

NEWS NOTES

Federal grants to help rural fire departments

Rural fire departments in Clatsop County will receive more than \$1.2 million in federal grants to buy new tools and resources that are in compliance with the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici announced.

Warrenton will receive \$160,952. Knappa will receive \$200,000. Cannon Beach will receive grants of \$574,571 and \$46,380. Hamlet will receive grants of \$268,571 and \$44,761.

The money comes from the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Razor clamming reopens on North Coast

Razor clamming reopens on the popular Clatsop beaches between Warrenton and Seaside on Friday.

The area was closed to clamming for an annual conservation closure during the summer, but has not been open to clammers since last October. High levels of domoic acid shut down digging last year and kept the area closed through the spring.

Clammers are allowed a daily harvest limit of the first 15 razor clams dug, regardless of size or condition. Razor clam harvesting in Oregon opened elsewhere on the coast last week, from the California border to Tillamook Head south of Seaside.

Donna Jean Osborne Wheeler

Donna Jean Osborne, 81, passed away peacefully on Sept. 22, 2021, in her home in Wheeler.

Retired teacher and Indigenous and women's rights activist, Donna is survived by her husband, two brothers, three daughters and a son.

A family graveside service was held at Nehalem American Legion Cemetery on Monday. A memorial celebration of life for friends and family will be announced by the family at a later date.



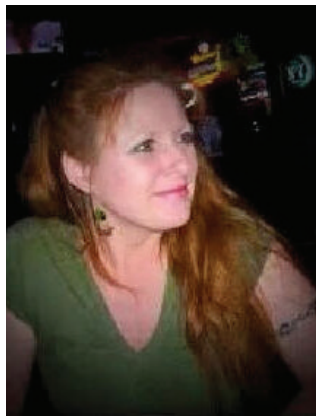
Susan Colleen Goddard
Seaside
March 15, 1959 — Sept. 18, 2021

Susan Colleen Goddard, 62, of Seaside, passed on Sept. 18, 2021, at home, surrounded by those who loved her.

She was born in Salem on March 15, 1959, and raised in Springfield. Susie spent much of her life in the Vancouver-Portland metro area, and her remaining years in Seaside. She is survived by her two children, Jill and Louie, as well as her siblings, Donna, Michelle, Jeanette, Diana, Robert, and step-sister, Kathy. She is also survived by her lov-

ing partner and soul mate, Jimmy Mendenhall.

Anyone who knew Susie would agree that she was a truly beautiful and unique soul. She was a charming, honest woman with a big heart and enduring smile, whose love would make you feel like the sunshine was upon you. She loved to have fun and make others laugh wherever she went; her sense of humor was absolutely infectious. Susie loved being a mom and took so much pride in her children. She was also a loyal



friend; always with so much to give. That's what she was, a giver, even if she didn't have much of her own. She will be dearly missed to say the least. We love you Susie-Q.

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG



Sept. 17
12:46 p.m., 300 block Alpine Drive: A disturbance is reported.
Sept. 18
5:24 a.m., Fifth Avenue and N. Jackson: A person reports their vehicle was illegally entered.
10:18 a.m., E. End Avenue D: Caller asks assistance for information about her father who she said is a transient in Seaside. She said she'd had no contact with him for months. Police contacted her father who reported through them back to her that he is fine.
Sept. 19
2:26 a.m., 2500 block S. Roosevelt: A deceased person is reported.
3:41 a.m., 600 block S. Columbia: A disturbance is reported.
6:40 p.m., 14th Avenue and Ocean Shore: A party digging a large hole in the sand is reported; officers responding advise the group of city ordinances and the group leader says they will fill in the hole.

11:36 p.m., 500 block Avenue G: A caller reports their car was illegally entered.
Sept. 20
5:24 a.m., 1100 block Broadway: Subjects are trespassed from a property and advised to not return.
12:59 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in for their annual sex offender registration. New fingerprints were taken.
9:53 p.m., 900 block Avenue S: A disturbance is reported.
Sept. 21
8:19 a.m., 1700 block N. Holladay: A deceased person is reported.
9:08 a.m., 1700 block Beach Drive: Caller reports someone came into her yard and turned the hose on full force and then left with the water running. A property crime report was made.
10:53 a.m., Avenue T and the Prom: Caller reports a female sleeping on a bench, preventing her from sitting there. Police on arrival tell the female to wake up and move along.
11:32 a.m., 1400 block N. Wahanna: Caller reports an abandoned suitcase. Police find a dirty old nylon bag full of

garbage which they throw in the trash.
3:18 p.m., Police headquarters: A person came in for their annual sex offender registration.
Sept. 22
5:17 p.m., 400 block S. Holladay: Property crimes are reported.
Sept. 23
6:49 a.m., 1200 block S. Wahanna: Police respond to a reported disturbance in an adjacent unit; it was about children going to school. No further action was taken.
2:15 p.m., Chamber parking: Suspicious circumstances are reported.
11:13 p.m., Avenue A/Turn-around: A person is arrested on a warrant.



Sept. 17
1:42 p.m., 2100 block S. Downing: EMS call.
8:04 p.m., Surfer's Cove: Fire investigation.

