

## IN BRIEF

## County certifies May election results

Clatsop County has certified the results of the May election.

In District 3 of the county Board of Commissioners, which covers Astoria, Commissioner Pamela Wev won reelection against challenger Nathan Pinkstaff 62% to 38%.

In District 5, which covers South County, Commissioner Lianne Thompson defeated challenger Steve Dillard 60% to 39%.

Gearhart's \$14.5 million bond measure for a new firehouse off of Highlands Lane failed in a 66% to 34% vote.

The Knappa-Svensen-Burnside Rural Fire Protection District's \$3.6 million tax levy for enhanced emergency response passed 57% to 43%.

In the Republican primary for state House District 32, which covers the North Coast, Tillamook dentist Cyrus Javadi prevailed over Glenn Gaither, a retired corrections officer from Seaside, 58% to 41%.

Turnout in the county was 11,212 — or 36% — of 30,729 registered voters.

## Warrenton raises sewer, water and recycling rates

WARRENTON — The City Commission voted unanimously on Tuesday to raise sewer, water and recycling rates.

The sewer and water rates will increase by 4%, while the recycling rate will increase from \$7.80 to \$8.46 monthly for residential services every other week.

The changes will take effect July 1.

## Port adopts new budget

The Port of Astoria Commission voted unanimously on Tuesday to adopt a \$14.1 million budget for the new fiscal year that starts in July.

The new budget, just above the \$13.6 million budget from this fiscal year, comes as the Port works toward several major development and maintenance projects along the waterfront and at the Astoria Regional Airport.

## Warrenton transfers old library to VFW

WARRENTON — The city has transferred a former library and town hall building in Hammond to the Fort Stevens Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The City Commission voted unanimously Tuesday night to transfer the building, which sits along Pacific Drive.

The group plans to use it as a meeting space.

## Seafood truck breaks down in Hammond

WARRENTON — A semitruck hauling processed seafood product from Point Adams Packing Co. in Hammond broke while leaving the facility around 10 a.m. Monday, sending a 50,000-pound container onto the road.

One lane of Pacific Drive near Fleet Street was closed while the road was cleared. Pacific Drive reopened before 12:30 p.m.

— *The Astorian*

## Cluster of quakes registers off coast

A series of shallow earthquakes registered several hundred miles off the Oregon Coast on Wednesday morning.

Don Blakeman, a geophysicist at the National Earthquake Information Center, explained the area offshore is a seismically active zone and clusters of quakes there are common.

"In this zone here, the plates are basically pulling apart or sliding past one another," he said. "So you don't get the vertical movement that would cause a tsunami."

The largest of the quakes was magnitude 5.6, and it happened just before 5 a.m. There were three smaller earthquakes before it and four after.

— *Oregon Public Broadcasting*

## ON THE RECORD

## Robbery

• Hart Holden Stone, 25, of Astoria, was arraigned on June 8 on charges of first-degree robbery, first-degree burglary, unlawful use of a weapon and menacing. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in May.

## Burglary

• Kristin Leann Loomis, 37, of Astoria,

was arraigned on June 7 on charges of first-degree burglary and third-degree assault. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in May.

## Menacing

• Dustyn Lee Barcus, 22, of Astoria, was arrested on Sunday at Fifth and Commercial streets in Astoria for menacing and coercion.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## THURSDAY

**Seaside Transportation Advisory Committee**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## FRIDAY

**Cannon Beach City Council**, 8 a.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower Ave.

**Astoria City Council**, 9 a.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

## the Astorian

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Lydia Ely/The Astorian

The crew in the Beeswax shipwreck recovery party hiked to where pieces were discovered north of Manzanita.

## Rare find: Potential to provide important info

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This week, under the watchful eyes of state and marine archaeologists, a crew of sheriff's deputies, state parks employees and others scrambled over barnacle-crusted rocks at low tide to haul out the pieces Andes found.

In the late morning, a jet ski shot toward shore, towing precious cargo.

To untrained eyes, the water-logged beam they hauled out of the surf looked like any other piece of driftwood on the beach: smoothed by time and ocean waves. But in the hands of experts, the beam has the potential to provide important information about one of the region's earliest shipwrecks and one of the North Coast's most enduring legends.

James Delgado, a leading marine archaeologist who helped spearhead retrieval efforts, will be involved in further documenting and studying the timbers at the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria.

He said larger pieces retrieved from the sea caves could suggest how the ship came apart — how the wreck happened — and might provide valuable clues to where the rest of the wreck is located.

"Will this answer big questions? Probably not," Delgado said. "But it's another step in a process that could potentially lead to further discovery."

Built in the Philippines, the Santo Cristo de Burgos left Manila in 1693 loaded with fine Asian trade goods and likely wrecked on Nehalem Spit after a journey across the Pacific. Almost nothing



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Porcelain from the Beeswax wreck.

is known about the fate of the people aboard. Oral traditions among tribes suggest there was some contact with survivors. A tsunami that struck in 1700 further scattered the wreckage.

For centuries, artifacts associated with the wreck have washed ashore on local beaches — porcelain and pottery, chunks of beeswax — but the final resting place of the wreck remains unknown. The timbers Andes found will finally give marine archaeologists a chance to study pieces of the galleon itself.

For local groups that have searched for evidence for decades, the discovery is an exciting leap "because it's actual physical remains of the ship," said Scott Williams, vice president and principal investigator of the Astoria-based Maritime Archaeological Society.

"It also fits into 19th century written accounts that there was wreckage along the cliffs," he added.

He and others had long assumed the claims were hyperbole or flat-out lies. Shipwrecks don't typically preserve in shallow water.

But on the North Coast the

are Oregon's shifting sands. Once the timbers were buried, they would have been pretty protected.

Williams was one of the experts who initially doubted Andes' claims. When carbon dating came back showing the timbers were most likely from the Beeswax, Williams told Andes he could say, "I told you so."

The Maritime Archaeological Society suspects the lower hull of the galleon is still out there somewhere offshore. The discovery of the timbers gives them another point to swing out from and the society plans to keep looking.

See Rare find, Page A3

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