



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 37

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

Red Building finds buyer

Troutdale contractor interested in property

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Mark Cary and Shawn Helligso, partners in the Red Building through Union Fish Properties LLC, have found a buyer in Dale Lommasson, a contractor from Troutdale who said he is purchasing the building for \$1.7 million.

Lommasson told the Port of Astoria Commission Tuesday his preference is to also buy the Uniontown property, which Union Fish leases from the Port, or enter an agreement to have his lease automatically extended in 10-year increments as long as he does not fall behind on his payments.

"If I want to make the investment now, I want security that in 20 to 50 years, as long as I'm not in default, I can continue my lease," Lommasson said to the Port Commission. "If I can't own it in 50 years, it's not a good investment."

See BUILDING, Page 10A

County searches for new top executive

Somers will leave post in September

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners has started the process of finding a replacement for County Manager Scott Somers, who submitted his resignation last week to accept a job offer in Maryland.

During a work session Wednesday evening, commissioners and Somers discussed reaching out to regional consulting firms to assist with the search.

Commissioners Dirk Rohne, Sarah Nebeker and Chairman Scott Lee agreed to contact at least seven firms, with proposals from the firms due by Sept. 4. Commissioners Lisa Clement and Lianne Thompson were absent from the work session.

The board plans to select a firm at a regular meeting Sept. 9.

Somers last day with the county is Sept. 18.

In the meantime, the county is

See SEARCH, Page 10A



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A Seaside High School football player participates in a pass-catching drill during practice Wednesday.

Area schools get ready for fall sports

By JOSHUA BESSEX
The Daily Astorian

The end of summer means the beginning of fall sports for schools along the North Coast.

Astoria, Seaside, Warrenton, and Knappa high schools have all started practices this week in anticipation of the coming school year.

On Wednesday afternoon, the sounds of whistles and orders pierced the air outside of Seaside High School as football players took part in drills.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Seaside football players participate in an exercise to stretch their necks and make them less susceptible to concussions before doing drills Wednesday.

Seaside football players take part in "Frankenstein Kicks" during pre-drill stretches Wednesday.

Joshua Bessex
The Daily Astorian



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Jaxson Smith goes up for a catch while being chased by Noah Brien during a pass-catching drill at the Seaside football practice Wednesday.

Long Beach could build 'giant rock' for tsunami evacuation

Berm among first vertical structures in US

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — After years of planning, Long Beach is setting out to build one the country's first tsunami vertical evacuation structures.

According to a project description provided by the city, the structure would be "an armored, hardened earth berm with an access ramp. The berm would be a 'high ground' safe haven for approximately 800 people during a major tsunami event."

The berm would take up



Creative Commons

Long Beach, Wash., could build a vertical tsunami evacuation structure.

roughly 1 square acre, in a marshy softball field at the eastern end of the Long Beach Elementary School property, and would be built to a height of

about 34 feet — the height that some scientists estimate locals will need to reach to stay above peak tsunami waves.

"We're building a giant rock.

I don't know that anyone has built a giant rock in the U.S.," Long Beach City Planner Gayle Borchard said.

Life-saving potential

Some experts believe vertical structures, built strong enough to withstand the force of powerful earthquakes and tsunami waves, have tremendous life-saving potential, because they allow citizens to quickly get to high ground in places where few other escape options exist.

Several vertical evacuation facilities do exist in Japan, and locally, the Shoalwater Tribe recently completed construction on a hilltop shelter that could be used to escape a tsunami. Westport, in Grays Harbor County, is in the process of building a new

school gym and multipurpose building with a vertical evacuation deck designed to hold more than 1,000 people.

But so far, most tsunami-prone communities in the U.S. have been reluctant to commit to building these large, costly structures.

In Cannon Beach, some locals were skeptical of a proposed evacuation structure, which would have cost about \$4 million to build — about twice the cost of a traditional building of the same size, according to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Seaside voted down a proposed tsunami bond that incorporated tsunami-evacuation facilities on high ground east of the city.

See LONG BEACH, Page 10A

