

IN BRIEF

Astoria City Council OKs new budget

The Astoria City Council voted Monday night to adopt a \$58.7 million budget for the new fiscal year that starts in July, which includes funding for new staff in parks and recreation and the police department.

The budget is an increase over the \$49.6 million spending plan for this fiscal year.

The city converted a part-time community service officer position to a full-time officer position assigned to handle homelessness and livability issues. The City Council also approved a full-time position for the Parks and Recreation Department to provide additional janitorial and maintenance services in parks, restrooms and other public spaces.

Water and sewer rates will each rise by 4.5%, up from a 2.5% increase this year, which the city said is necessary as it prepares to replace aging equipment and as costs are anticipated to increase.

Juneteenth to become city holiday

The Astoria City Council on Monday unanimously proclaimed June 19 as Juneteenth and moved to make the day a city holiday.

President Joe Biden established Juneteenth as a federal holiday last year. The holiday marks the day enslaved people in Texas learned they were free and commemorates the end of slavery.

Mayor Bruce Jones proposed making Juneteenth a city holiday effective June 19, 2023.

"I think (it's) pretty important that we do that, given the history of that holiday throughout much of our country that many of us grew up, frankly, not knowing anything about," he said.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

June 4, 2022

NELSON, Ronald Gerard, 69, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 3, 2022

HREHA, George Donald, 86, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 1, 2022

WEEKS, Edward Harrison, 56, of Seaside, Washington, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

May 27, 2022

FINUCANE, Bruce Jay, 68, of Warrenton, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIAL

Tuesday, June 14

DOUGLAS, Michael Steven — Funeral at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 120 Oceanway in Seaside. Rosary is at 9:30 a.m., a Mass follows at 10 a.m. Personal eulogies are welcome. After the Mass, there is a reception, given by the Women's Auxiliary, in the adjoining cafeteria. The celebration of life then continues at 1540 Lea Way in Seaside.

CORRECTION

Incorrect sex — Ginnette Renee Marberry, 43, of Manzanita, was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants on Sunday after driving her Hyundai Tucson into the back of a Seaside police officer's parked patrol car along U.S. Highway 101. An In Brief item on A2 on Tuesday incorrectly identified the driver, whose identity had not been publicly released, as male.

ON THE RECORD

Encouraging child sexual abuse

Gabriel Burton Walker, 35, of Seaside, was sentenced on Monday to a year and seven months in prison for two counts of encouraging child sexual abuse in the first degree and one count of online sexual corruption of a child in the second degree. The crimes occurred in June 2021.

Assault

Joshua Lloyd Salber, 29, of Hammond, was arrested on Tuesday for fourth-degree assault constituting domestic violence and contempt of court.

DUII

Mackenzie Alaga, 22,

of Seaside, was arrested on Friday in Seaside for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving.

Joseph Michael Winn, 24, of Redmond, Washington, was arrested on June 2 at Del Rey Beach State Recreation Site for DUII, reckless driving, four counts of recklessly endangering another person, fourth-degree assault constituting domestic violence and menacing.

Kathleen Kay Metternich, 44, of Ocean Park, Washington, was arrested on June 1 on U.S. Highway 30 east of Astoria for DUII. She allegedly struck an elk with her vehicle.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First 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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Outage knocked out power for thousands in Astoria

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian

A power outage on Tuesday afternoon affected more than 7,400 customers in the Astoria area, according to Pacific Power.

The outage, which began at about 2 p.m., was traced to damage at the substation south of Youngs Bay. Crews rerouted power around the substation, restoring power at about 3:30 p.m.

The outage affected Astoria south to the new and old Youngs Bay bridges and east toward the Tongue Point area, Tom Gaunt, a Pacific Power spokesman, said.

The disruption impacted businesses and local government.

Safeway in Uppertown remained open but only accepted cash for purchases. The Astoria Co+op announced on their Facebook page that they closed.

The Port of Astoria Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday afternoon was canceled and postponed to next Tuesday.

The Astoria Aquatic Center canceled swimming lessons on Tuesday and closed for the remainder of the day.

Astoria Police Department

radio equipment had to be reset and switched over to a backup radio channel, but the department stayed operational.

Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria remained open for patients.

Within minutes, the outage caused generators at various locations — the Clatsop County Jail, a sewer pump station at the Astoria roundabout — to fire up and produce exhaust that people interpreted as fires.

