Center is closed. Fort Clatsop is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Columbia River Maritime Museum is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Sunset Empire Transportation District ("The Bus") is running.

VOLUNTEER PICK OF THE WEEK



Louise

9 year old Boxer

This lovely lady is easy going, amiable and light hearted. It's never too late to become old friends.

See Petfinder.com

WANTED
Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber
Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA
Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500

Sponsored by Bayshore Animal Hospital
CLATSOP COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
1315 SE 19th St., Warrenton • 861- PETS
www.dogscats.org Noon to 4pm, Tues-Sat