

IN BRIEF

Police investigate bank robbery in Astoria

Police are investigating a bank robbery that occurred in downtown Astoria on Thursday.

A report at about 12:30 p.m. said a man who appeared in his 50s or 60s entered Lewis & Clark Bank on Commercial Street. He presented a note to a teller and left with an undisclosed amount of money, police said.

The suspect was described as wearing sunglasses, a black beanie, a black-and-blue raincoat, black pants and black shoes. He was last seen walking on 10th Street toward Marine Drive, police said.

"For the weather, the clothing should have been fairly noticeable to people," Astoria Deputy Police Chief Eric Halverson said.

Virus death reported by county

Clatsop County has reported a 52nd coronavirus-related death.

On June 18, a 75-year-old woman died of the virus at an area hospital, the county reported.

No other information was immediately available, including whether she had been vaccinated against COVID-19.

State discloses virus cases at local schools

The Oregon Health Authority has disclosed four new coronavirus cases at schools in Clatsop County.

Three cases — one student and two staff members — were from Astoria High School, according to the health authority's biweekly outbreak report.

The other case was a student from Warrenton Middle School.

Two arrested after car crash in Warrenton

Two men allegedly involved in a car crash in Warrenton on Wednesday were arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle and other charges.

Christopher Courtney Jessup, 47, of Kennewick, Washington, was also charged with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, failure to carry or present a license, a hit-and-run involving property and driving uninsured.

Christopher Michael Vivona, 29, of San Emidio, California, was also charged with giving false information to avoid citation. He had a warrant out for his arrest.

The crash occurred at S.E. Discovery and S.E. Ensign lanes.

Fishery managers add Chinook fishing days

Fishery managers have added 13 days of summer Chinook fishing below Bonneville Dam, lasting from Friday through July 13.

Sockeye retention will also be permitted as part of the adult salmon bag limit from Friday to July 31 from the Astoria Bridge to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington. Sockeye can only be tagged on a combined angling tag.

The bag limit is two adult salmonids, with no more than one steelhead. The bag limit for jack salmon is five fish.

A total of 239,575 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam through June 26, 60% higher than the recent 10-year average, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

June 30, 2022

MILLER, Dr. Rodney Spexarth, 100, of Clatskanie, formerly of Astoria, died in Clatskanie. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

charge of the arrangements. OLSON, William Patrick, 86, of Nehalem, died in Nehalem. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 26, 2022

GLORIA, Luisito Sengco, 81, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in

charge of the arrangements. McCLINTOCK, Ronald James, 82, of Knappa, died in Knappa. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 29, 2022

GLORIA, Luisito Sengco, 81, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in

charge of the arrangements. McCLINTOCK, Ronald James, 82, of Knappa, died in Knappa. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Jose Enrique Gutierrez Sanchez, 28, of Astoria, was arrested on Tuesday on W. Marine Drive in Astoria for fourth-degree assault and strangulation, both charges constituting domestic violence.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

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

Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

Cannon Beach City Council, 5 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower Ave.

Clatsop County Fair Board, 5:30 p.m., 92937 Walluski Loop.

Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP

All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Astorian become the property of The Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©

Entire contents © Copyright, 2022 by The Astorian.



