

Special meeting called on Warrenton dam

City manager evaluation postponed indefinitely

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The City Commission will hold a special meeting Thursday morning on the controversial Eighth Street Dam.

The Skipanon Water Control District voted Monday to err on the side of caution and block a gravel road that runs over the dam.

The water district, which owns the dam, is also moving forward with a plan to take out

the aging structure by the end of 2018.

Last month, the City Commission voted not to renew a \$1.2 million deal with the water district and the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce that would have given the city a single-lane bridge over the Skipanon River to provide emergency access after the dam's removal.

The commission had voted for the agreement twice, but changed direction after facing vehement opposition.

The special meeting is at 10 a.m. at City Hall.

The City Commission on Tuesday chose not to evaluate City Manager Kurt Fritsch's job performance as originally planned. The evaluation has been postponed indefinitely,

City Attorney Hal Snow said.

Commissioners also voted to hire Akin Blitz, a Portland labor attorney, to work in cooperation with Snow on personnel matters. Snow said he could not comment on whether the hiring of Blitz is related to issues involving the city manager.

Blitz recently cleared Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston of allegations that he violated city policy or state law by using his police vehicle for personal reasons and family travel.

Critics have claimed Fritsch withheld information showing how the removal of the Eighth Street Dam might affect flood levels on surrounding properties.

Although a water district engineering plan said removing the dam would not increase

flood risk, a city technical review questioned whether the flood plain was accurately modeled.

Mayor Mark Kujala's family, who own property near the dam, and the Nygaard family, owners of Warrenton Fiber, are worried about potential flooding and have pressed the city to take control of the dam.

In other business Tuesday, city commissioners adopted the city budget, along with a 7 percent increase in the water rates and a 6 percent hike in sewer rates. The new water rate is expected to bring in \$162,400, the new sewer rate \$113,280.

The budget, totaling \$32.3 million — up from \$29.3 million this year — includes the addition of a police sergeant and a marina worker.

Body of missing man in river recovered

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The body of 22-year-old Taufu'i Taliauli was discovered Tuesday morning in the Columbia River behind Astoria Warehousing.

Taliauli, a resident of the territory of American Samoa, was missing since June 20 when he

fell off the fishing boat Lady Valerie at a dock near Wilcox & Flegel Oil Co..

His death has been ruled accidental by the Clatsop County Medical Examiner.

He was trying to tie off the fishing vessel when the boat shifted and knocked him off balance. He was pinned between the dock and vessel and fell into

the river. An eyewitness saw him hit his head and fall unconscious into the river.

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office Dive Team and the U.S. Coast Guard attempted to locate Taliauli's body in the river but were unsuccessful. Divers have difficulty searching with the fast-moving current, poor visibility and various debris.

A passer-by on the Astoria Riverwalk discovered Taliauli's body at about 8:10 a.m. Tuesday, and reported it to Astoria Police. "This was a tragic situation, and we hope that at least the recovery of Mr. Taliauli's body will offer the family some solace," Astoria Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Brian Mahoney, the county's public health director, has resigned and will start a small farm business.

Public health director resigns, starts new small farm business

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Public Health Director Brian Mahoney has announced his resignation.

He will leave the county at the end of August to begin a small farm business producing fruits and vegetables for local markets in Douglas County.

Mahoney came to Clatsop County in 2013 after working as a public health emergency preparedness liaison in the Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division.

At the Oregon Health Authority, he provided preparedness assistance to county health departments and oversight planning for the state's response to the 2009 swine flu outbreak.

He previously worked for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and Geneva, Switzerland, as a public health adviser and disease intervention specialist.

In Clatsop County,

Mahoney worked with local and state leaders as part of a statewide public health modernization effort. Each health department in Oregon is reviewing capacity, capability, spending and costs. The information will be compiled into a plan for a public health modernization bill in the next legislative session.

During his tenure, the public health department opened an Onsite Septic System Office.

In 2014, Clatsop County was selected as one of five areas nationwide to participate in the "Way to Wellville," a five-year challenge to improve health in the community.

Mahoney also led efforts to gain national accreditation for his department.

Clatsop County Public Health provides programs and services in parent and child health, family planning, communicable disease prevention and environmental health.

California man arrested for smashing Liberty Theater window

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Shortly after being thrown out of The Chart Room bar in downtown Astoria early Tuesday morning, a 32-year-old California man was arrested for reportedly breaking a glass window in the Liberty Theater ticket booth.

Jesse V. Baltier was cited for criminal mischief and released.

Astoria Police first responded to a call at 1:17 a.m. for trespassing Baltier at The Chart Room. About an hour later, police responded to another call reporting Baltier was breaking a glass window at the historic theater.

Witnesses helped police find Baltier nearby, where



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

The Liberty Theater's ticket kiosk window remains broken after being vandalized early Tuesday morning.

he was arrested for criminal mischief.

Baltier told police he just arrived from California and was in town to visit his mother.

He is accused of shattering the glass window and breaking original lead bars in the ticket booth.

The amount of the damage is still being determined.



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County fair reduces admission prices

The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County Fair & Expo Board is reducing admission prices at the fair as an appreciation to the community for supporting a ballot measure that will continue financing operations and maintenance of the fairgrounds.

Admission each day of the fair will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Parking will be \$1 per vehicle.

The fair will be held 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 2 through Aug. 6. Country music artist Craig Morgan will perform in concert 7 p.m. Aug. 4.

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Q: Why does the Market have crossing guards?

A: Volunteers from River Song Foundation provide the Market with weekly crossing guards to help manage traffic at 12th & Duane. Pedestrian traffic is heavy at that corner and the guards help keep vehicle traffic flowing and pedestrians safe. The Market pays River Song, so this is a win for everyone!



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Click on the name of the program that is "STUCK" then click the END TASK button (in bottom right corner)

Still STUCK? Press your power button. Wait 30 seconds. This should shut down your computer.

Still STUCK? Press and hold down your power button for 30 seconds. Only do this if the first 2 methods fail.



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A: CBH is certified to provide DUII treatment for education, diversion, and conviction programs. Urinalysis testing is provided as necessary for most education and outpatient services. We can provide referrals for medication assisted therapy and have prescribers who can assist with any dual diagnosis medication needs. We coordinate services with primary care physicians to help ensure total health treatment.

Call 503-325-5722 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to inquire about clinic and open access hours and the referral process.




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Q: Why is it so hard to buy Oregon halibut?

A: Oregon Halibut is very regulated. There is usually only one 9 hour longline season a year. (4th Wednesday in June.) If quotas are not surpassed another is sometimes added. Some salmon trollers purchase an open access license, enabling them to keep one incidental Halibut for every five Salmon they catch. However, because Halibut swim so much lower than Salmon, this doesn't amount to many being caught. We buy and freeze as much as we can during the opener, and offer fresh Alaskan Halibut the rest of the year.



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