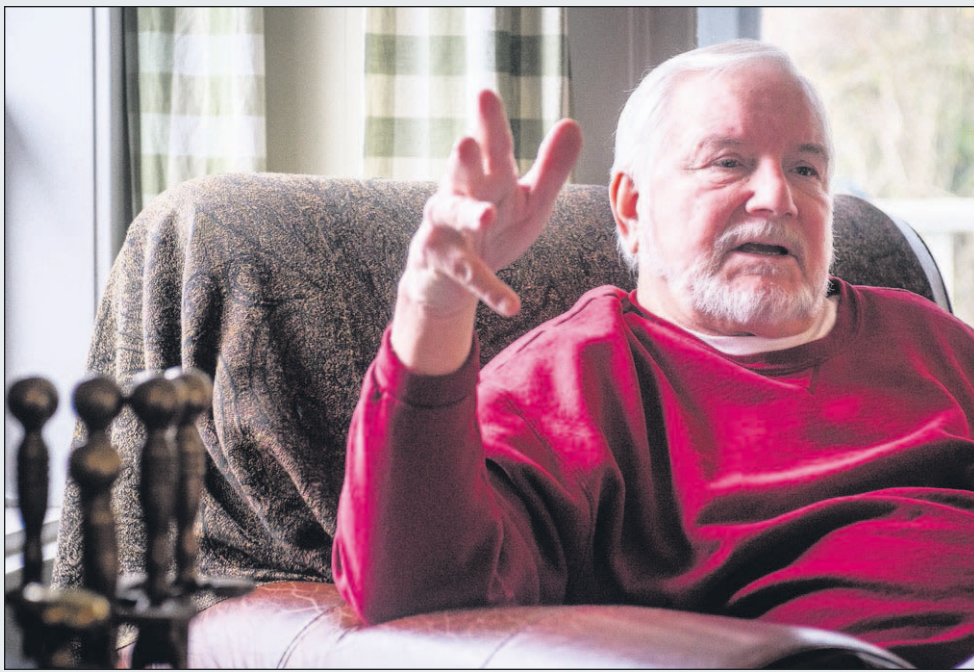


CENTRAL SCHOOL LAND MAY GET NEW LIFE



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Dennis Scovel talks during an interview with The Daily Astorian Monday. Scovel and the neighbors are holding a meeting on Monday to get and consensus of what they want done with the property at 10th Street and Irving Avenue.



Submitted Photo

Astoria's Lewis & Clark School, later known as the Central School, was built in the 1910s and torn down in the 1980s. The site of the former school is now the center of interest for housing development.

HOUSING MEETINGS

Neighbors around the former Central School site have planned a meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the Blue Scorcher Bakery Cafe to discuss development options. Don Hanson, a consultant for interested developer Richard Krueger, will hold a similar meeting at 6 p.m. Dec. 2, with the location yet to be determined.

Developer eyes housing options in historic neighborhood

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Interest among neighbors is brewing around another potential housing project on the former Central School site off Irving Avenue. As one of the largest remaining buildable lots in Astoria, the property has played host to multiple attempts at housing.

New Riverview Partners LLC owns 14 of the 16 lots bounded by Irving and Jerome avenues and Eighth and 10th streets. The properties comprise the former site of the Lewis and Clark School (later known as Central School) built in the 1910s and torn down in the 1980s.

Researching

Don Hanson, a planner with Portland-based design firm Otak, is representing developer Richard Krueger, who has done projects in Astoria like the Edgewater at Mill Pond and the Yacht Club Apartments and has shown interest in the Central School site. He confirmed Monday that Krueger is in due diligence for the property.

"We're really not sure what's going to go on the site," Hanson said, adding he is exploring the technical aspects of the property, from zoning to geology.

Hanson is also organizing meetings for 6 p.m. both Dec. 2 and Jan. 6. The first, he said, is to gauge what the neighborhood wants on the lots, before bringing back multiple development concepts for a second meeting. But neighbors around the Central School site are beating Hanson to the punch, organizing their own meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the Blue Scorcher Bakery Cafe to discuss what sort of development at the Central School site would be reasonable.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
The property between Eighth and 10th streets on Irving Avenue.



North Holladay redo up for bid

Seaside invites bidders as clock ticks toward Memorial Day

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — After almost a month of delay, Seaside is now ready to move forward with a major remake of North Holladay Drive from First to 12th avenues. The city still hopes to have "substantial completion" of the roadway before the launch of the tourist season next summer.

The estimated \$3 million project is now open for bids from general contractors, with Dale McDowell of the Seaside Public Works Department hoping the project will be underway by the start of next year. The last day for bids is Monday, Nov. 30.

Construction includes replacing storm and water drains and moving above-ground utilities below ground. Sidewalks and roadways will be replaced.

City Engineer Geoff Liljenwall, project engineer Al Hardwood and McDowell will oversee the project and handle the final inspection, but McDowell hopes other city departments join in.

"It's a citywide project and I want everyone involved on it," McDowell said, adding when people can offer their opinions on a project, they become invested and "take a little ownership in it."

CenturyLink and Charter Communications delivered plans later than expected, delaying the project. Some in-house engineering and design plans also took longer than expected.

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Timber merger may affect prices

Weyerhaeuser acres in Oregon to grow by 26 percent

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

A looming merger between two major U.S. timber companies will affect Northwest forestland owners depending on their proximity to the combined behemoth's assets, experts say.

Weyerhaeuser's 6.9 million acres would be joined with Plum Creek's 6.3 million acres under a recently proposed deal worth more than \$8 billion that the two companies say will provide an "unparalleled scale in timberland ownership."

"They now have a much bigger footprint," said Brooks Mendell, president of Forisk Consulting, which studies timber industry finances.

In some areas, Weyerhaeuser's new acres would represent a significant increase in its regional holdings, but in others, its expansion will be proportionately small, experts say.

For example, the 338,000 acres acquired in Oregon would boost its total amount of property in that state by more than 26 percent, while the 31,000 acquired in Washington would increase its holdings in that state by less than 3 percent.

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WindFloat power too costly for utilities

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon utility officials said on Monday they do not want to purchase power from the first offshore wind pilot project proposed for the West Coast, because it would be too expensive.

The Seattle-based company Principle Power needs a commitment by May 2016 that Oregon ratepayers will purchase electricity from the 16- to 24-megawatt project known as WindFloat proposed off Coos Bay, in order to qualify for the remaining \$40 million in a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The company also needs the guaranteed revenue stream from long-term power purchase agreements to secure financing for the project.

Varner Seaman, a registered lobbyist who handles government affairs for Portland General Electric, said the company just completed a 267-megawatt wind farm in Eastern Washington.

"This is about five times as expensive," Seaman said, referring to the cost per unit of power from WindFloat. "That's concerning."

Seaman is part of an advisory committee that Gov. Kate Brown formed in August to help Principle Power secure a power purchase agreement.

Annette Price, director of governmental affairs and a registered lobbyist for Pacific Power, said the utility had good conversations with Principle Power about the project, but "its too expensive for our ratepayers."



Untrakdrover/Wikimedia Commons

A semi-submersible floating offshore wind turbine foundation called the WindFloat operating off of Portugal's shore.

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