Printed on recycled paper

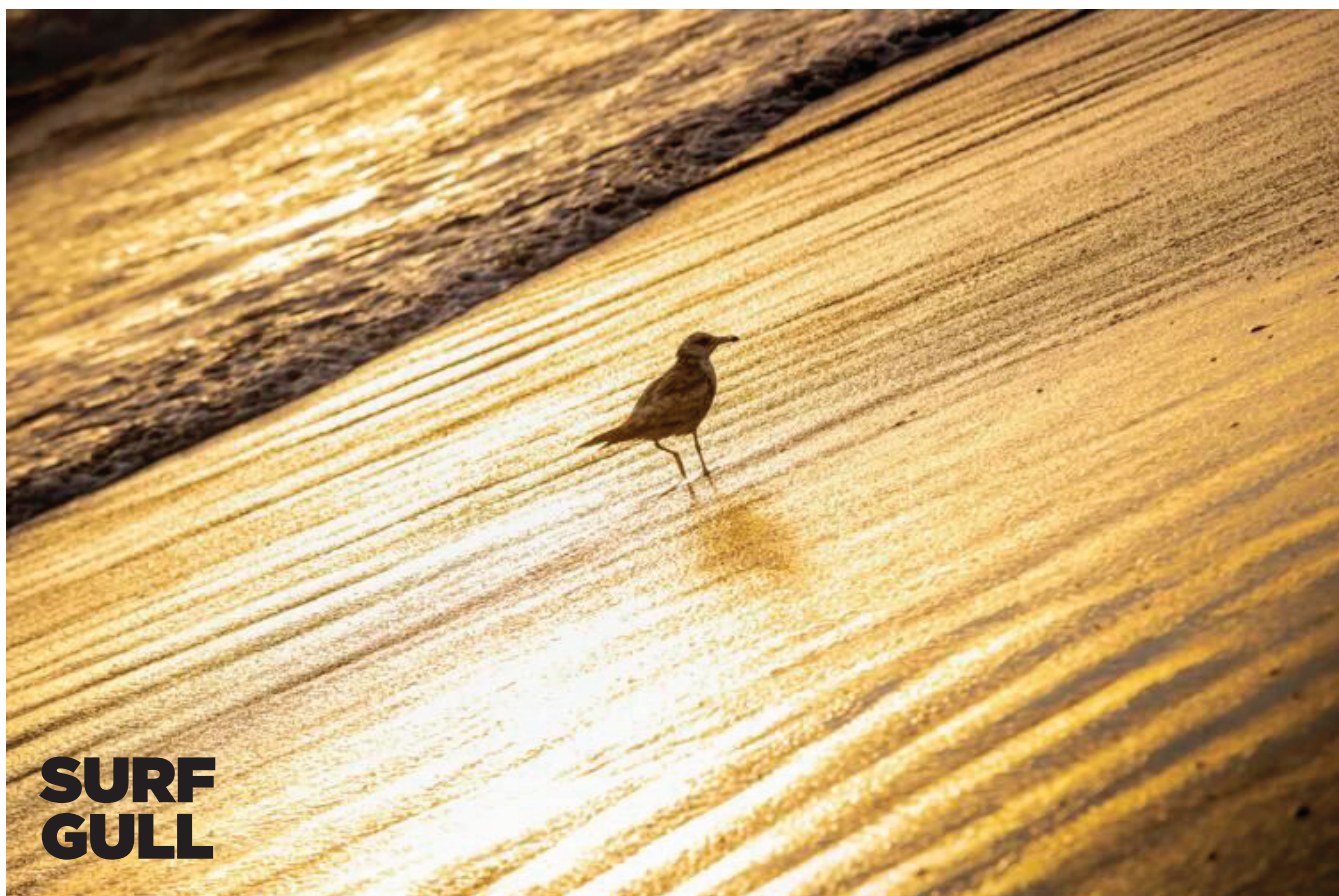
Subscription rates
Effective January 12, 2021

MAIL

EZpay (per month).....\$10.75
13 weeks in advance.....\$37.00
26 weeks in advance.....\$71.00
52 weeks in advance.....\$135.00

DIGITAL

EZpay (per month).....\$8.25



SURF GULL

Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

A sea gull in the surf on the Long Beach Peninsula.

False gun threat leads to precautions in Gearhart

City Council will meet via Zoom

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

GEARHART — A false gun threat has led to city precautions, Police Chief Jeff Bowman said, including a Zoom-only City Council meeting on Wednesday.

Conversations from private Facebook groups administered by local residents led to reports of potential gun use at an upcoming council meeting.

The reports of threats were unfounded, Clatsop County Sheriff Matt Phillips said in an incident report. The sheriff determined the discussion had been distorted via word-of-mouth and social media.

The issue surfaced in the aftermath of the contentious May vote on a firehouse bond measure. After the bond measure failed, residents who had opposed the bond appeared at the City Council meeting on June 1 and threatened to recall the mayor and city councilors, who had endorsed the measure.

Paulina Cockrum resigned as mayor the next day, citing personal reasons.

On June 3, an anonymous social media post alarmed acting Mayor Kerry Smith enough to tell City Administrator Chad Sweet he was concerned about people carrying weapons to public meetings.

"In regard to the risk of

CONVERSATIONS FROM PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUPS ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS LED TO REPORTS OF POTENTIAL GUN USE AT AN UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING.

violence, I was sent a screenshot of two handguns, a bottle of scotch and a Bible with a caption that made me ill because of its content," Smith said this week. "I considered it hate-mongering in tone, and because it came from a person who frequents social media, I felt it showed a real lack of responsibility in the individual, which in turn, made me think safety and security needed beefing up at City Hall. Threats to people in our community will elicit a timely response by the city."

Smith asked for better security doors and a metal detector to prevent weapons from entering City Hall.

Sweet sent an email to city councilors and Smith asking to get all sources of the threats or perceived threats in the form of emails, texts or screenshots.

