

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

# Wyden talks housing, mental health, salmon

By **ETHAN MYERS**  
The Astorian



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

**U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden spoke at a virtual town hall for residents of Clatsop County from The Astorian's newsroom.**

In Clatsop County's stop on U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden's yearly tour of town halls throughout Oregon, the topics ranged from affordable housing and mental health to fishing and salmon recovery.

The Oregon Democrat noted several investments in the community from federal spending packages, including \$1 million for a water-line project in Hammond and nearly \$1 million toward establishing virtual intensive care at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria in partnership with Oregon Health & Science University Hospital.

Nancy Ferber, of Astoria, brought up the region's struggle with a lack of affordable and workforce housing, asking what initiatives and projects the senator has worked on to help respond to the issue.

Wyden pointed to a number of steps, including the Decent, Affordable, Safe Housing For All Act, which seeks to create more housing options for individuals at various income levels.

The act would address the affordability challenge by strengthening the low-income housing tax credit, as well as creating a middle-income housing tax credit.

"At every level, we are trying to extend help — low income, middle income, homeless, busting red tape," Wyden said at the virtual town hall, which was livestreamed earlier this month from The Astorian newsroom. "This is a central issue for Oregonians."

A similar issue that often overlaps with the housing crisis — the availability and accessibility of mental health services — was a topic broached by a Warrenton woman, particularly around funding that could be allo-

cated to primary care settings. Wyden said he believes "there is going to be concrete action taken on mental health reforms in this Congress. I know people say, 'C'mon Ron, Congress is so polarized, I'm not sure you guys could agree to order a 7UP, let alone deal with a major issue' ... I want you to know ... we're going to be focused on integrated care just like you're talking about."

The Senate Finance Committee, which Wyden chairs, has authority over federal programs that are the primary contributors for mental health services, such as Medicaid.

The senator mentioned his efforts on the CAHOOTS initiative, which secured funding to adjust the approach to interactions between people struggling with mental health and law enforcement. The outreach is modeled after a mental-health-crisis intervention program in Eugene.

Wyden called mental health "deeply personal" and a "cause of a lifetime," sharing that his brother has struggled with schizophrenia and has become a source of inspiration for making an impact.

Fishing and salmon were also topics of discussion.

Questions arose about the impact of a proposed coastal wind call project and the battle for salmon recovery, par-

ticularly the debate over the removal of Snake River dams.

"First of all, my door is open to all sides in respect to the Snake River. To me, the decisions need to be collaborative if we (want) everybody's input," Wyden said. "There are multiple needs in these kinds of instances and if you don't address them in a responsible way that is really connected to the science, basically you're not going to have a win-win, you're going to have a lose-lose."

"You're not going to be able to do anything in terms of economics, in terms of fish restoration."

Several times, Wyden referred to the importance of bipartisanship, collaboration and solving matters the "Oregon way."

After the livestream concluded, Wyden referred to the town halls and the input he receives from them as influential. The event, hosted by People's Town Hall, was his 1,011th town hall since his pledge to hold at least one in each of the state's 36 counties every year.

"This helps reduce the distance between Washington, D.C., and the coast," the senator said.

"I'd like to think, at the end of the day, people say, 'Alright, I got a chance to be heard.'"

**PUBLIC SAFETY LOG**



**April 15**  
**6:46 p.m.**, 1600 block Lea Way: A domestic incident reported.

**April 16**  
**6:02 a.m.**, 800 block S. Roosevelt: Caller reports a nude man in the restroom of a store. Police assist the confused man back to his residence.

**6:30 a.m.**, Ocean Shore and Avenue G: Water rescue/EMS call.

**8:49 a.m.**, 1400 block S. Roosevelt: Callers report a male flashing them. Subject was found and returned home.

**12:31 p.m.**, 10th and Necanicum: Caller reports someone is blocking his trailer. Police advise this is a civil issue.

**12:58 p.m.** Forest Drive: A deceased person is reported.

**April 17**  
**12:15 a.m.**, 400 block Avenue A: Caller reports their dog stolen.

**3:51 p.m.**, Mill Ponds: EMS call.

**5:06 p.m.**, 800 block S. Roosevelt: A subject is arrested for assault.

**11:08 p.m.**, S. Holladay: Person reports being assaulted; police are unable to locate the alleged perpetrator.

**April 18**  
**6:17 a.m.**, 10th and Necanicum: Caller reports being yelled at after posting "no camping" and "no parking" signs. Police are unable to locate the person who yelled.

**1:24 p.m.**, Police headquarters: A person reported their phone and their wallet missing somewhere in the Seaside area.

**April 19**  
**12:32 p.m.**, 1200 block S. Wahanna: Welfare check.

**April 20**  
**12:45 p.m.** End of Avenue D: A person is arrested on a warrant after a disturbance is reported. They are cited and released on a Clatsop County Sheriff's Office warrant and deputies from that office are advised of the person's whereabouts.

**8:16 a.m.**, 400 block N. Prom: A case is taken for a stolen firearm.

**12:12 p.m.**, 1300 block 12th Avenue: An electric bike is reported stolen.

**3:39 p.m.**, 2500 block Mill Creek Lane: Angry caller reports children playing basketball and wants them removed.

**April 21**  
**12:15 p.m.**, Safeway: A person is arrested on a warrant.

**3:42 p.m.**, Safeway: Another person is arrested on a warrant.

See Log, Page A3

**OBITUARIES**

**Elizabeth Jean Reynolds**



**Seaside**  
**Oct. 21, 1951 —**  
**March 31, 2022**

Elizabeth Jean Reynolds (née Erickson) passed away on March 31, 2022, of anaplastic thyroid cancer.

