

COAST WEEKEND: IS YOGA FOR YOU?

Astoria schools fed up with food service

After 20 years, district votes not to use Chartwells

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Astoria School District will make its own meals.

The Astoria School Board, after lamenting over a lack of communi-

cation in recent years and inconsistencies in the food being served to children, voted Wednesday to handle food services in-house.

The decision ends a more than 20-year relationship between the district and Chartwells, a large food ser-

vice company serving school districts, colleges and independent schools. Chartwells has a joint contract with Astoria, Warrenton-Hammond, Seaside and Ocean Park, Washington, school districts expiring in June.

The company brought a full con-

tingent to the meeting, including a dietitian, chef and Dedee Fish, the new director of dining services overseeing the four districts, to talk about their plans to improve the food services.

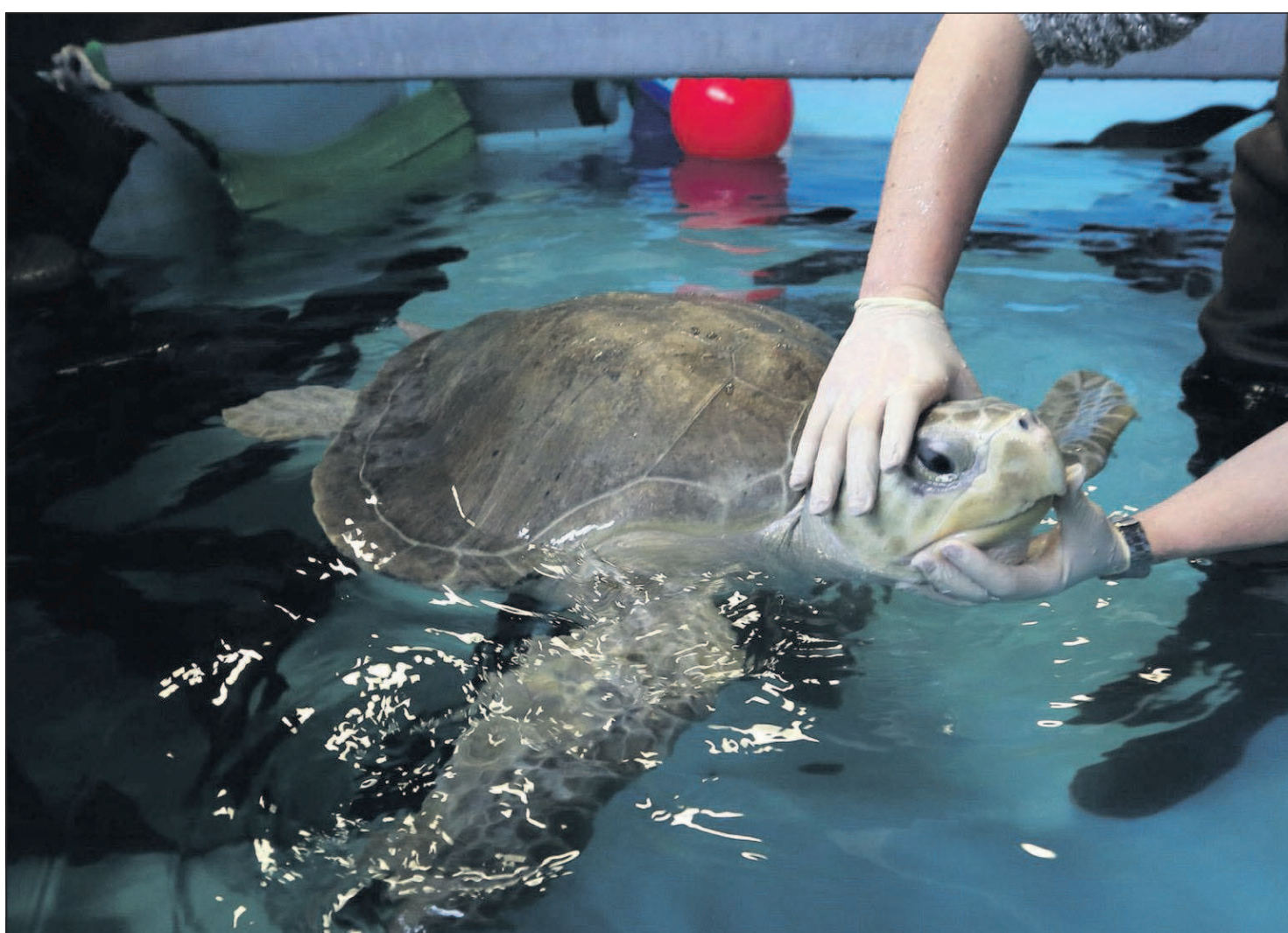
Darla Moll, regional vice president for Chartwells since September, pleaded with the district to give the company another year to improve

service, communication and menu options.