A fire alarm went off at a hotel on Hamburg Avenue in Astoria. "Fire alarms don't like it when the power goes out. And so their fire alarm activated, but there was no issue," Fire Chief Dan Crutchfield said.

Lissa Brewer/The Astorian

Traffic lights were out in downtown Astoria on Tuesday afternoon after a power outage.



State Supreme Court declines to review convictions in death of Newport man

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian

The Oregon Supreme Court has denied further review of a case involving a couple who beat a Newport man to death and dumped his body off the highway east of Astoria.

In September 2016,

Adeena Marilyn Copell, now 45, and Christian John Wilkins, now 43, murdered Howard Vinge, 71, stole his RV and a luxury sedan, and left the man's corpse near U.S. Highway 30. The RV was found on U.S. Highway 26.

The pair was apprehended in Arizona in Octo-

ber 2016.

In 2019, the couple was sentenced in Clatsop County Circuit Court to at least 25 years in prison for murder, second-degree abuse of a corpse and two counts of unauthorized use of a vehicle. Wilkins pleaded guilty; Copell had a jury trial.

Copell turned to the state

Court of Appeals. The state Office of Public Defense Services claimed Copell's Miranda rights were violated and that prosecutors had engaged in misconduct — calling Copell a liar — during closing arguments.

The appeals court affirmed Copell's conviction without issuing an opinion.

Smith to serve as interim Gearhart mayor

GEARHART — Kerry Smith, the City Council president, will serve as interim mayor after Paulina Cockrum's resignation.

His term of office begins immediately and continues through Cockrum's unexpired term in 2024.



Kerry Smith

Last month, two-thirds of voters rejected a \$14.5 million bond measure to build a firehouse and a police station on property off Highlands Lane north of the city. The election was driven by passion on both sides, with competing social media campaigns and sign wars.

Cockrum's decision to resign came the day after a heated meeting in which speakers called for a council recall. Cockrum cited personal reasons when she resigned.

"I believe it's going to be a challenge being mayor, in that we have such a polarization of the population among the voters in Gearhart," Smith said. "I'm going to try and work with all sides and find a resolution for this fire station."

He said he will start with a town hall.

"That's going to be my focus for the summer is trying to work with these diverse groups of people that feel that they've got some — I don't want to call them more important — but they've got an important message they want to deliver to everybody. I want to be able to listen to it," he said. "But I'm certainly my own person. I will do what I feel is right for the city."

Smith is a property owner and manager.

He was elected to the council in 2014. In 2018, he won reelection against Jack Zimmerman, a leading opponent of the firehouse bond measure.

A majority of the remaining city councilors will appoint a replacement to serve the unexpired portion of Smith's term.

"My message to the voters of Gearhart is we need to move on and not dwell on the past anymore," Smith said.

State fishery managers add halibut fishing days

The Columbia River subarea all-depth recreational Pacific halibut fish-

ery will be open Thursdays and Sundays throughout June, and has added two additional Mondays.

The additional days are Monday and June 20. The subarea runs from Leadbetter Point, Washington, to Cape Falcon.

Fishing days were added due to a low angling effort leaving about 13,000 pounds remaining of the initial halibut quota.

State fishery managers add sturgeon fishing days

State fishery managers have added two sturgeon retention days in the lower Columbia River estuary due to a lower than expected preseason catch.

The additional season started Wednesday and runs to Saturday, with a bag limit of one white sturgeon per day. The allowed size is between 44 and 50 inches fork length.

The area includes the main stem Columbia River from the Wauna power lines downstream to Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay and all adjacent Washington state tributaries.

Sturgeon angling, including catch and release, is prohibited after 2 p.m. on these days.

— The Astorian

New manager named for county fairgrounds

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian

The board of the Clatsop County Fair approved Jason Brim, a former manager of Brim's Farm & Garden in Astoria, as the interim fair manager on Tuesday.

Brim replaces John

Lewis, who served in the position for the last few years. The board approved a separation agreement with Lewis, who was not present.

Michael Autio, the board chairman, said after the meeting that the board could not comment on a personnel matter.

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500

Astoria Citywide VBS 2022

June 20 - 24

9am to 12:15pm

Ages 3 through

5th grade



Peace First

Lutheran Church

565 12th St., Astoria

(Corner of 12th & Exchange)

Register online at one of these sponsoring church's sites:

First Baptist Church

First Presbyterian Church

First United Methodist Church

Grace Episcopal Church

Peace First Lutheran Church