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ONE DOLLAR

At least 31 dead in Brussels bombings



Ralph Usbeck via AP

An unidentified traveler lies on the ground in a smoke filled terminal at Brussels Airport, in Brussels, after explosions Tuesday.

The Islamic State claims responsibility for attacks

By **LORNE COOK** and
JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Bombs exploded Tuesday at the Brussels airport and in the city's subway, killing at least 31 people and wounding dozens, as a European capital was again locked down amid heightened security threats. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The two airport blasts, at least one

of them blamed on a suicide bomber, left behind a chaotic scene of splattered blood in the departure lounge as windows were blown out, ceilings collapsed and travelers streamed out of the smoky building.

About an hour later, another bomb exploded on a rush-hour subway train near the European Union headquarters. Terrified passengers had to evacuate through darkened tunnels to safety.

"What we feared has happened," Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel told

reporters. "In this time of tragedy, this black moment for our country, I appeal to everyone to remain calm but also to show solidarity."

Belgium raised its terror alert to the highest level, diverting planes and trains and ordering people to stay where they were for most of the workday. Airports across Europe immediately tightened security.

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RIVER SQUATTER

Bulk carrier full of fuel, diesel idles on river after running aground



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The Sparna bulk carrier was fully loaded and heading west along the Columbia River when it ran aground Monday.

The Daily Astorian

CATHLAMET, Wash. — The bulk carrier Sparna, which ran aground in the Columbia River Monday near Cathlamet, is at anchor while U.S. Coast Guard incident responders figure out where the grounding occurred, and what the damage is.

Petty Officer 1st Class Levi Read said the vessel's grounding was brief, after which the vessel laid anchor nearby in 43 feet of water. The Coast Guard is trying to determine where exactly the grounding took place.

"It's in the vicinity, but we can't say it's right where it's at (anchor) right now," Read said.

Divers finished a damage assessment this morning, he said, and the Sparna is not leaking fuel. The vessel was outbound, fully loaded with grain and more than 250,000 gallons of high-sulfur fuel and marine diesel fuel. It is anchored next to the Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge, halfway between Cathlamet and Skamokawa.

The Maritime Fire & Safety Association and Clean Rivers Cooperative deployed response vessels, booms and personnel. The tugs PJ Brix and Pacific Escort are on scene to keep the Sparna stabilized. The Coast Guard has not closed the river channel.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The Morning Camilla cargo vessel passes the Sparna across from the Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge for the Columbian white-tailed deer on Monday.

School is out for now in CB

Lack of money, students cancel district approval

By **LYRA FONTAINE**
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Parents seeking an elementary school alternative were stymied as the Seaside School District revoked its conditional approval for Cannon Beach Academy.

The academy had been slated to open this fall, but failed to meet the three conditions set by the district in October: funding, adequate enrollment and a state-approved English language learners program.

"Since Cannon Beach has failed the established conditions, the district revokes its conditional approval for (the academy) to operate as a charter school operating in the district," Superintendent Doug Dougherty and Superintendent-elect Sheila Roley said in a co-signed letter Thursday to Cannon Beach Academy interim Executive Director Ryan Hull.

The letter stated the district was "committed" to seeing the charter school up and running and that Cannon Beach Academy could begin operating in fall 2017, if it meets the conditions.

Conditions unmet

The conditions, which were to be met by this month, were intended to ensure that the academy would be "financially, structurally and academically ready" to open in the fall.

Hull had asked the district for a time extension or to "simply remove" the three requirements.

The district refused an extension or to modify or eliminate the conditions.

One condition required the school have "all the money they need for the 2016-17 school year" in the bank, as well as a 10-percent contingency, amounting to a little more than \$450,000.

The academy had \$145,798 by March 1, falling more than \$300,000 short.

Although the district would have helped Cannon Beach Academy with operational costs, the charter school needed upfront funds because the district relies on Clatsop County property tax payments, most of which come in November, Dougherty and Roley wrote.

The charter school also fell short on enrollment. The district required a minimum of 22 enrolled students in both kindergarten and first-grade classes.

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Astoria, Verizon will work out tower deal

City Council had rejected new monopole at Shively Park

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council took steps Monday night to save a deal between the city and Verizon Wireless to move an aging communications tower away from the Astoria Column on Coxcomb Hill.

With the council's backing, the city and Verizon will negotiate lease arrangements for a new tower at Reservoir Ridge, east of Coxcomb Hill, that

will improve the city's emergency communications. Verizon will serve wireless customers through the new tower, equipment atop the Astor Hotel building and another new tower outside city limits.

A deal had appeared to crumble in February when the City Council rejected Verizon's plans to install a 150-foot monopole in Shively Park.

Verizon needed the Shively Park location to serve customers on the South Slope and other neighborhoods once the tower at Coxcomb Hill comes down.

Yogi Sandstrom, a Verizon representative, told the City Council Monday night that the company would find a new site outside the city.



Daily Astorian/File Photo

See **TOWER**, Page 10A

The city wants to move an aging communications tower off Coxcomb Hill.



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