

## Hazen wins 5-year transit post contract

Sunset Empire Transportation District's board of directors has extended the contract of Executive Director Jeff Hazen.

Hazen, who was a finalist for a job at another agency, will get \$90,000 per year, according to the contract agreed upon at a special meeting Nov. 29.

Hazen is a former mayor of Warrenton and was assistant manager at Costco for years.

He was appointed to the executive director post in 2014, the first permanent director after former director Cindy Howe resigned in 2011 amid accusations of misconduct and spending mismanagement.

Hazen's initial contract was for three years, but the board chose to extend that to five years, board member Lylla Gaebel said.

Sunset Empire receives about \$900,000 per year through county property tax assessments as well as state and federal public transit grants.



Hazen



## Cellos take stage with English rock band's work

Portland Cello Project performs at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at the Liberty Theater, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria.

Portland Cello Project will perform Radiohead's "OK Computer," interspersed with creatively curated contrasting and complementary pieces of classical music. The group will be joined vocally by Portland musicians Kyleen King and Adam Shearer.

King plays viola who has performed on recordings of many artists, including My Morning Jacket and Band of Horses. Shearer has been a fan-favorite collaborator with the Cello Project for the last 10 years. The singer/songwriter has appeared on MTV and NBC.

Tickets are \$25 general admission. The box office opens at 2 p.m. on show day.

## Symphony and HS choir perform

Columbia River Symphony and the Warrenton High School Choir present a free family concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Liberty Theater, 1203 Commercial St., Astoria.

It's the second year the two have joined forces to present "Tis the Season: A Holiday Concert."

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

## Chorale's concert focuses on stars

North Coast Chorale will have its winter concert, "Mysterries of the Stars," during two performances.

The first is at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8; the second is 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10. Both are at the Performing Arts Center, corner of 16 and Franklin streets, Astoria.

The concert is a collection of compositions all involving stars -- what they are, how we use them, and how beautiful they are. The music will be performed in a variety of genre, including sacred, secular and gospel. Karin Temple will deliver poetry about stars and an assortment of art by Jo Pomeroy Crockett will be displayed

in the lobby.

Admission is \$10 for adults and free to children under 12 when accompanied by an adult. Tickets can be purchased at the door.



## Tuba fete features jazz, holiday tunes

An annual Tuba Christmas concert by Astoria Tuba Quartet is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, 115 S.E. Lake St., Ilwaco.

The family-friendly concert is free and includes a variety of seasonal selections, jazz arrangements and a polka or two. Tuba Christmas is sponsored by the Ilwaco Merchants Association.

For more information, call the museum at 360-642-3446.

## Open house set for Astor Place

Astor Place, a senior living facility in Astoria, will have its holiday open house from



1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9.

There will be refreshments, a raffle and a community giving tree where attendees are welcome to provide support for a senior in need for the holidays.

Astor Place is at 999 Klaskanine Ave. For more information, call Allannah at 503-325-6970.

## Two churches host bazaars

Two Astoria church will have holiday fairs this weekend.

First Lutheran Church has its Christmas bake sale and bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at the church, 725 33 St. Included are Scandinavian items, a gently used Christmas decoration table, baked goods and more.

First Presbyterian Church has its holiday fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, in the fellowship hall of the church, corner of Harrison Avenue and 11 Street.



Festival of Lights runs every evening through Christmas.

## Portland's Festival of Lights in its third decade

The Grotto's annual Festival of Lights has been an ever-growing community tradition that celebrates the true spirit of Christmas, promoters say.

Through lighting, family entertainment and magnificent indoor concerts, the festival has been highlighting the sights and sounds of the season since 1988.

It is the world's largest Christmas choral festival with more than 175 choirs

and ensembles from around the region performing in the Chapel of Mary, known for its cathedral-like acoustics.

Other family entertainment includes nightly puppet shows, outdoor caroling and a live petting zoo, this year featuring B.C., the baby camel.

Festival hours are 5 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$11, with a \$1 discount for members of the military and senior citizens 65 and older. Children 3

to 12 are \$6.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a donation of canned or dry food benefiting Snow-Cap, a Portland food bank.

Parking is free and volunteer attendants will help direct visitors to the most convenient parking.

The Grotto is a Catholic-based ministry run by the Servite Friars and the Order of Friar Servants of Mary.

To learn more, visit the festival's web page at thegrotto.org