

Homeless liaisons to lead outreach in county

By **NICOLE BALES**
The Astorian

Clatsop County will soon have two liaisons dedicated to connecting homeless people to social services, along with gathering data and addressing gaps in outreach.

The positions, funded by the county and Clatsop Community Action, grew out of an Astoria task force on homelessness. The liaisons will work under Clatsop Community Action and the agency is trying to secure continuous funding into the future.

The task force envisioned at least two people serving the homeless throughout the county, but limited the position to one due to funding constraints. After securing additional money, Clatsop

Community Action hired two people.

During a task force meeting earlier this month, Matthews announced that Cheryl Paul, of Astoria, and Shannon Turner, of Texas, will begin in April.

Paul has worked at the Astoria Warming Center for the past several years. She also volunteers at the Beacon Clubhouse in Astoria, which does homeless and mental health outreach.

Turner has worked in social services for over four years, and most recently served at a coronavirus recovery shelter.

Paul and Turner will coordinate with law enforcement and social service agencies. Matthews hopes that in addition to connecting people to services, the work will result in



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Viviana Matthews, right, is the executive director of Clatsop Community Action. Susan Prettyman is the agency's social services program manager.

fewer people visiting hospital emergency rooms.

Clatsop Community Action will reach out to local government leaders to be part of an advisory committee to help oversee the homeless liaisons' mission.

Matthews reminded the

task force that the root of homelessness is the housing crisis.

"I mean, we'll do the best we can, but please remember, the housing inventory is extremely low — kind of nonexistent right now," she said.

"Housing is our No. 1 issue."

Astoria Police Chief Geoff Spalding, who chairs the task force and was part of the hiring process for the homeless liaisons, called the two positions a significant accomplishment. He said the advisory committee is still a work in progress.

"In addition to reaching out to cities and counties, as we grow this program and we add new financial partners, too, we will definitely be looking to add individuals to the advisory committee outside of the government entities," Spalding said. "So I look forward to having more partners in this on many levels to make sure that we have as much input as possible."

"And I think this program will probably look very dif-

ferent two years from now than it will today, and we will learn from this. And also, we will track our progress and see how effective the program is in our community, which is what I think a lot of people will be looking for."

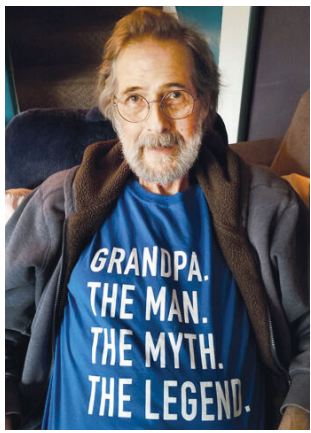
Assistant County Manager Monica Steele, who also serves on the task force and was involved in the hiring process, thanked Matthews for securing the additional funding to hire two people.

"I think we all knew from the beginning that there's more work than one person can handle," Steele said. "And so from a funding perspective, Viviana really went out and tried to find additional funding so that when we had two good candidates come before us, that we were able to hire both of them."

OBITUARY

Patrick Sidney Morrisson

Gearhart
May 3, 1948 — Feb. 26, 2021



Patrick and Lenore moved to Cannon Beach in 1979 and married in 1980. Patrick loved his family more than anything; he was

a wonderful father who nurtured his daughters' interests and showered them with love.

The family was involved with local community theater, having many fond memories of performing in Coaster Theatre productions.

Patrick's career in education began as a teacher at Seaside Heights Elementary School. His students remember his kindness, love of learning and teachings of peace. He then worked for Clatsop Community College as a guidance counselor. He and Lenore ran a

small home video business, Coastal Video Productions.

Patrick loved the Portland Trail Blazers, fishing, daily walks on the beach, crows, hearing from former students, photography and watching his daughters grow up. He was excited to welcome his first two grandbabies to the world this summer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Virginia Morrison.

He is survived by his wife, Lenore Morrisson, of Gearhart; daughter, Maria Morrisson Copolillo and Chris Copolillo, of Los

Angeles; daughter, Sydney Morrisson and Troy Douglass, of Portland; brother, Michael Morrisson and Brenda Morrison, of Santa Clarita, California; and cat, "Lucy," of Gearhart.

Services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of gifts and flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Patrick Morrisson Memorial Scholarship fund for Seaside High School students.

