

# Geese, jet collide in Warrenton

Incident a warning to other pilots

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — A Lektro company jet hit a flock of geese Monday night while landing at the Astoria Regional Airport.

Lektro CEO Eric Paulson said the plane's captain, Mark Ramer, was checking the approach speed on his dashboard gauges when he looked up and noticed the geese, which were too close to avoid hitting.

Paulson said Ramer was worried the geese would take flight and possibly be ingested into the engines of the jet, a Cessna Citation 560.

In 2009, Canadian geese were sucked into the engines of a US Airways jet after it took off from LaGuardia Airport in New York. The plane's engines lost power and the plane crash-landed in the Hudson River.

The geese at the airport in Warrenton Monday remained on runway 8-26 and were hit by the Cessna's landing gear.

The only passengers on board were Paulson, Ramer and Ramer's wife.

"At first I thought we landed short and struck the runway lights, but I later found out it was geese we hit that caused the rough landing," Paulson said.

Paulson said he and Ramer had flown into Astoria twice Sunday, both times noticing geese loitering on the runway. Ramer taxied the jet down the runway Monday morning to ensure the geese were not on the runway when departing, but he was unable to do a fly-over before landing Monday night.

The aircraft was inspected for damage, which was limited to the right-side landing gear. The jet was deemed safe to fly and taken to Salem for repair with its landing gear down for fear it might malfunction if raised.

"I remember when we used to call ahead to have someone check to see if the elk were on the runway, a problem that plagued the airport until a Learjet collided with one during takeoff in the early 2000s, destroying the aircraft and killing the bull elk," Paulson said.

The event led the Port of Astoria, which owns the airport, to erect a fence around the perimeter to keep elk out.

Mike Weston, the Port's director of business development and operations, said the Port conducts daily rounds and hazes geese and ducks resting or attempting to nest on Port property. This year, he said, the Port has experienced a group of geese continually returning to runway 8-26.

"We chase the geese off with a type of shotgun round that makes a loud bang in the air above where the fowl are resting," Weston said in an email. "They are called 'Bird Bangers,' silly name but somewhat effective, at least in the short term."

Weston said he has witnessed several bird strikes during his time with the Port, most recently an adolescent eagle flying through an approach at the same time as a Citation jet.

Paulson said the Port might have to look at deterrents to birds, such as cannons and sirens.

"We certainly do not want to kill any birds, nor do we want them to kill us", Paulson said.

# Walden backs forest management bill

By MITCH LIES  
For the Capital Press

SUNRIVER — U.S. Rep. Greg Walden spoke of frustration with the U.S. Senate's unwillingness to address forest policy and fielded questions on the uncertainty surrounding the presentation at the Oregon Forest Industries Council's annual meeting here last week.

Asked who is going to be the next speaker of the House, Walden, R-Ore., said: "I hope it is Paul Ryan, but I don't know if he'll do it."

Walden said he talked to Ryan, R-Wis., about replacing Speaker John Boehner, who is leaving his seat this month. Ryan, the Republican vice presidential nominee in 2012, said Thursday he would seek the post.

"There is a lot of pressure being put on Paul Ryan to step into this vacuum or void, and it is the last thing he wants to

do. He is a policy guy," Walden said.

"He's always wanted to chair Ways and Means and rewrite the country's tax code and deal with trade issues. He doesn't want to do management, especially big ego management. And there is a lot of that in (Washington) D.C. right now," Walden said.

Outside of the questions on the House leadership, Walden focused on forest policy during his luncheon presentation, specifically on the unwillingness of the Senate to revise federal forest management.

"Three years in a row, in the U.S. House, bipartisan legislation has been passed to try and give us active management of federal forests to improve their health, to protect their watersheds," Walden said.

"It provides larger categorical exclusions to move quickly on projects that reduce fuel loads," he said. "And when there is a fire, there is really no

funding stream to replant after these fires on federal lands.

"This legislation, through expediting recovery operations, would require 75 percent of burn lands to be reforested and paid for with salvage," he said.

"Also, just like you are affected in our rural communities, every time a forest project is halted, the outside groups that sue on forest projects should have to have a little skin in the game," he said. "So under this bill, they would be required to post a bond before litigating on collaborative, or community, wildfire protection plans."

