

IN BRIEF

County commissioners adopt new budget

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday night passed the county's budget for the new fiscal year that begins in July.

The budget of \$100.3 million is down from \$109.9 million from this fiscal year.

The commissioners approved a fiber-optic project for the new Clatsop County Jail. The project, a \$50,000 expenditure in the special projects fund, was in this fiscal year's budget and will carry over to the next.

Astoria school board chairman resigns

Jimmy Pearson, the chairman of the Astoria School District Board, resigned from his position after Wednesday night's meeting.

Pearson, who works as the director of the Astoria Library, cited personal reasons for his departure from the board.

Heidi Wintermute, the vice chairwoman, will lead the meetings until a new chair is chosen in August.

The school district is looking for applicants to serve the remainder of Pearson's term through June 2023.

Planning Commission in Seaside tweaks vacation rental rules

SEASIDE — The Planning Commission picked up where they left off in April with approval of tweaks to the city's vacation rental policies.

They include density reductions, a waiting period after transactions and new construction and a grace period for property owners and managers to clear out reservations when a property is sold.

"We carefully discussed and debated how to tackle the issue and make sure that we were doing our part to maintain a livable community for people that live here full time and for people that visit here," Commissioner Kathy Kleczek said at Tuesday's meeting. "That was our goal, and we had a vigorous discussion about how to go about that. The fact that rentals for people that are attempting to reside in the area are disappearing was the motivation to look at the numbers and find a balance."

Liberty Theatre receives grant for marketing coordinator

The Liberty Theatre has been awarded a grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust that will allow the Astoria venue to create a marketing coordinator position.

The marketing coordinator will develop social media content, implement print, digital and radio advertising campaigns and other duties as assigned.

Jennifer Crockett, the Liberty's executive director, said the position will help to build the theater's brand and bring audiences back to attend events. The grant, which comes from an arts and culture resiliency fund to help with the COVID-19 pandemic, will be paid out over three years.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

June 10, 2022

COLSON, Brian, Lynn, 55, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 6, 2022

JOHNSON, Arthur, Richmond, 89, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Endangering the welfare of minors

• Daniel Christian Lunsford, 32, of Astoria, and Brianna Rae Scarborough, 31, of Warrenton, were arrested at Shively Park in Astoria on Wednesday for endangering the welfare of minors. They were allegedly found sleeping in their vehicle under the influence of drugs with 1-year-old twins in car seats.

Scarborough was also charged with second-degree child neglect. The

children were evaluated at a local hospital and taken into protective custody.

DUII

• George Palmer Pinney, 50, of Astoria, was arrested on Tuesday at 12th Street and Klaskanine Avenue in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Richard Wayne Geiger, 74, of Hammond, was arrested on Monday near the intersection of state Highway 104 and Karis Lane in Warrenton for DUII and reckless driving.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.

Clatsop Care Health District Board, 5 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Clatsop Community College Board, 5:30 p.m., IMTC building lounge, MERTS Campus, 6550 Liberty Lane.

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

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., meeting and budget hearing, 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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Lydia Ely/The Astorian

GULL PRIDE

Seniors at Seaside High School had their graduation ceremony on Thursday at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.



FLEETING

Linh DePledge/For The Astorian

The USS Michael Monsoor, a Zumwalt-class guided missile destroyer, stopped in Astoria on the way to the Portland Rose Festival's Fleet Week.

CLATSKANIE

School goes into lockdown after weapon scare

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
KMUN

The last day of school at the Clatskanie Middle/High School ended on an alarming note after one student told another student there was a weapon on campus.

No weapon was found, but students went into lockdown for more than an hour Thursday while Columbia County Sheriff's Office deputies swept the building.

The school had been in the middle of an assembly and went into lockdown around 11:20 a.m. after the information was reported to administrators. Clatskanie School District Superintendent Cathy Horowitz estimates as many as 200 students were in the building at the time and many ended up in lockdown

in the school gym because of the assembly.

The building remained in lockdown until just before 1 p.m.

The last day of school "didn't end well for our students and that makes me sad," Horowitz said. "We had a very, very terrified community and students."

"It was a terrible experience, especially since Texas is so close and still on our minds," she added, referring to the mass shooting in May at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, where 19 students and two teachers were killed.

Though the threat in Clatskanie ended without tragedy, Horowitz and staff say they are disturbed by how things unfolded on social media during the lockdown.

When the school went into lockdown, students

began reaching out to their parents to let them know what was happening. This was understandable, Horowitz said.

But then people in the community began posting the location of students and staff on social media and this, Horowitz said, is deeply concerning.

"Had this been an event, they just gave the location of students out to the public and that put every student and staff member in that building at risk," she said.

"Having contact with your child, I know, makes you feel, 'OK, they're safe,'" she added, "but to go out and post it while the event is still happening, I don't understand what prompted our community to do that."

Horowitz spoke with community members and

families after the fact, but says there is frustration among school staff over the social media posts.

Going forward, Horowitz feels the school safety protocols worked as they should and when students return to school in the fall, there will be even more safety measures in place.

The school district successfully passed a bond in May that will fund safety-related upgrades to school buildings, including the middle/high school. Work begins next week.

The school district cannot afford the cost of a school resource officer, but has entered into agreements with Columbia County deputies to do regular walk-throughs of school buildings and to get to know students and staff.

Oregon DMV has temporarily closed 10% of field offices

Reduced hours in Astoria office

By CHRIS LEHMAN
KLCC

The Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles said it's closing a half-dozen field offices for the next three months because it doesn't have enough employees to keep them open.

The summer months are its busiest time of year, the DMV said. That's in part because teenagers are more likely to take their driving test during the summer. The agency said a lack of staff has caused last-minute clo-

sures of many of its offices.

By shifting employees to higher-demand locations, the DMV hopes to provide a more predictable level of service, even if that means cutting off some communities entirely in the short term.

The offices that will be closed this summer are in Lebanon, Redmond, Stayton, Sandy, Ashland and Cave Junction.

Another 10 field offices will have reduced hours: Astoria, Canyonville, downtown Portland, Hepner, Hermiston, Junction City, Klamath Falls, Lake Oswego, Lincoln City and Milton-Freewater.

The DMV said many routine transactions can be handled online, although some types of services do require an in-person visit. That includes getting a Real ID driver's license.

The agency also said it's working to recruit and

train new employees.

"DMV has been experiencing the same shortage of applicants for job openings as other employers statewide and nationwide," said DMV Administrator Amy Joyce in a press release.

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