

## IN BRIEF

## County announces new public health director

Clatsop County has chosen a new public health director. Jiancheng Huang, the former director of the Oswego County Health Department in New York, is slated to step into the role in July, the county announced on Monday.

He replaces Margo Lalich, who in March 2021 took over as interim public health director for former director Michael McNickle.

Huang also directed the Maine Immunization Program, as well as worked for the Maine Bureau of Health and the University of Pennsylvania's Scheie Eye Institute, the county said.

## Flory is named Seaside planning director

SEASIDE — Jeff Flory was named the city's planning director on Friday.

He has served as interim director since March after the retirement of Kevin Cupples.

As Seaside's first code compliance officer, Flory processed complaints, conducted safety inspections and enforcement designed to cut down on quality-of-life issues related to vacation rentals.

Flory joined the community development department in 2020 after spending more than 12 years with the Beaverton Police Department and three years with both the Hood River County Sheriff's Office and Mount Hood Meadows Ski Resort.

## The Astorian recognized in regional journalism contest

The Astorian was recognized in the Society of Professional Journalists' Northwest Excellence in Journalism contest for work published in 2021.

Erick Bengel won first place for government and politics reporting in the medium newsroom division for his examination of Clatsop County's response to the delta surge of the coronavirus pandemic last summer. The report, based on documents obtained through the state's public records law and interviews with county leaders, highlighted the fragility of the system that cares for the elderly.

Ethan Myers won second place for technology, business and economics reporting in the medium newsroom division for his report on the Sunset Empire Transportation District looking to former prisoners to help solve a bus driver shortage.

The regional contest covers work published or broadcast across Washington state, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

— The Astorian

## DEATH

May 22, 2022

BONHAM, Gregg, 69, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## MEMORIAL

Saturday, May 28

HARTSTROM, Carol (Pilgard) — Memorial at 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church of Astoria, 1103 Grand Ave. A private burial service follows at Greenwood Cemetery. A reception will be held at the Astoria Elks Lodge, following the service, until 5 p.m.

## ON THE RECORD

## Aggravated theft

• Lisa Marie Moreno, 51, of Coos Bay, was indicted on May 13 for three counts of first-degree aggravated theft. The crimes are alleged to have occurred between 2019 and 2021.

## DUI

• Derek Clay Killough, 30, of Camas, Washington, was arrested on Friday at S. Main Avenue and S.W. First Street in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants and refusing to take a Breathalyzer test.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

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

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

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.

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Jewell School District Board, 6 p.m., special meeting, 83874 Oregon Highway 103.

## THURSDAY

Sunset Empire Transportation District Board, 9 a.m., Astoria Transit Center, 900 Marine Drive.

Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning Advisory Committee, 1 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Cannon Beach City Council, 3 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower Ave.

Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower Ave.

## 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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Printed on recycled paper

Subscription rates  
Effective January 12, 2021

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52 weeks in advance.....\$135.00

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## ICONS OF ASTORIA



Photos by Michael Steszyn

'Ghosts and Mist,' by Michael Steszyn, was one of the three award-winning photographs in the Icons of Astoria project from Astoria Visual Arts and the Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa. The photographs are on display in the art collection at the Uniontown hotel.



'Fisheye's View,' by Michael Steszyn.



'Astoria Underbelly,' by Blaine Verley.

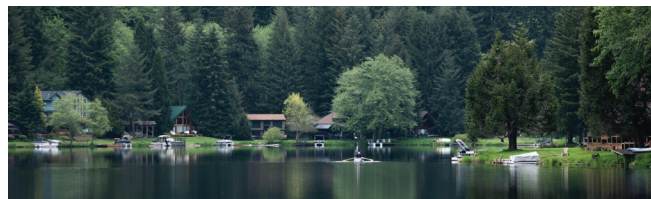
## Fishhawk Lake: 'This place is so special'

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"To all my neighbors and friends here at Fishhawk Lake, it has been a long journey to get here but we are a resilient bunch and as diverse as the nature that surrounds us," Jeanne Scilley, Fishhawk Lake's board president, told attendees. "... I do believe that we are all environmental stewards in our heart and we will do what it's going to take to maintain and improve this place that we all know and love."

