

IN BRIEF

County reports virus deaths

An 88-year-old Clatsop County man died of the coronavirus at his home on Friday, the county reported. He had received a COVID-19 vaccination, the county said.

Additional information was not immediately available.

An 80-year-old man from the county died at his home of the virus on Feb. 12, the county reported.

He had received a COVID-19 vaccine. The county said additional information was not available.

The Oregon Health Authority, meanwhile, reported two new virus cases for the county on Tuesday and seven new cases over the weekend.

Since the pandemic began, the county had recorded 4,572 virus cases as of Tuesday.

— *The Astorian*

Inslee signs trio of gun bills into law

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Gov. Jay Inslee on Wednesday signed into law three gun-related bills, including one that will prohibit the sale of gun magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

The other measures place new restrictions on untraceable “ghost guns” and, in response to concerns about armed intimidation, restrict weapons at locations such as school board meetings and election-related facilities.

“This is a triumph, I believe, in democracy because the will of the vast majority of Washingtonians is being followed with the passage of these bills,” Inslee said before signing the measures. “For too long, narrow segments of folks have blocked the majority will when it comes to saving us from this mass violence.”

— *Northwest News Network*

DEATHS

March 20, 2022

SANDERS, Elizabeth Jensen, 85, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell’s Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

March 19, 2022

MERCIER, James, 82, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell’s Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

PARKER, Danny Dean Jr., 71, of Astoria, died in Portland. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

SCHUERGER, Michael Larry, 72, of Warrenton, died in Portland. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

March 17, 2022

HARPER, Hoke Vandigriff, 38, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

March 9, 2022

DOUGLAS, Michael Steven, 74, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. A celebration of life will be announced.

ON THE RECORD

Unlawful possession of a firearm

• Mark Anthony Marquez, 47, of Astoria, was arrested on March 17 on Bond Street in Astoria for unlawful possession of a firearm with intent to use, reckless endangering and second-degree disorderly conduct.

Harassment

• Johnathan Lance Kvale, 28, of Newport, was arrested on Friday for harassment and second-degree disorderly conduct following a physical altercation among multiple parties at the Garden of Surfing Waves in Astoria.

Theft

• Derrick Ray Maxhimer, 33, of Seaside, was arrested on Friday for second-degree theft. The crime is alleged to have occurred at Englund Marine & Industrial Supply in Astoria. The arrest took place on W. Marine Drive and Basin Street in Astoria.

Fleeing

• Gregory Thomas Hanson, 23, of Portland, was arraigned on Monday on charges of fleeing or attempting to elude a police

officer, driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and refusal to take a Breathalyzer test. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in Clatsop County in February 2021.

DUI

• Lucas Castellon Pena, 34, of Vancouver, Washington, was arrested on Friday on U.S. Highway 26 near Camp 18 Restaurant for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving. Pena allegedly struck a guardrail.

• Kevin Anthony Lee Ellisor, 32, of Seaside, was arrested on Friday on U.S. Highway 26 near the intersection of Kamy Road for DUI. Ellisor was allegedly involved in a single-vehicle rollover crash.

• Sterling Wayne McCoy, 53, of Longview, Washington, was arrested on March 16 on U.S. Highway 30 near Bradley State Scenic Viewpoint for DUI.

• Rashad Fabio Greene, 30, of Portland, was arrested on March 10 at Fourth Avenue and N. Downing Street in Seaside for DUI.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Sunset Empire Transportation District Board, 9 a.m., (virtual meeting).

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

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MARCHING ON

Clammers stalked the surf this month in Long Beach.

Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer



Youth camp closure tied to plunge in crime

By JEFF CLEMENS
Chinook Observer

NASELLE, Wash. — Employees of the Naselle Youth Camp and the union that represents them held a protest last week outside the juvenile facility.

They were hoping a last-ditch effort would put enough pressure on Gov. Jay Inslee to save the doomed youth camp, but the head of the state agency that oversees the camp said that ship has sailed.

The camp’s closure has been on the table for nearly two decades.

Inslee could choose to veto the specific section of the state budget outlining the closure, but that is highly unlikely, according to the Washington State Department of Child, Youth, and Families.

“Regardless of how much of a long shot it is to keep Naselle open, the workers want their voices to be heard. They have advocated for the youth there for decades in many cases and know the negative impact Naselle’s closure would have on them,” Patrick Sugrue, communications specialist for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, said.

“We think it’s important for folks to know what is really being proposed. It’s not closing some buildings down and firing staff; it’s removing proven treatment options from at-risk youth. Currently, there is no plan about how the nonviolent youth at Naselle would be transitioned to other facilities that house violent youth or what impact that would have on their chances for success in life,” he added.

Once Inslee signs the budget, the camp will be slated for closure at the end of June 2023. The state will no longer be allowed to place youth at the camp, effective immediately.

According to Ross Hunter, the secretary of the Department of Child, Youth, and Families, the closure comes on the heels of over a decade of declining youth numbers in rehabilitation services. Nationwide, numbers have fallen 79% since 2007 and are at



Naselle Youth Camp staff and supporters have held rallies to keep the facility open.



‘WE HAD THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN IN (STATE JUVENILE REHABILITATION) 20-30 YEARS AGO, AND NOW WE HAVE LESS THAN 400.’

Ross Hunter | Washington State Department of Child, Youth, and Families

their lowest since the early 1980s.

Back in 2005, the numbers at the Naselle Youth Camp were about 130 workers to 130 placements, versus 93 workers to 33 placements today. With an annual budget of about \$9.9 million, state officials say they have a hard time warranting the expense.

It’s not just the Naselle Youth Camp that’s feeling the impacts of the declining youth crime rate. According to Hunter, numbers in Washington state have staggered downward in the past two decades and recently plummeted.

“We had thousands of children in (state juvenile rehabilitation) 20-30 years ago, and now we have less than 400,” Hunter said in an interview with the Chinook Observer. “It’s continuing to go down, and not

only that, juvenile violence has been going down since the 1990s.

“There was a surge in the 1990s — though perhaps more exaggerated than real — and that has been in a steady decline since, and we have seen a similar decline in teen births and teen pregnancies. That has fallen in half every 10 years. It’s the best story in health services; teen pregnancies decline.”

The Department of Child, Youth, and Families and the state’s justice system are seeing a lot fewer children end up in the court system because they are taking a proactive approach to correct bad behavior in

youth early before it leads to more significant issues, according to Hunter.

The state agency plans to focus more energy on other programs, such as connecting with mentors in their communities, including former prison inmates who can share their experiences.

“You lock a kid up with a bunch of kids who steal cars; that kid is going to steal cars,” Hunter said. “So that is not what you want to do. So it really does make sense, and it has resulted in pretty significant results all over the country for the past two decades.

“It’s a really good thing,” he added.

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