The bill also includes language pertaining to Oregon and California Railroad lands, directing the federal Bureau of Land Management, which manages O&C lands, to revise management plans in consideration of what Walden described as "the clear, statutory mandate to manage these lands for sustainable timber production and revenue for the counties."

# Dilemma: Only a small portion of the homeless is causing trouble for police

Continued from Page 1A

## City resources

The Astoria Parks and Recreation Department markets itself to families and visitors, but this year, along with hordes of tourists, the department has also hosted a growing number of homeless people at many of the 63 parks it manages.

"We've been struggling to keep up with a larger amount of garbage and just a larger amount of park visitors," said parks Director Angela Cosby. Especially, she added, on the Riverwalk. At least once a week this summer, Cosby said park staff had to contact police to deal with an issue at park property. Most of these calls have to do with public safety concerns, she said. The staff has not felt threatened or unsafe.

"Different folks camping in parks, public defecation... we've had it all across the board," she said. She estimates their calls to police this year went up by about 40 percent.

The porta-potty plan is still very preliminary, said Astoria City Manager Brett Estes, but it could be one step toward addressing a larger is-



Joshua Bessix/The Daily Astorian

A person sleeps near a building on Marine Drive earlier this week.

sue. Though it is only a small portion of the homeless population causing trouble for police, those calls drain time and resources, he said.

The city does not provide social services, but now it is trying to be a facilitator, he said. "How can we address this issue collectively and cooperatively?"

"This year seemed to really bring up the level of behavioral issues, and a lot from folks who were not from here," Johnston said.

The county's only jail is located in Astoria, he explained. When officers in other cities, from Warrenton to Cannon Beach, have to arrest a homeless person, they bring them to Astoria. But these days the jail is almost always at or above capacity. If the charges against the person are minor, often they'll be let go hours later to make room for a more serious offender.

"So they go right out the front door and become an Astoria problem."

## OBITUARY

### Melvin Richard Schoessler

Astoria

Sept. 27, 1923 — Oct. 22, 2015

Melvin Richard Schoessler passed away on Oct. 22, 2015, at 92. He was born Sept. 27, 1923, on a wheat farm in Ritzville, Washington, to John and Kathryn Schoessler. He was the fourth of five children.

In 1932, the family moved to Astoria, where Schoessler lived the rest of his life. He graduated from Astoria High School in 1942 and then went into the U.S. Army on June 16, 1943. He served some of his time in the Army in Okinawa, Japan.

On Aug. 17, 1944, he married Bernice Gustafson. They were married for 30 years at the time Bernice passed away.

He worked at Lovell Auto Co. as a body man for 40 years and retired in 1989.

Mel was very spiritual his entire life and belonged to Grace Community Baptist Church for many years.

He enjoyed camping, reading and studying

the Bible, and photography. He traveled to Hawaii, Norway, the Philippines and Mexico.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Rueben, sisters Elsie and Viola, and his stepson James Allen Crane Sr.



Melvin Schoessler

He is survived by his sister Geneva Pechstein, stepdaughters Diana Velder and husband Duane, and Alice Santilli and husband Ron. He has seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Remembrances may be sent to hospice or the charity of your choice. Visitation will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, at Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 26, at Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary with a reception following at Grace Community Baptist Church, 1195 Irving Ave., Astoria.

A private graveside service with vault interment will follow at Ocean View Cemetery.

# Overdue fisherman reports he is safe

The Daily Astorian

WESTPORT, Wash. — The U.S. Coast Guard suspended the search for an overdue fisherman Thursday morning after he made contact and said he was safe and headed back to Westport, Washington.

The fisherman, about 30 miles offshore from Westport, received an emergency

broadcast to mariners from the personnel at Coast Guard Sector Columbia River in Warrenton and contacted them about 10:35 a.m..

The Coast Guard then recalled assets involved in the search, including the cutter Wahoo from Port Angeles, Washington, the cutter Alert from Astoria, a U.S. Navy Lockheed P-3 Orion aircrew

from Whidbey Island, Washington, and a CC-115 Buffalo turboprop aircraft from the Royal Canadian Air Force in Comox, British Columbia.

The Coast Guard had been

searching for the fisherman since Wednesday, when his wife reported to Coast Guard Station Grays Harbor that he was overdue from a week-long fishing trip.

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Intersection of Patriot Way and Highway 101 in Warrenton

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