

Astoria accepts terms of new Verizon tower lease

Coxcomb Hill tower to be relocated at Reservoir Ridge

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council gave a nod of approval — but did not vote on — the terms of a new lease agreement with Verizon Wireless, which plans to build a communications tower at Reservoir Ridge to eventually replace the tower at Coxcomb Hill.

Using the Reservoir Ridge tower, some hardware atop the Astor Hotel and a monopole to be built outside city limits, Verizon will service customers in the Astoria area. The city plans to use the equipment to enhance emergency communications.

Friends of the Astoria Column, a nonprofit working to preserve the iconic monument on Coxcomb Hill, persuaded the council to replace the hill's aging tower by building a new one elsewhere instead of plant-

ing it in the same location. According to the five-year lease agreement, Verizon will have no monthly payments. However, the company will make a one-time payment to the city of \$15,000 for future maintenance of the road to the Reservoir Ridge site, east of the city.

Co-locators looking to use the tower must obtain leases from both the city and Verizon.

Verizon's lease can be extended five times for a maximum 25-year lease. After that, the city will own the tower.

City Manager Brett Estes said the terms are favorable to Astoria, saving money on construction while meeting the city's communications needs.

Police Chief Brad Johnston, who negotiated with Verizon on behalf of the city, said, "We get what we needed, which is to relocate that tower and to update the communications system."

In addition, Verizon will extend an existing lease at Coxcomb Hill for \$1,969.64 per month for one year, while the company works to tear down the tower there. If the works spill into a second

year, the figure will climb to \$2,028.73 per month.

With the City Council's acceptance of the terms, Verizon — which didn't have representatives at Tuesday's meeting — may sign the leases soon and bring them to the next council meeting for final consideration, Estes said.

Meanwhile, Johnston said he hasn't heard whether the company has found another location for the monopole, which was originally planned for Shively Park.

The council rejected the proposed pole in February because it didn't fit the historic site.

Aquatic sharing

In other business, the council approved an agreement with the Verna S. Oller Aquatic Trust, allowing residents of south Pacific County in Washington to use the Astoria Aquatic Center for drop-in visits and group swim lessons at no charge to the participants.

The trust will pay for the visits with the \$4 million Oller bequeathed to the south county residents.

The money was originally

going to be spent on building a pool in Long Beach. But the city "came to the conclusion that they didn't think it's worth the maintenance and ongoing repairs of it on a yearly basis," Doug Knutzen, a representative for the trust, said. "So they turned this grant down."

The managers of the trust reformulated it to partner with local pools, including Astoria's.

"There's a pretty significant amount of money, and we're trying to treat it like a trust. And, if the world's perfect, it may go on forever," Knutzen said, adding that "we'd like to get as many of our residents over here and in other pools as possible so we can help them with their swimming ability."

He said that beach safety is especially important in Long Beach because of drownings and other crises that occur on the peninsula.

"It's kind of an unusual thing, but it certainly will help our aquatic center," Mayor Arline LaMear said, "and we're delighted that your folks will be able to come over and enjoy our facilities."

Power outage affects more than 9,100

The Daily Astorian

More than 9,100 Pacific Power customers in north Clatsop County lost power at 7:57 a.m. Wednesday, according to company spokesman Tom Gauntt.

The outage affected people — including in the cities Astoria, Knappa and Svensen — who get some of their power from the Bonneville Power Administration.

Pacific Power was able to switch power back on for Knappa and Fern Hill residents at 8:03 a.m. The bulk of Astoria came back on at 8:07 a.m.

Coast Guard halts search for 3 aboard plane

Associated Press

BROOKINGS — The U.S. Coast Guard has suspended its more than 12-hour search for three people aboard a small plane that crashed in southern Oregon.

The agency said late Tuesday that Cessna 172F pilot John Belnap, his 17-year-old son Max, and a 17-year-old friend, Ryan Merker, remain missing.

