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ONE DOLLAR

End of an era



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Mike Sarin, with Big River Excavating, uses an excavator to tear down a section of siding from the John Warren Field grandstands Monday.

Crews tear down the grandstands at John Warren Field

By JOSHUA BESSEX
The Daily Astorian

Crews from Big River Excavating used chainsaws and excavators Monday to tear down the grandstands at John Warren Field.

The field, which opened as Gyro Field for a baseball game in 1927 and first hosted Astoria High School football in 1934, was the backdrop for generations of Friday night memories.

The field also had a cameo in the 1985 movie "The Goonies."

The property was transferred from the Astoria School District to Columbia Memorial Hospital as part of a deal that resulted in the new Astoria Sports Complex on Williamsport Road.

The excavating crew expects to be finished with the grandstands sometime today.



A car drives by a section of grandstands that has been torn down at John Warren Field Monday.

Joshua Bessex
The Daily Astorian



Siding from the grandstands rests in a pile.

Joshua Bessex
The Daily Astorian

What cell for Brian Brush?

Authorities seek custody options for ex-Oregon cop coming back for re-sentencing

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

SOUTH BEND, Wash. — Pacific County Jail staff have been expecting Brian Brush to return to their custody since early July, when the state Supreme Court threw out his exceptional 88-year prison sentence and ordered the county to re-sentence him.

But a month has passed, and county officials still don't know when the state Department of Corrections plans



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Brian Brush appeared in Pacific County, Wash., Superior Court in August 2010 for sentencing for first-degree murder. His sentence having been overruled by the Washington Supreme Court, authorities are trying to determine where to house him, pending new proceedings in South Bend.

to transfer Brush, who was convicted of first-degree murder for the Sept. 11, 2009 shooting of his ex-fiancée Lisa Bonney.

When the call from Department

of Corrections does finally come, the county will have to decide whether to house Brush in the small county jail,

See BRUSH, Page 12A

Wildfire scorches 27 acres at Fort Stevens

Park closed for mop up

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — A popular fishing area near the South Jetty in Fort Stevens State Park remains closed today as fire crews mop up a brush fire that burned 27 acres.

The public is not able to access parking lots C or D at the South Jetty until the area is cleared. There is no timetable for when the lots will reopen.

The fire started at about 5 p.m. Monday. An enormous column of smoke could be seen drifting eastward from where the South Jetty joins the mainland.

While a cause is still being determined, the fire grew from a west wind combined with the same tinder-dry conditions throughout the region that have brought fire danger to a high level.

"It's a wake-up call to how dry it really is," Warrenton Fire Chief Tim Demers said. "Even the coast is dry."

No structures or campgrounds were threatened by the fire. Flames did burn up to the sand dunes near the jetty stones before running out of fuel. The fire consumed beach grass, shrubs, shore pine and Sitka spruce trees.

See FIRE, Page 12A

Communications tower could move from Coxcomb Hill

Verizon Wireless had resisted idea

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

The city could finally move a communications tower off Coxcomb Hill for several years, but the deal with Verizon became intertwined with questions about transparency in city spending, preferential treatment for the wealthy benefactors of the Astoria Column, and a strange attempt by a young man to perform a citizen's arrest of the mayor and police chief.

In a deal with Verizon Wireless, the city would get to use a new communications tower with Verizon on Reservoir Ridge, east of Coxcomb Hill, while Verizon would also erect a monopole at Shively Park and equipment on top of the Astor Hotel.

The agreement, approved by the City Council Monday night, should improve the city's emergency communications and Verizon's cellphone and mobile broadband service.

The city has wanted the communications tower off Coxcomb Hill for several years, but the deal with Verizon became intertwined with questions about transparency in city spending, preferential treatment for the wealthy benefactors of the Astoria Column, and a strange attempt by a young man to perform a citizen's arrest of the mayor and police chief.

Even in the end, some on the City Council were disappointed Verizon would get a 150-foot monopole at Shively Park, which, while not as visually prominent as the lattice tower at the entrance of Coxcomb Hill, could still change the character of a city park.

See TOWER, Page 12A