Liz spent nearly her entire life on the North Coast. She was born in Seaside to Don and Leona Erickson, grew up in Cannon Beach, and graduated from Seaside High School, Class of 1969.

After completing college at Oregon State University with the Class of 1973, she taught primarily first grade for 30 years at Seaside Heights Elementary School.

Liz was an avid reader and brought her passion for reading to her profession. Upon her retirement, she had taught nearly 1,000 students the joy of reading.

She also enjoyed growing roses and traveling throughout the U.S.

During high school, Liz met her future husband, Mark Reynolds. They were married in 1972, and Mark was still by her side when she passed away.

Together, they raised two sons, Kirk (Kelly) and Kevin (Lindsay), and doted on four grandchildren, Jack (17), Molly (14), Cannon (2) and Thorin (2 weeks). She is also survived by her siblings, Allan Erickson, Janet Bates and Deanna Mancill.

A graveside service was held on April 6 at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.

**Noah M. Brien**

**Seaside**  
**Oct. 6, 1998 — April 21, 2022**

Noah M. Brien passed away at the age of 23 on April 21, 2022, while working in Idaho and chasing his dreams of becoming a lineman.

Noah grew up in Clatsop County and graduated from Seaside High School in 2017, where he earned many awards, including most valuable player for football and Homecoming king.

He went on to attend Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in Asheville, North Carolina. Noah attended Northwest Line Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee/Vocational Outside Line Training Academy and graduated second top in his class in December 2021. He worked at Dutch Bros., Brew 22, Carpet Corner and Cottage Keeper before entering the line trade.

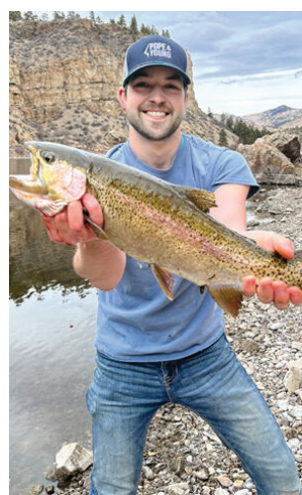
Noah had an unmatched work ethic and skill set. He made lifelong friends everywhere he worked and always had encouraging words and the biggest smile for the people he served.

He and his brother went on a mission trip to Kenya, Africa, and he touched many lives there and made many lifelong relationships, including a sponsor child with the same birthday as his, Olivia.

Noah loved Jesus, and he knew where he was going when this day came. He was rooted in a solid foundation of love for Christ and all of mankind.

He loved adventure and was an avid sportsman. Hunting, fishing and working on the farm were his favorite hobbies, and he was blessed with many friends and family who are left with wonderful memories of those adventures with him.

He leaves behind two loving parents, Jessica



(Reed) and Mark Brien, who love him more than words can express. He also leaves behind younger siblings he absolutely adored, and was extremely proud of, U.S. Army Pvt. First Class Jonah Brien, who is stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, Hannah Brien, Stephen Brien Jr. and Zachariah Brien; as well as two loving step-parents, Stephen and Brandy; a cousin he loved more like a sister, Brittany Brien; countless other cousins and uncles; two grandfathers he adored, Billy Reed and Jim Brien; and two grandmothers, Madeleine Reed and Nadine Brien. Noah was blessed with the friendship of Hunter Thompson. They had a relationship that was unmatched in fun, conversation, adventures and genuine brotherly love.

A public service was held for Noah on Thursday at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Noah's account at the Seaside branch of Columbia Bank or to the GoFundMe account in his name to provide trade school and Vocational Outside Line Training Academy scholarships.

Please sign our online guest book at [hughesran-som.com](https://hughesran-som.com)

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

**Saturday, May 7**

**PAINTER, Halvor (Bud)** — Celebration of life from 2 to 5 p.m., American Legion Post 99, 1315 Broadway in Seaside.



## Surgical care, close to home

**At Providence Seaside, your health is our priority.**

That's why we have a dedicated team of specialists to care for you and your family. In addition to orthopedic surgery, you also have choices for experts in:

- General surgery
- Hand surgery
- Cardiology
- Cancer care and infusion services
- Obstetrics and gynecology



Orthopedic surgery: Steven Dailey, M.D., (left) and Dan Sitkowski, PA-C

Improving your quality of life and getting you back to things you enjoy is a main goal of our orthopedic surgery team.

Dr. Dailey received his medical degree from Tulane University and was fellowship trained in total joint replacement surgery at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Dailey is the only fellowship trained total joint replacement surgeon on the coast. He provides total joint replacements for hips (anterior), knees and shoulders. He also provides partial knee replacements and fracture care.

Physician assistant Dan Sitkowski brings more than 30 years of experience in orthopedic surgery and a variety of other surgical specialties. His experience ranges from trauma, total joint replacement, back pain, and more.

Our team of compassionate providers are committed to providing safe and convenient care for people throughout the North Coast.

Learn more by visiting [providence.org/northcoast](https://providence.org/northcoast).

**Providence Seaside Clinic**  
727 S. Wahanna Road, Suite 220  
Seaside, OR 97138  
(503) 717-7060



# VOTE NO!

## \$14.5 MILLION FIRE BOND

**TO BUILD GEARHART RESILIENCY STATION**

### MEASURE #4-213

**VOTE NO TO KEEP YOUR TAXES LOWER**

**VOTENOFORTHEBOND.COM**