Authorities believe the plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean because a backpack belonging to someone aboard was found on the beach near the Brookings airport. Other items believed to be from

the plane also have washed ashore.

The plane was flying from Brookings to Grants Pass late Monday. Curry County Sheriff John Ward said the pilot's wife, Cheryl Belnap, reported the plane missing after her husband didn't arrive home in Grants Pass.

The last radar ping was within a few miles of the airport, Ward said.

The teens attended Grants Pass High School, and a vigil was held there Tuesday night, the Grants Pass Daily Courier reported.

Max Belnap is a top runner at the school, and Merker recently won a pole vault completion.

Merker's father, Darren, told those at the vigil that he spoke with his son shortly before the flight.

"When he called us last night he said: 'Mom, Dad. I have a chance to go fly for the first time, can I go?'"

They told him he could. "I can't keep him in a glass bubble," the father said. "My last words to Ryan were, 'I love you and have fun.'"

John Belnap is a nurse anesthetist at the hospital in Grants Pass, the newspaper reported. He and his wife, Cheryl, had four children, according to a 2012 article about Cheryl Belnap, who is a second cousin of former presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

Is Cannon Beach school a 'must buy'?

Ex-elementary school in danger zone could cost \$665,000 to get

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — What do you do with an old elementary school?

Residents want to transform the former home of Cannon Beach Elementary School into a center for music and the arts. The school, located on land vulnerable to a tsunami, closed in 2013. It is owned by the Seaside School District.

The Cannon Beach 2016-17 budget, passed in June, included a \$665,000 placeholder for purchase, demolition, remediation and restoration of the school site. City officials aim to decide whether to purchase the elementary school property by the end of 2016. At the Parks Master Plan meeting in June, residents wrote their vision for city parks with markers on large maps. For NeCus' Park, many residents wrote "must buy," and "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." The school sits on the Native American village site.

"I believe there is significant public support for the purchase and renovation of the former elementary school site to be used as a city arts center to include a large acoustic space for public concerts and other musical events," John Buehler said at the June council meeting. "I encourage you to purchase and renovate the former elementary school to allow public use of the site for music performances and art events."

Buehler, the Cannon Beach Chorus conductor, said the



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

The fate of the Cannon Beach Elementary School remains undecided as city officials consider a purchase of the property.

town lacks a large acoustic space for large arts and musical events, and a choral conductors' workshop formerly held in Cannon Beach is now held in Seaside, where it brings "thousands of people."

"The site has been a tremendously important part of Cannon Beach history," resident Susan Glarum said at the work session.

The history

Its history began as the site a Native American village visited by Lewis and Clark, then as elementary school and summer home of the Haystack Arts program started by my father.

The program was started by Glarum's father, L. Stanley Glarum, in collaboration with Portland State University.

Glarum and resident Jan Siebert-Wahrmund both said the elementary school property could possibly be used for an arts and culture center, as well as an area for the Haystack Rock Awareness Program.

"It may not be simple or easy, but the first step is to make sure that it remains a possibility by keeping money in the budget to purchase the property," Siebert-Wahrmund said. She said residents would be willing to donate time and

money toward the project. Resident Mary Peterson said the purchase price was an "outrageous amount for less

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Q: What is a no-flip mattress?
A: A no-flip mattress means one side is a sleeping surface, and the other side remains as a support surface. The end result is the convenience of a mattress that you no longer are required to flip or turn.

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Q: What can I expect during a dental exam?
A: In our office a dental exam is an extremely important encounter. For a new patient this is the meet and greet, rapport and relationship building time, trust and confidence decisions, and a time to ask and answer all questions. Clinical findings, photographs, and X-rays can be reviewed, discussed and shown on a TV monitor to establish the best protocol and steps to move forward. Hope this helps.

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Q: Do Market vendors sell their goods outside of the Market?
A: Yes! Many of them do! Many vendors can be found at other Markets, festivals or sell their products online. The Market is an incubator for small businesses. Romero's Salsa started at the Market and now provides their salsa products for sale at some Oregon stores.