But board members and Superintendent Craig Hoppes were unconvinced. They said that while there have been concerns for years over the quality and communication in Chartwells' food service operation,

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ONE TOUGH TURTLE



Alan Berner/The Seattle Times

Lesanna Lahner, full-time veterinarian at the Seattle Aquarium, checks Tucker the Turtle as he recovers in a quarantine tank.

Tucker makes dramatic comeback

Olive ridley sea turtle stranded at Cannon Beach almost ready to return to the sea

By LYNDA V. MAPES
Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Tucker the Turtle has had a tough time.

Tucker was far from his warm home waters off the Pacific Coast of Mexico. Perhaps he was swept off course by December storms. Or maybe domoic acid from the toxic algae bloom that bedeviled West Coast waters even into the fall last year fouled his navigational senses. Whatever the cause, he was carried on ocean currents farther and farther north — and growing colder and colder. He slowly became inert, unable to swim, his body nearly shut down.

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Alan Berner/The Seattle Times

In a quarantine pool, veterinarian Lesanna Lahner checks Tucker as he rehabs at the Seattle Aquarium. He's an olive ridley about 2 feet long and is believed to be 15 to 20 years old.

The big bluster on the coast

Portland man killed by fallen tree during fierce evening windstorm

EO Media Group and Associated Press

Hurricane-force winds and heavy rain lashed the Columbia-Pacific region on Wednesday in a storm that toppled trees, left thousands without power and killed a Portland man driving near Seaside.

After more than three hours of intense wind, top gusts topped the "century mark" on the Washington coast Wednesday night.

An offshore buoy recorded 100-plus gusts at water level, while on land the wind reached 104 mph at 8:57 p.m. at Radar Ridge, a west-facing hill located above Naselle Youth Camp in south Pacific County.

In Oregon, a Portland man died after a large alder tree fell onto his vehicle on U.S. 26 near Seaside. Oregon State Police said 37-year-old Nicholas Harris was pronounced dead at the scene early Wednesday evening.

The highway was closed for about 2 1/2 hours during the investigation.

A house was struck by a falling tree in Ocean Park, Washington, during the night.

Clatsop County

Ted McLean, Clatsop County assistant public works director, said almost every county road was impacted by the storm with trees falling and momentarily blocking the roadways. County crews went out four times last night, he said.

The most damage was up and down the coastline from Cannon Beach to Astoria, McLean said. The outlying areas such as Jewell and Knappa were not as impacted. Some flooding occurred in the John Day area, near Youngs River and in Gearhart.

"It seemed like the impact of the storm mainly impacted the Astoria-Seaside corridor out to Youngs River," McLean said.

Crews from Warrenton Public Works are removing several trees from the roads outside the downtown core, according to Craig Walter, public works foreman.

"The downtown core has survived pretty well," Walter said.

In Gearhart, a City Council meeting was packed when the power went out, so they

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Velellas blow back on North Coast beaches

Purple critters wash up on coast

By LYRA FONTAINE
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Millions of bluish-purple jellies called Velella velellas have been washing ashore again on North Coast beaches, blown in by fierce western winds.

This year's population has been slightly different in that it consists mostly of juvenile Velellas, while last year they were larger, said Melissa Keyser, the Haystack Rock Awareness program coordinator.

"We're seeing little tiny ones, some of them as small as a grain of sand," Tiffany Boothe of the Seaside Aquarium said. "When we get them a little later, they've grown up more, so they're 3 to 4 inches."

The Seaside Aquarium first spotted them in early March. Beach visitors have asked the aquarium why the beach is "stained purple."

The creatures, which are slick when stepped on, can sting to capture prey, but human skin is too thick to feel the stings. Velellas give off an odor because they are decomposing.

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Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

Velella velellas are washing up along the North Coast.

