

# Dog park: City may use John Warren Field for five years

Continued from Page 1A

the board members.

“I think it looks very positive.”

The board will likely take up the dog park at a meeting on March 25. The board could make a recommendation to the City Council, which has the final say.

The City Council, responding to requests from dog lovers, had made a dog park a goal for this fiscal year. But the city's Parks and Recreation Department has had some difficulty in finding a site because of neighborhood opposition.

A 4-acre parcel near Alderbrook Lagoon — known as Stinky Beach — was identified by the city as a potential option until a backlash from neighbors concerned about increased traffic and parking.

John Warren Field has not provoked the same passion.

Columbia Memorial Hospital acquired the football field as part of the agreement with the Astoria School District and the city on the new Astoria Sports Complex at the city's former landfill.

The city might use the field for five years, with annual extensions possible until the hospital is ready to



**Columbia Memorial Hospital, which owns the land containing John Warren Field, has had preliminary conversations with the city about using part of the land as a dog park.**

develop the property.

Michelle Bisek, of Astoria Dog Park Friends, the group that has urged the city to develop a dog park, said the group is in favor of the interim site.

“We’ve been looking for

over a year now and have had no luck finding a permanent location,” she said. “We think that over the period of at least five years — maybe six, seven, eight; who knows how long we’ll have there — we’ll be able to fundraise

all the money we need for a permanent location.

“And actually spend a great amount of time finding a good spot that fills the needs that we’re looking for and that is not going to piss off a bunch of neighbors,

which we don’t want to do.”

Some worried, however, that an interim site could sap the momentum behind finding a permanent dog park.

“You’re just punting the ball down the field,” said Cindy Marconeri, who add-

ed that the private donations collected by Astoria Dog Park Friends should be reserved for a permanent location.

Several Alderbrook residents, meanwhile, are disappointed that the city has not formally ruled out the Alderbrook Lagoon site and question whether it would be revived as an option once the city can no longer use John Warren Field.

Susie McLerie, who lives in Alderbrook, said a dog park near Alderbrook Lagoon would be “forcing a crowd into a tiny little bottleneck. And it’s not practical.”

If the city moves forward with an interim dog park at John Warren Field, the Parks and Recreation Department would likely establish rules of etiquette for dog owners and dogs. The city could also determine whether to section off a portion of the football field for smaller dogs who might not want to romp with bigger playmates.

Rory Gerard, whose three small dogs are familiar fixtures in the window of his Niagara Avenue home, urged the city to “make sure there is an area that’s fenced off for the little guys, because little guys don’t like big guys.”

## Bills: If OK’d, changes would happen in 2021

Continued from Page 1A

more sun for evening recreation and family activities, and it pushes more driving trips into daylight hours.

Critics of daylight saving time point to the irritating ritual of resetting clocks each time we “spring forward” or “fall back.” They say it causes health problems by disrupting the body’s natural timekeeping, and it likely contributes to diminished productivity in the days following a time change.

Furthermore, they say it hasn’t delivered on its promise of reducing energy costs. A study by researchers from the University of California, Santa Barbara found an in-

crease in energy use when Indiana adopted daylight saving time statewide. It had previously been observed only there only in some counties. The researchers found that decreases in lighting costs were offset by higher demand for heating and cooling.

Thatcher’s bill would ask voters in the 2016 election whether to ditch daylight saving time. If they approve, it would take effect in 2021, giving plenty of time for software programmers and other business interests to prepare. In addition to eliminating daylight saving time, Thatcher said she might prefer to change the state to the Mountain time zone so it would benefit from the additional

evening sunlight year round.

Another bill, sponsored by Republican Sen. Brian Boquist of Dallas, also at the behest of a constituent, would make the change almost immediately. “Constituents who have reached out to me approach this from a perspective of every time you switch it costs money,” Boquist said.

Now that Indiana has adopted daylight saving time statewide, only two states, Arizona and Hawaii, have held on to standard time year round. An Arizona lawmaker wrote a bill this year that would have put the state on daylight saving time, but he quickly withdrew it after the response was overwhelmingly negative.



AP photo

Pacific fishery managers have approved new forage fish restrictions.

## Fish: The ban does not affect existing fisheries for other types of herring, sardines and anchovies

Continued from Page 1A

Species covered by the ban include Pacific sand lance, silversides and certain varieties of herring, smelt and squid. The ban does not affect existing fisheries for other types of herring, sardines and anchovies, and it comes on top of a similar ban on fishing for krill, a crustacean that is important food for salmon, seals and whales.

Rod Moore of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association said the fishing industry shared the concerns of conservation groups and sport fishermen who wanted to be sure that forage fish were protected.

Paul Shively of The Pew Charitable Trusts, a conservation group, said in a statement: “This marks a fundamental change from traditional management of ocean fishing to a more comprehensive approach.”

Geoff Shester of the conservation group Oceana said he hoped the ban would serve as a model for forage fish conservation in other waters.

Burner said there were provisions for an applicant to seek permission to target forage fish, but any proposal would face tough requirements to show it would not harm the resource.

## Robotics team competes in first divisional qualifier

Team travels to Wilsonville Thursday

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The CYBORG Seagulls have completed their first district tournament in the Oregon FIRST Robotics 2015 season. However, the rankings from the Oregon City district tournament were not available by press time.

Seaside High School’s team, the CYBORG Seagulls — the acronym stands for “Creative Young Brains Observing and Redefining Greatness” — attended the Pacific Northwest divisional qualifier tournament in Oregon City Feb. 27 and 28 to compete against 23 other teams.

With their robot SARA, short for “Stacking Agile Robot Assembly,” the Seaside students competed in 13 matches at the region-

al tournament. For each match, the team was paired up with those from two other schools to play against three other teams.

Recycle Rush is the 2015 FIRST Robotics game. Based on a recycling theme, the participating teams have to move and stack recycle bins and clear their area of litter.

Coach Mike Brown said he was proud of the way his team quickly adapted to mishaps along the way. For instance, the robot’s forklift apparatus broke in the first match, so the team had to reinvent its strategy and create a hook structure to use instead. In another match, one of the cables that sent power to a wheel broke, and the students had to address that problem.

“It’s kind of how you handle those issues that’s important,” Brown said. “All in all, I thought they did pretty great.”

In addition to competing in the games, the students also interacted with judges and other students

to explain their model, scouted other teams to pick up tips and competed for the prestigious Chairman’s Award. Of the 12 students on Seaside’s team, seven are new to the robotics program this year.

The team will next travel to Wilsonville Thursday through Saturday for a second divisional qualifier tournament. Before they go, however, the students will have exactly six hours to work on and improve their robot. The team was scheduled to meet this week to make a game plan before working on the robot, Brown said.

The team’s scores from the two district tournaments will be calculated to determine if it qualifies to advance to the regional competition. Of the approximately 150 teams in the northwest district, about 40 advance, Brown said.

For more information about the Seaside robotics team, visit [www.team3673.org](http://www.team3673.org).

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