His message was transmitted by word-of-mouth to a member of The Pacific Way Group, who referred to a potential for violence at the next City Council meeting.

On June 8, Beth Cameron, an opponent of the firehouse bond, reported social media posts to the sheriff's office after reading on Facebook

that Sweet "was saying there would be guns at the next City Council meeting," the sheriff said in his incident report.

Cameron told the sheriff she was concerned that Sweet was "unstable," highlighting past troubles related to alcohol.

The rumored threat came just days after the mass shooting at a school in Uvalde, Texas, Cameron said Friday. "I was understandably concerned for the safety of every single person attending City Council meetings," she said.

Chief Bowman wrote in his blog in early June that City Hall did receive an anonymous letter, she said.

"So what did I falsely report? ... I reported because I would never have been able to live with myself if someone had been hurt, or killed, and I had known about that potential from social media rumors beforehand," she said.

Jack Zimmerman, an administrator of The Pacific Way Group, also contacted the sheriff's office about the matter.

The sheriff's office determined that the discussion had been distorted. Instead of Sweet being proactive in

ensuring security at meetings, messaging led to a perception Sweet was either going to bring a firearm to a meeting or invite others to bring them, the sheriff said in his incident report.

"Sweet was aware of the misinformation being spread and we discussed the email he sent," Phillips said. "Mr. Sweet has no inclination whatsoever to bring firearms of any type to a meeting."

Zimmerman, one of the leading opponents of the bond measure and a critic of Sweet, said his report to the sheriff's office wasn't motivated by politics.

"The question on my part — and I know on Beth Cameron's part — was if there were in fact, people coming to City Council with guns, why was this not reported?" he asked. "One, to the county sheriff; two, to the residents of Gearhart; and then three, what were the actions that would be taken to protect the residents?"

Along with the Zoom-only meeting next week, the City Council could consider additional measures regulating firearms on city property.

"Due to possible negative reactions by others from these social media posts and the members themselves, certain precautions should be taken," Bowman said. "Everyone should be able to feel a sense of safety at a public meeting or gatherings. By making a few adjustments and setting forth some security protocols, citizens will have just that."

Hospital dropped from lawsuit over loss of leg

Columbia Memorial was incorrectly named

By ERICK BENGEL
The Astorian

Columbia Memorial Hospital has been dropped from a lawsuit involving a man who claims his right leg was amputated after a doctor failed to accurately diagnose him.

The lawsuit, filed by Douglas Flesey in Circuit Court in March, named the Astoria hospital as a defendant doing business as the Lower Columbia Clinic.

"CMH was incorrectly named in this lawsuit as being the owner of the Lower Columbia Clinic," Erik Thorsen, the hospital's CEO, wrote in a statement. "CMH does not own or operate the Lower Columbia Clinic and has been officially

dismissed from the lawsuit."

The complaint says that in October 2018, Flesey visited the Lower Columbia Clinic after a thorn had punctured his foot, which had become infected.

His doctor, Thomas Duncan, prescribed antibiotics. Flesey's foot developed a necrotic ulceration, according to the complaint.

Flesey claims that Duncan neglected to sanitize the wound before removing dead tissue, and that the doctor wiped the wound with a pad that had been on the floor absorbing Flesey's blood.

Duncan removed Flesey's bandages a week later. The wound had turned black; the discoloration had spread to two toes, and later four, according to the complaint. Gangrene had set in.

Over several visits, Duncan prescribed multiple

rounds of antibiotics that proved ineffective, the complaint says.

A vascular surgeon at a Portland hospital eventually informed Flesey that the foot had about 30% blood flow, the complaint says. On Nov. 15, 2018, Flesey's leg was amputated below the knee.

The complaint says that Flesey's health and quality of life have diminished as a result of the amputation and mobility loss. He has had to use a wheelchair and a pros-

thetic leg, undergo physical therapy and modify his living environment, the complaint says.

Flesey is seeking more than \$2.8 million covering medical expenses, noneconomic damages and other costs.

Duncan could not immediately be reached for comment.

Patrick Angel, Flesey's Lake Oswego-based attorney, could not be reached for comment.

Please ADOPT A PET!



LITTLE BEAN

Young Short Hair
Tortoiseshell

Invite Little Bean into your life and always have a warm and fuzzy feeling at your fingertips.

See more on

Petfinder.com

CLATSOP COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER • 861-PETS

1315 SE 19th St. • Warrenton | Tues-Sat 12-4pm

www.dogsncats.org



THIS SPACE SPONSORED BY A-TOWN COFFEE

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500