Donations can be made online at bit.ly/PMorrisson or contact Lenore Morrisson for more information.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



March 1
2:37 p.m., Necanicum River and 4th: A person in a kayak setting off fireworks is issued a warning about illegal fireworks.
11:39 p.m., 2300 block S. Roosevelt: A person is ticketed for exceeding the speed limit.
March 2
8:05 a.m., Police headquarters: A person came in to report they lost their wallet.
1:06 p.m., Sewer plant: A citizen found a wallet which was turned in to police who contacted the wallet's owner and returned it to them via the United States Postal Service.
2:44 p.m., Broadway Park: Drug paraphernalia found in the restrooms is disposed of by police.
3:19 p.m., U.S. Highway 101 and Highlands Lane: A woman reported taking selfies on her phone while driving is located and stopped. She is warned of the complaint.
5:52 p.m., 2100 block S. Franklin: A neighbor reported an intoxicated neighbor causing a disturbance in the laundry area. The intoxicated person is warned of disorderly conduct.
March 3
12:37 a.m., N. Holladay: A person is arrested for Driving

While Under the Influence of Intoxicants.
7:49 a.m., U.S. Highway 101 and Avenue U: Motor vehicle accident.
March 4
4:46 a.m., Woods behind Safeway: A disturbance is reported.
6:34 a.m., Mill Ponds: Police assist firefighters at a transient camp fire.
10:29 a.m., 1800 block S. Roosevelt: A driver got his vehicle high centered on a boulder with his front end teetering in the river. On police arrival, the person had already called for tow.
11:26 a.m., Mill Ponds: A disturbance is reported.
March 5
7:44 a.m., 600 block Broadway: Police take information regarding a property crime.
March 6
7:25 a.m., 1000 block 12th Avenue: Subjects are warned of unlawful lodging.
1:27 p.m., Gearhart: Another agency is assisted.
10:46 p.m., Safeway: A person is charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants.
March 7
3:59 a.m., 2300 block S. Roosevelt: An assault is reported.
9:52 a.m., 600 block Broadway: A person is trespassed from a business.

2:16 p.m., 200 block Broadway: A person is arrested on a warrant.
9:15 p.m., 1100 block S. Holladay: Caller reports someone diving in a dumpster for thirty minutes; the subject left prior to police arrival. March 8
6:19 a.m., 400 block S. Holladay: A couple arguing in their room about their relationship is advised their loud voices are disturbing other hotel patrons.
9:01 a.m., 800 block Eighth Avenue: A lost pup is reunited with its owner.
10:17 a.m., 500 block S. Edgewood: A caller reported her neighbor is stalking her. Officers contacted both parties and advised them to leave each other alone.
1:38 p.m., 900 block Broadway: A person is arrested on a warrant.
March 9
1:35 p.m., Mill Ponds: An assault is reported.
4:53 p.m., Chamber Rest Rooms: Transient males reported occupying the bathrooms are warned and advised to move along.
6:48 p.m., 1300 block 12th Avenue: A caller reported a prowler on the property attempting to open their front door. Police looked for the person with negative results.
March 10

10:36 a.m., Broadway and Wahanna: A person is cited for speeding.
11:03 a.m., Wahanna Ball Field: A person is cited for exceeding the speed limit.
11:34 a.m., Holladay and Village Terrace: A person is cited for speeding.
3:11 p.m., Avenue G and Hi-Tide: A found wallet is turned in for safekeeping.
16:01 p.m., Oregon and Holladay: A loose Chihuahua reported at large is unable to be located.
7:11 p.m., Avenue G: Police are notified of a death at home.
11:26 p.m., 900 block Holladay Drive: A disturbance is reported.

March 11
3:42 p.m., 800 block 11th Avenue: A person is arrested for being in violation of their release agreement.
11:54 p.m., 1200 block S. Wahanna: A disturbance is reported.
SEASIDE FIRE & RESCUE PUBLIC SAFETY LOG
March 1
2:03 a.m., 600 block S. Edgewood: Emergency medical response. Assist another agency.
10:25 a.m., 700 block 12th Avenue: Police and emergency personnel assist at

the scene of a motor vehicle accident. Medix on scene.
4:05 p.m., Gower Avenue: Structure fire.
March 2
3:29 p.m., 600 block S. Edgewood: Emergency medical response.
March 3
5:13 p.m., 13th and Beach: Fire investigation.
9:40 p.m., 33000 Beerman Creek Road: Emergency medical response.
March 4
12:26 a.m., 1200 block S. Wahanna: Emergency medical response.
1:34 a.m., 1300 block Stillwater Court: Emergency medical response.

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