Sept. 18
1:59 p.m., Indian Beach: Water rescue.
Sept. 20
10:42 a.m., N. Holladay: EMS call.
2:57 p.m., 700 block S. Wahanna: EMS call.
Sept. 21
5:09 p.m., N. Downing: EMS call.
5:43 p.m., One mile north of Del Rey Beach: Water rescue.
9:42 p.m., 1200 block Avenue A: EMS call.
Sept. 22
5:05 a.m., 1000 block S. Downing Street: EMS call.
9:09 a.m., 400 block S. Holladay: EMS call.
11:28 a.m., 500 block S. Prom: EMS call.
1:26 p.m., Side of Safeway: EMS call.
2:33 p.m., Second and Holladay: Fire investigation.
5:23 p.m., S. Wahanna: EMS call.
6:24 p.m., 25th and Pine: Fire investigation.
11:05 p.m., 1100 block Avenue A: EMS call.



Fatality
Leah Brown, 30, of Nehalem, was killed Sept. 17 in a two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 26. Brown was driving a 1998 Ford Explorer westbound near milepost 11 at about 7:20 a.m. when the vehicle crossed the centerline and struck a semitruck, according to Oregon State Police. Brown was pronounced dead at the scene, police said.
Crashed
A Seaside woman Sept. 17 at 5:32 p.m. crashed her car on U.S. Highway 53 at milepost 2.2, her car winding up wedged between trees. State police say she was traveling southbound and her Ford truck left the roadway as she negotiated a curve, crashing her into the northbound ditch and eventually getting her stuck between trees. Her Ford left the area via Gary's Tow. The Hamlet Fire Department was on scene. The 59-year-old driver wasn't injured.

Vaccine mandate could trigger staff losses at several fire departments

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian

Fire chiefs in Clatsop County expect to see a significant decline in personnel due to the state's coronavirus vaccine mandate, a situation that could leave parts of the county underserved by emergency responders.

At a recent meeting of the county's Fire Defense Board, local chiefs and department leaders gave estimates of the staffing losses that may occur after Gov. Kate Brown's Oct. 18 deadline for health care workers, teachers and other school staff to get vaccinated.

Sheriff Matt Phillips attended the meeting and relayed the numbers in a report to the county Board of Commissioners. "It appears that on Oct. 19, some areas of our county will not have a fire response to medical emergencies, crashes, industrial accidents, etc.," the sheriff told commissioners in an email.

'THE PERVASIVE MISINFORMATION OUT THERE IS NO LONGER AN EXCUSE. UNVACCINATED PEOPLE ARE GETTING SICK AND ARE DYING IN THIS COMMUNITY. WE NEED TO GIVE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS A BREAK AND THAT MEANS DOING YOUR PART AND PROTECTING YOURSELF AND THOSE AROUND YOU BY GETTING VACCINATED.'

Mark Kujala, chairman of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, who serves as director of the Columbia Memorial Hospital Foundation

Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer has asked Brown for an exemption to the vaccine mandate for volunteer firefighters. The mayor and others are particularly concerned about losing firefighters who are trained to provide emergency medical service.

Some fire departments, such as Seaside, indicated they may not lose staff over the vaccine mandate, according to Phillips' report. Others, like departments in Knappa and West-

port, may lose a small number but won't experience operational changes.

But at Lewis and Clark, the 31-person fire crew could lose, on the higher end, about half of its people.

Unvaccinated staff can remain at Lewis and Clark and respond only to fire calls, Golightly said, but the fire department's ability to respond to medical calls during daytime hours will be limited. He is the only paid staff member in the department.

For a moment, the governor's rules required health

care workers to submit to weekly COVID-19 testing if they couldn't show proof of vaccination. Golightly's crew was on board with that, he said, and the department had planned to do testing in house.

According to the report Phillips compiled, Olney-Walluski Fire and Rescue also indicated its department will have trouble during business hours responding to motor vehicle crashes and medical incidents. Elsie's department, located in a rural area

where the wait time for emergency response is relatively long, has discussed the possibility of "only responding to fire calls." Hamlet Volunteer Fire Department, which shows up to crashes on U.S. Highway 26, said it may lose roughly half of its small department. Warrenton and Gearhart, two better-staffed departments, face an abrupt depletion of firefighters.

County Manager Don Bohn noted that the concern about potential EMS shortfalls is felt in rural counties statewide. Some counties, such as Malheur and Baker, have declared emergencies over the vaccine mandate.

Mark Kujala, the chairman of the Board of Commissioners, who serves as director of the Columbia Memorial Hospital Foundation, acknowledged the difficulties the vaccine mandate has created throughout Oregon.

But he also said it's wrong to say the debate about vaccines is balanced.

He pointed to a letter the board received from a constituent "basically telling us that COVID isn't killing anybody, and vaccines are responsible for deaths ... that we're feeding everybody lies, it's a big conspiracy about health care and government," he summarized at the meeting.

"I just think that the facts on one side are wrong," he said, "and I don't mind saying that. I think that we need to be able to say that."

Kujala said in a text message after the meeting that it's unfortunate that it takes mandates to get people vaccinated.

"But the pervasive misinformation out there is no longer an excuse," he wrote. "Unvaccinated people are getting sick and are dying in this community. We need to give public health and health care systems a break and that means doing your part and protecting yourself and those around you by getting vaccinated."

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