

A look back before kicking 2020 to the curb

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Congratulations. You've made it through a year like no other.

2020 will go down in history for its mix of devastation and hard-fought social change.

The year began with the revelation that a new and deadly virus was headed our way. It ended with 82.3 million infected worldwide and 1.8 million deaths.

Early in the year, the unrest building over months – years – of bias against people of color erupted into protests that would last all year and the destruction of statues honoring historical figures. Anarchists and others took advantage of the upheaval to set off bombs, damage government buildings, vandalize museum pieces, and set fire to the homes of politicians.

Polarization was the watchword of 2020. Never have so many taken such deeply divergent stands.

Black Lives Matter. All Lives Matter. Police Lives Matter.

Hoax. Dempanic. Worst world crisis since AIDS.

The mask – or lack thereof – be-

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Oregon Army National Guard

Above: Members of the Oregon National Guard and hospital employees work to set up tents for potential COVID-19 patients outside Providence Seaside Hospital in the spring.

Right: Principal Rod Heyen welcomes students back to Warrenton Grade School in September. A few weeks later, children returned to all-distance learning.



Sara Gingrich/For The Columbia Press

Woman killed in burglary, stand-off

The Columbia Press

A woman who broke into an occupied home near Sunset Beach was shot and killed Monday afternoon when she threatened police and others with a firearm found in the residence, according to the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office.

Officers went to the home in the 33100 block of Oregon Lane, just south of Warrenton, about 1:40 p.m. after receiving a report of a burglary in progress.

The resident told dispatchers that a woman he didn't know had broken into his unlocked home and barricaded herself in one of the rooms, according to the sheriff's report. Unfortunately, there were several firearms in the room and she found one.

As deputies arrived, they tried to negotiate with the woman and de-escalate the situation, the report says.

The woman was identified as Alaina Burns, 31, of Astoria.

"Crisis intervention-trained and crisis negotiation-trained deputies communicated with Burns for close to an hour, during which time Burns discharged a firearm inside the residence," according to the report. "De-escalation and negotiation continued nearly 40 minutes after the discharge of the firearm."

Ultimately, their efforts weren't successful and she climbed onto a second-floor balcony and then the roof with the firearm and threatened officers with it, according to the sheriff's office.

An Oregon State Police trooper fired at Burns and she was struck.

She could not be revived by paramedics, who'd been called to stand by

Group: Elk culling a necessary practice in Clatsop County

By CINDY YINGST
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A group of civic leaders, homeowners and outdoors enthusiasts have a plan for dealing with the local elk problem.

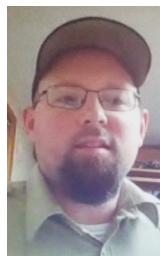
Their elk "Declaration of Collaboration" is 18 months in the making and involved everyone from the Governor's Office to Fish and Wildlife to the Oregon Hunter's Association to local governments.

Their mission was to come up with solutions to the Clatsop Plains herd

– and other herds – whose populations are exploding.

Council members in Gearhart, where one doesn't need to search far to find an elk, held a work session Tuesday night to review the work of the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative.

"What we've seen in the past decade is exponential growth. We would expect that," said Paul Atwood, an elk



Atwood

specialist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "The reason we're all around the table with this is because ... we can't manage them in a traditional sense as we would elk in the forest. Many of our tools don't fit nicely in urban settings."

ODFW counted 149 elk in the Gearhart herd during a flyover inventory in February. And that was before spring, when calves are born. Generally, a herd of 40 to 60 has been the tradition in Northwest Clatsop County, Atwood

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