The 100-acre lake was formed in the 1960s by an earthen dam. The need for a new spillway and fish ladder traces back to 2007, Scilley said, when the lake flooded and nearly topped the dam. The community near Birkenfeld created a solutions committee at the time to prevent serious flooding from occurring again.

The new project, in partnership with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, the state Department of Transportation, the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council and Weyerhaeuser, will seek to manage water levels and bene-



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Fishhawk Lake is a private community.

fit upstream and downstream passage of coho salmon.

In August 2019, the community drained the reservoir, considered to be state waters, to fix a broken drain in the dam. State biologists estimated that the move allegedly killed more than 30,000 fish, including many endangered coho salmon.

The community disputed the claim that the drawdown of the lake led to a large loss of fish.

The state Department of Environmental Quality fined the homeowners association \$439,200 for the fish deaths. The Department of Fish and Wildlife and several natural resource agencies came together to pursue a separate claim, eventually reaching a settlement with the community last year. The community agreed to pay \$250,000,

with the community's insurance carriers covering the remainder of the \$3.7 million settlement.

"I joined the community in 2018 and it's been amazing to watch this community come together over the last couple of years from a community that was divided and unsure of its path forward," Scilley said. "They've now come together and united to do what we all know we need to do for this lake."

Scilley thanked Johnson and Thompson for their support, calling the aspiring governor, who worked with local, state and federal agencies to help negotiate and get the project off the ground, a "rock" for the community and the guiding force in the process.

"Today, in my view, is a triumph of common sense over

some pretty formidable odds ... Here we are, the community wins, the environment wins, the homeowners win, the state wins — everybody wins. We're still not quite done though," Johnson said, adding that she will continue to work with state agencies to pursue additional funds.

Stellar J Corp., a company in Woodland, Washington, will handle construction, which will take place over the next two summers and is anticipated to finish by the end of 2023.

The old fish ladder and spillway will remain as backup options. A plan is also in place to monitor and mitigate any impact to aquatic species, the community said in a statement.

"This place is so special. The spirit of this community and the way it stayed true to itself is really an inspiration. They met the challenge as a community," Thompson said. "... There was a failure here and rather than accept punishment for failure, with Sen. Johnson's help, it became an opportunity for community revitalization — for the people and the environment."

## Berry: 'You have to know a little bit about everything'

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Hospital, which now employs her at Columbia Memorial. She joined the small critical access hospital in 2017, commuting from southeast Portland until she and her husband moved to Astoria in 2019.

Berry is also the medical director at Medix Ambulance Service, where she oversees personnel education, reviews medical cases and develops protocols.

Before medical school, she wanted to be an obstetrician-gynecologist. Her goal was to open a birthing center.

But the emergency room, the diversity of patients and their conditions, called to her.

"I grew up pretty poor and without health insurance," she said, "and so it really meant a lot to me to be able to treat people from all walks of life regardless of their abil-

ity to pay."

In the emergency room, Berry treats people with medical emergencies, mental health crises and traumatic injuries. From people suffering from heart attacks and strokes, to psychotic or suicidal thoughts, to the fallout of car crashes, Berry and her colleagues see anybody who comes through the door.

"You have to know a little bit about everything," she said.

Even without a pandemic adding strain on hospital staff, ERs confront complex social issues — such as the effects of homelessness and intoxication — that seem to take up ever more staff time and resources.

People toward the end of life — those who can't care for themselves at home and have no one to watch over them — often don't know where else to turn. There's

nothing imminently wrong with them, but they live with the threat of something happening — a fall, an inability to feed themselves or get to the bathroom — after they're discharged.

Berry worries about them when they leave.

"I do my best to address these issues, and a lot of times I just feel ineffective and kind of helpless, and wanting to help, but I just can't because of the constraints of the health care system," she said.

Despite the challenges, Berry loves her job — the collaborative environment, the team approach, the interactions with her patients. "It requires a lot of flexibility and problem-solving, and

those are skills that really call to me, that make the job very engaging," she said.

Originally from Virginia, Berry is a world traveler, food tourist and "Northwest action figure-type," she said — a skier, hiker, biker and outdoor enthusiast.

Now that she lives at the coast, Berry wants to get into sailing, fishing and crabbing. She is less interested in surfing because of the shark-based injuries she sees in the emergency department.

She also plays soccer, and finds herself wondering why there isn't a women's soccer league on the North Coast. "I'm thinking of trying to figure out if we can make that happen," she said.

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