

County's last known Pearl Harbor survivor dies

Spurgeon Keeth, Clatsop County's last known Pearl Harbor attack survivor, died Dec. 28 at his home in Hammond. He was 92.

A military honor celebration will be held Saturday, Jan. 6, at Camp Rilea.

Keeth's body was returned to Yakima, Wash., where memorial services are planned.

Keeth, who suffered from dementia, moved to Hammond to be cared for by his daughter, Donna Barnett, and her husband.

He was given a place of honor by the VFW in the 2016 and 2017 Fourth of July parades and participated in various Memorial Day ceremonies.

Keeth was just 16 when he joined the military and was sent to Pearl Harbor. Within

Spurgeon Keeth celebrates Father's Day with his daughter, Donna Barnett, and great-granddaughter, Tayler Ford.



Inset: Keeth in the Merchant Marines.

months his base was under attack by the Japanese and he saw many friends die.

He later served in the Solomon Islands, in Guadalcanal and Munda. He missed death more than once and suffered through six bouts of malaria, according to old newspaper accounts.

After the service, he worked

as shop foreman for the federal Wapato Irrigation Project in Washington state. He also worked as a mechanic, auto body repairman, truck driver and school bus driver.

Keeth is survived by his wife of 70 years, Ruby, of Yakima. Together they had four children and many more grandchildren.

County seeks folks who are good with numbers

Clatsop County has openings on various county budget committees and seeks applicants.

The citizen committees review the proposed budgets and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

The committees generally meet in May to review the proposed budgets.

• Clatsop County Budget Committee: One full term, ending Feb. 28, 2022, representing District 1; and two unexpired terms, ending Feb. 28, 2020, for Districts 2 and 3 are open.

District 1 covers Warrenton and Hammond and a portion of west Astoria.

District 2 covers Gearhart and Clatsop Plains.

District 3 covers portions of Astoria as well as Miles Crossing, Jeffers Garden, Fort Clatsop, Lewis and Clark and Youngs River.

• Road District 1 Budget Committee: Five full terms

ending Feb. 28, 2022, are available.

• Westport Sewer Service District Budget Committee: Five full terms ending Feb. 28, 2022.

• 4-H & Extension Service District Budget Committee:

Three full terms ending Feb. 28, 2022.

Applications will be taken through Feb. 2.

Applications are available on the county's website or by calling the County Manager's Office at 503-325-1000.

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Kayaker dies while crabbing

The Columbia Press

The body of a missing kayaker was found late Tuesday on the beach near the Seaside Turnaround.

Matthew Manley, 42, of Tualatin had been reported missing at 2:45 p.m. New Year's Day when he failed to return from a crabbing trip in a kayak. He was last spotted in the Seaside Estuary near the mouth of the Necanicum River.

Seaside Fire and Rescue launched a search along with the Coast Guard using helicopters and boats.

The search was called off at 1 p.m. Tuesday due to weather conditions and the probability he could not have survived the temperature and water conditions.

Survival equipment and assets used in the search included Sector Colum-

bia River helicopter crews on rotation and 47-foot motor lifeboats from Station Cape Disappointment. Seaside Police Department still is looking for the missing kayak as they believe it might yield some clues to the man's death and may have been removed from the beach shoreline on Tuesday. The body was found at the water line.



Manley

Anyone with information regarding the case is asked to

contact Seaside Police Detective Guy Knight at 503-738-6311.

Water temperatures in the winter are near 50 degrees and can quickly cause hypothermia.

Rescue personnel recommend letting someone know if you plan to be around the water, observe proper safety and use a flotation device.

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