

IN BRIEF

County offers vaccines against the virus to children

Children older than six months can now get vaccinated against the coronavirus through the Clatsop County Public Health Department.

The vaccination series for children 5 and younger involves three doses of the Pfizer-brand COVID-19 vaccine. Three weeks must elapse between the first and second jabs, eight weeks between the second and third jabs, the county said.

Parents can schedule an appointment for their child by calling the Public Health Department office in Astoria at 503-325-8500 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Moderna vaccines are also available for eligible people 18 and up.

County reports virus death

An 80-year-old woman died at her home of COVID-19 on June 2, Clatsop County announced.

The county resident was fully vaccinated against the virus, the county said.

No other information was immediately available.

She is the 51st county resident to die of the virus, the county said.

Warrenton adopts new budget

WARRENTON — The City Commission voted unanimously on Tuesday night to adopt a \$57.4 million budget for the fiscal year that starts in July.

The budget is an increase over the \$49.5 million spending plan for this fiscal year.

The commission also adopted the capital improvement program, which outlines major infrastructure projects to be completed over the next six years, including a waterline project in Hammond and a pedestrian corridor on Main Avenue.

— *The Astorian*

Former Ilwaco mayor appointed to City Council

ILWACO, Wash. — Former Mayor Gary Forner was appointed to fill a vacancy on the City Council.

Forner was mayor from 2018 to 2022 and also served as a city councilor for the seven preceding years. He was defeated by Mike Cassinelli in last fall's election.

With his appointment by the City Council on Monday in a 3-1 vote, Forner fills the seat that was vacated by Kirsten Mathison in May. City Councilor Matt Lessnau voted against the appointment.

Four other residents were vying for the seat, which will be up for election for a full four-year term in 2023. The other applicants were Don Berger, Dallas Busse, Josh Phillips and Richard Rubio.

— *Chinook Observer*

Oregon's minimum wage set to increase

Starting Friday, minimum wage workers in Oregon will see an increase in pay.

In 2016, state lawmakers created a three-tiered minimum wage. That means while many minimum wage workers will see a new rate of \$13.50 an hour — including in Clatsop County — employees in the Portland area will get an increase to \$14.75. Those are both increases of 75 cents per hour. Meanwhile, the minimum wage in rural parts of the state will jump by 50 cents to \$12.50 an hour.

The Oregon Employment Department said roughly 5% of hourly workers earn the minimum wage.

This is the seventh and final increase that was written into the 2016 law. Next year, minimum wage increases will once again be indexed to inflation, though urban and rural areas will still have different rates.

"It's not going to be a fixed (increase) like it has been for the last several years," said Bob Uhlenkott, a researcher with the Oregon Employment Department. "Now it will float, based on the Consumer Price Index."

Oregon's rate remains among the highest minimum wages in the nation.

— *KLCC*

ON THE RECORD

Criminal mischief
• Johnny Rafeal Gregory Valencia, 38, of Seaside, was indicted on Friday for first-degree criminal mischief. The crime is alleged to have occurred in November.

Theft
• Jack Thomas Fisher, 31, of Astoria, was arrested on Saturday at

Fred Meyer in Warrenton for first-degree theft.

DUI

• Marco Alonso Avalos Martinez, 23, of Seaside, was arrested on Sunday on U.S. Highway 101 at Sunset Beach for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and operating a vehicle without privileges.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning Advisory Committee, 1 p.m., Oregon Department of Forestry Astoria District, 92219 Oregon Highway 202.

the Astorian

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John Dudley

More than a hundred visitors and 30 aircraft came to the Seaside Municipal Airport on Sunday for an airport fly-in and appreciation day.

UP IN THE AIR



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SUMMER SUNSET

Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Teenagers enjoyed the sunset on Saturday on the Long Beach Peninsula.

Long Beach's fireworks ban scrapped after date snafu

Ban was supposed to take effect next year

By BRANDON CLINE
Chinook Observer

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The inability to publish a notice in time threw a wrench into the City Council's plans to ban consumer fireworks within city limits next year.

City Administrator David Glasson reported during a special meeting on Monday that, after consulting the city attorney earlier in the day, approving an ordinance that lays out the city's ban on the sale and use of consumer fireworks does not provide enough time for the ban to go into effect ahead of July



Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

A boy held a smoke bomb as another covered his face from the fumes on July 4, 2019, in Long Beach.

4, 2023.

Because July 4, a holiday, lands on a Monday, he said the necessary five-day notice before an ordinance goes into effect would not be

met until Tuesday. Since the ordinance would be more restrictive than the state's fireworks law, a one-year waiting period is required and the ordinance would not go into effect until July 5, 2023 — after the Fourth of July holiday period.

Other than briefly during the New Year's holiday, the Fourth of July holiday is the only time consumer fireworks are legally permitted

in the state, essentially serving as a cutoff date for any new restrictions.

The snafu means that the three local governments on the Long Beach Peninsula — Long Beach, Ilwaco and Pacific County — will have a different fireworks policy in 2023.

The Long Beach City Council passed an ordinance last fall reducing the sale and use of consumer fireworks from eight to five days, Pacific County commissioners passed an ordinance last December limiting the sale to four days and the use to three days, and the Ilwaco City Council last fall passed a ban on the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

The inconsistencies are sure to cause headaches for enforcement — Ilwaco and Long Beach are both covered by the Long Beach Police Department, while the Pacific County Sheriff's Office covers Seaview and the north peninsula communities.

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