

Firefighters captivate kids with stories, demonstrations

The Columbia Press

Dozens of children attended a two-day event at Warrenton Fire Department that included firefighters reading stories, kids getting to explore fire equipment, and everyone learning more about fire safety.

“It was a creative way to provide fire prevention to children,” Fire Chief Brian Alsbury said. “Historically, we provide fire prevention at the schools. But with the pandemic, that made us get creative.”

Last weekend’s free Fire Safety and Storytime was co-sponsored by the fire department and Warrenton Community Library.

Tickets were required to control the number attending, thereby ensuring social distancing and the



Above: Gabe Byers (Sparky) and a volunteer firefighter read to the crowd a book about working in a firehouse (photo by Cindy Hansen). Left: Chief Brian Alsbury demonstrates how to use a home fire extinguisher (by Cindy Hansen). Top left: A child gets to feel what it’s like to drive a fire truck (photo by Kelly Knudsen).

best experience for participants.

Five firefighters, children’s library

aid Mary Goff, and a library trainee participated.

It’s deer season at the airport

By **CINDY YINGST**
The Columbia Press

Deer congregating on the runways at Astoria Regional Airport have created a hazard to the Coast Guard and other airport users.

On Tuesday night, Warrenton City Commissioners adopted a resolution allowing the Port of Astoria, which owns the airport, to shoot the deer. Discharging a firearm within the city limits is otherwise prohibited except for a few areas where duck hunting is allowed or there’s an approved shooting range.

The port asked city leaders last week to allow the taking of deer on the property to prevent further property destruction and safety hazards.

Airport Director Gary Kobes said he was contacted by the Coast Guard about the problem two weeks ago. He went out at night and spotted 6 to 10 deer grazing on or near the runways.

“It’s very dangerous when they’re inside the fence,” Kobes told city commissioners. “My intent is to probably have several hunts out there,

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Abandoned vehicles cause big problem in Clatsop State Forest

Abandoned cars, boats and recreational vehicles in the Clatsop State Forest are an increasingly common nuisance, often posing public health risks and costing thousands of dollars each to remove.

During the past three years, the Oregon Department of Forestry’s Astoria District has spent more than \$42,000 removing, disposing and cleaning up after discovering and removing vehicles left to the elements.

A sampling of some of the cases:

- A 36-foot motorhome with several hundred syringes and a sawed-off shotgun found inside, costing \$8,575 in labor and fees.

- An area with a motorhome, two fifth-wheel trailers and a sedan, which cost \$12,046 to remove.

- A burned-out motorhome, which cost \$3,084 to remove.

- Another motorhome with several thousand syringes found on site, requiring a biohazard company to clean the site, costing \$5,780.

Other vehicles – boats, cars, and travel trailers, often with plenty of trash inside – await pickup, representing thousands of dollars more in cleanup costs.

“Unfortunately, when these vehicles

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Disposing of vehicles

Three locations accept old autos and recreational vehicles.

- *Astoria Auto Wrecking and Recycling*, 34522 Hwy 101 Business, Astoria, 503-325-8855.
- *Recology*, 1790 Williamsport Road, Astoria, 503-861-0578.
- *Long Beach Recycling Center*, 4404 67th Place, Long Beach, Wash., 360-642-2541.

An abandoned trailer decomposes in the Clatsop State Forest (courtesy sheriff’s office).

