

IN BRIEF

Seaside man sentenced to prison for theft

Damien James Arrin Ruiz, 27, of Seaside, was sentenced on Thursday to five years in prison for several thefts and burglaries that took place in 2020 and 2021.

In July 2020, he committed first-degree aggravated theft at End of Trail Public House in Seaside, second-degree burglary at the Seaside Elks Lodge and Inca's Inc. clothing store and second-degree theft by removing items from septic trucks.

In November 2020, he committed second-degree burglary at Seaside Rentals and the Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare office in Seaside.

And in November, he committed second-degree burglary at Astoria law offices.

Astoria to make emergency sanitary sewer repair downtown

An emergency repair to a sanitary sewer main in downtown Astoria will begin Monday.

The city will close 10th Street at Commercial Street while the repairs are made. The work is expected to take three days, and the city anticipates traffic impacts will be minimal.

Immunization deadline set for schools

The deadline to meet annual state school immunization requirements is April 20.

Families are required to show proof of immunization for children attending school, preschool or child care.

The Clatsop County Public Health Department had extended the deadline due to the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.

The required vaccinations differ based on age and grade. The Oregon Health Authority lists the requirements on their website.

A coronavirus vaccine is not an immunization required by the state.

— *The Astorian*

Day resigns from Pacific County Tourism directorship

SEAVIEW, Wash. — Andi Day, the executive director of Pacific County Tourism, is resigning at the end of June.

She will stay on while a search is made for her replacement.

Day, one of Washington's leading destination management executives, is stepping aside after 10 years. She plans to reinstate her marketing consulting business and provide her destination marketing, management and development services to a wider industry base.

— *Chinook Observer*

Environmental groups fail to stop southern Oregon logging projects

Environmental groups have failed to convince a federal judge to block two logging and fuels reduction projects on 8,000 acres of public forestland in southern Oregon.

U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken has refused to issue a preliminary injunction against the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Bear Grub and Round Oak projects because the environmental lawsuit against them probably won't succeed.

The Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Oregon Wild and Cascadia Wildlands nonprofits are unlikely to prevail on their claims that federal wildlife biologists improperly considered the effects of forest treatments on threatened spotted owls, the judge said.

— *Capital Press*

DEATHS

April 7, 2022

ROEHR, Ernestine Joy, 77, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

April 6, 2022

ENGLISH, Ronald Vincent, 78, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Warrenton Parks Advisory Board, 4 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Port of Astoria Airport Advisory Committee, 4 p.m., terminal building, Astoria Regional Airport, 1110 S.E. Flight Line Dr, Warrenton.

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Planning Commission, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting).

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., work session and special meeting, City Hall, 163 E Gower Ave.

Clatsop Community College Board of Education, 6 p.m., work session, Columbia 219, 1651 Lexington Ave.

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

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

the Astorian

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Steigerwald wildlife refuge to reopen after restoration

Associated Press

The largest habitat restoration project along the lower Columbia River is coming to a close this spring.

The Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, east of Washougal in Clark County, is slated to reopen May 1 after almost two years of being intermittently closed to the public.

The roughly \$31 million project to decrease flooding and increase salmon and steelhead migration was funded, in part, by the Bonneville Power Administration, the Washington Department of Ecology, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

Updates included removing a levee that separated the Columbia River from nearby Gibbons Creek, which officials say reopened a natural pathway for salmon and steelhead migration and will prevent the creek from flooding, the Daily News reported.

Before removing the levee, fish could only bypass the embankment through a fish ladder, which is a series of pools built to allow fish to swim over obstacles like dams. The fish ladder was removed.

The levee was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960s to prevent the Columbia River from flooding the refuge. However, it exacerbated Gibbons Creek's flooding, which often spilled into the Port of Camas-Washougal property.

Oregon adds to its network of wildfire-spotting cameras

By ALEX BAUMHARDT
Oregon Capital Chronicle

Oregon will soon have nearly 60 cameras across the state perched on cellphone towers, old fire towers and mountaintops, watching for forest fires across the state.

The cameras, part of the ALERTWildfire network, help fire departments and state agencies spot wildfires early, predict their movements and slow their spread. They also allow Oregonians the opportunity to make evacuation decisions early, based on their proximity to fires.

The network has two dozen cameras, which will more than double with new state money.

Legislators in February appropriated \$4.5 million to the Oregon Hazards Lab at the University of Oregon to add at least 29 cameras across the state over the next year. Most of the two dozen currently operating are in southeast and western Oregon. New cameras will be concentrated in the Rogue Valley and in the Bend, Richmond and La Pine areas.

The video streams are accessible online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to the public and to emergency response agencies and firefighters, who can also use a time-lapse feature to go back and trace the origins of a fire. Additionally, artificial intelligence software in the system can detect smoke and alert fire agencies and emergency responders.

Such a forest surveillance system was first implemented around Lake Tahoe in 2014 by the University of Nevada, Reno and has expanded to Oregon, California, Washington state and Idaho in partnership with state and federal agencies and public universities.

The Oregon expansion



InciWeb

Legislators appropriated \$4.5 million to the Oregon Hazards Lab for more cameras.

is spearheaded by Doug Toomey, a geophysicist and director of the Oregon Hazards Lab, where scientists study natural disasters in the Pacific Northwest and search for ways to use technology to monitor and mitigate them.

Toomey hopes the camera's will be useful to people living in areas prone to wildfire.

"You don't have to sit and wait to see if your home is being evacuated. You can see what things look like in real time," he said.

In California, the system has allowed fire agencies to respond more strategically to fires when they begin to move. During the Lilac fire in San Diego County in 2017, several fire departments collaborated to double the size of their initial response within the first 10 minutes of flames spreading. They could

see the size of the fire from the elevated cameras rather than waiting to assess on the ground, according to a CBS news report.

Toomey said the Oregon Hazards Lab can program cameras to gray out homes or businesses upon request for privacy reasons. He said, for the most part, people living within view of the fire cameras have seen the benefits outweigh concerns.

The number of cameras in Oregon are still small in comparison to other states that are part of the ALERTWildfire collaborative. In California, the network has more than 1,000 cameras positioned around the state, including dozens near the border with Oregon.

"It is a great start to have this money, but we have a long way to go," Toomey said.

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