

Jail commander appointed sheriff

Lt. Matt Phillips was appointed to serve as interim sheriff of Clatsop County by the Board of Commissioners last week.

Phillips, who has served as

jail commander since 2016, has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2001. He was promoted from deputy to sergeant in 2011.

He was named Jail Commander of the Year by the Oregon Sheriff's Association in 2018.

Phillips will assume the office in January with the retirement of Sheriff Tom Bergin.

Voters will decide whether he should remain in the post during the May 19 election.



Cindy Yingst

Sheriff Tom Bergin, left, and Lt. Matt Phillips speak about the new jail last year at Warrenton City Hall.

NW Natural rates heading up

Just as it's starting to get cold, the rates for NW Natural are going up.

The Oregon Public Utility Commission approved a rate increase effective Nov. 1 for customers of NW Natural and two other companies, Avista Utilities and Cascade Natural Gas.

There have been several years of rate decreases related to wholesale natural gas costs, according to the PUC.

Rates increased, in part, because the cost of natural gas spiked over the last year due to a pipeline explosion last winter, which impacted regional gas supply and caused prices to increase.

The PUC approves adjustments to each company's

rates annually to reflect changes in the actual cost of wholesale priced natural gas.

Oregon residents have benefited for most of the past decade, except 2013 and 2014, from a decrease in natural gas rates.

Residential customers can expect an increase of 4.4 percent, or a rise in the average or typical monthly bill from \$52.43 to \$54.74.

Commercial customers will see a decrease of about 2.3 percent.

Industrial customers will see an increase of about 3.2 percent.

NW Natural serves 670,000 customers in Northwest Oregon.

Saddle Mountain briefly closed

Forget taking a hike up Saddle Mountain during the Thanksgiving break.

Public access to Saddle Mountain State Natural Area will be closed Nov. 25 through Dec. 6, according to Oregon Parks and Recreation. The park will reopen early morning on Dec. 7.

During the closure, construction crews will make repairs to the park's entrance road. DNA Mowing & Excavation of Pacific City has been hired to complete the project.

Saddle Mountain is off Highway 26, just east of Necanicum Highway/State Route 53.

WHS season ends with 32-7 loss to Heppner

By BRUCE DUSTIN

The Columbia Press

The Warrenton Warriors football team suffered a 32-7 season-ending loss to the Heppner Mustangs last Saturday in the 2A state quarterfinals at Les Payne Field in Eastern Oregon.

The Warriors went up 7-6 with a promising third quarter touchdown by Jake Morrow.

It was quickly erased, though, by a Heppner kickoff return before the end of the

third quarter. Heppner's Jason Lehman raced down the sidelines and took the lead, 12-7.

"It kind of took the wind out of our sails," Coach Ian O'Brien admitted. "And we couldn't seem to recover. Their defense was overwhelming. After all, they've allowed the fewest number of points for the season at the 2A level."

It was the final game for nine senior players, Jacob Morrow, J.J. Salcedo, Austin Little, McKenzie Ram-

sey, Gabe Breitmeyer, Noah Miller, Devin Jackson, Leo Thompson and Mark Warren.

The Warriors were 0-9 their freshman year and 1-8 as sophomores. They were 5-4 their junior year. But this year, the team finished 7-3.

"This group of seniors set the gold standard for what it takes to be a good quality football team," O'Brien said. "I'm very proud of our kids. I'd also like to take this time to thank the community for the level of support they have given to our kids."

Astoria artist's work on exhibit in State Capitol

Works by Astoria artist Darren Orange are on exhibit in the Governor's Office at the State Capitol through Jan. 21.

"Those Who Step Into The Same Rivers" is a new body of work that stretches further from literal reference and deeper into abstraction.

The artist explores automatism, a practice of intuitive mark making that engages both play and meditative focus.

The exhibited works were created in Orange's studio on the Columbia River.

The exhibition title refers to a quote by Greek philosopher Heraclitus. In response to the ancient philosophical paradox known as The Ship of Theseus, Heraclitus stated that though a river changes as the water is replenished by other water, the river continues to be the same river.

Likewise, a person who steps into the same river twice may also have changed, but still maintains the same identity.

Orange studied art at Western Washington University and moved to Astoria in 2000. He is represented by Imogen Gallery in Astoria.

The Art in the Governor's Office Program honors se-

lected artists in Oregon with exhibitions in the reception area. Artists are nominated by a statewide committee of

arts professionals.

An exhibit in the Governor's Office is regarded as a "once in a lifetime" honor.

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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Saturday, Nov. 30



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You're shopping small every time you pick up a latte at the corner coffee shop, grab lunch at a local cafe, buy a new bag at the neighborhood boutique, or catch a show at the local theater. You're supporting the small businesses that make our community vibrant and unique.

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