



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The sleeping quarters in one of the living units of the North Coast Youth Correctional Facility, which may close under Gov. Kate Brown's budget proposal.

GOVERNOR PROPOSES CLOSING YOUTH PRISON

Trying to bridge a \$1.7 billion funding gap, Gov. Kate Brown has proposed closing the North Coast Youth Correctional Facility in Warrenton.

The 50-bed facility, which started at Camp Rilea in 1997 and moved to its current location near Clatsop County Animal Shelter in 1998, serves males age 14 to 25 and specializes in substance-abuse treatment, gang prevention and parole violators. Its educational program, South Jetty High School, provides inmates the chance to earn their diplomas, take GED exams and learn trade skills. The program has been lauded for having one of the highest graduation rates of any youth prison statewide, and for helping lower recidivism.

The facility previously closed amid budget cuts in 2003, but reopened with a smaller inmate population and a focus on substance-abuse prevention less than a year later.



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A crack in the M&N building is visible from Ninth Street in downtown Astoria. Warrenton couple Marcus and Michelle Liotta intend to restore the 92-year-old building.

M&N BUILDING SOLD

The dilapidated M&N Building at the northeast corner of Ninth and Commercial streets was sold in July by Mary Louise Flavel to Warrenton couple Marcus and Michelle Liotta. The Liottas, who previously renovated a 116-year-old triplex on Columbia Street, said they want to renovate the M&N Building, establish a business inside and lease some of the building's five storefronts to other tenants.

Last year, City Lumber co-owner Greg Newenhof bought and began restoring the 15th Street Flavel mansion. The sales completed a deal struck between Flavel and the city two years ago. She has also agreed to bring up to code or sell her remaining property, which houses Drina Daisy.

Built in 1924, the 8,000-square-foot M&N Building was named after Mary Christina Flavel — Mary Louise's great-grandmother and the wife of Capt. George C. Flavel — and her daughter Nellie. It was previously auctioned off and bought back in 2004. Flavel had originally asked for \$324,400 for the M&N Building, but accepted \$135,000.



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Stevie Allen runs along the Astoria bridge during the Great Columbia Crossing in 2015. The event was canceled this year because of high winds and rain.

GREAT COLUMBIA CROSSING IS CANCELED FOR THE FIRST TIME

Because of stormy mid-October weather, the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce canceled the 35th annual Great Columbia Crossing. It was the first time the race has ever been called off.

About 2,800 people had registered to participate in the 10K trek over the Astoria Bridge.

The chamber originally chose to postpone the event when weather forecasts predicted hurricane-force winds for the North Coast. This was the first time a postponement had ever happened.

Recognizing that it would be virtually impossible to get all of the participating organizations, volunteers and would-be runners together on a later date, the chamber finally canceled the crossing, and partially reimbursed the people who had already signed up. The 2017 race has been scheduled for Oct. 15. Registration opens May 1.

TWO DIE IN COLUMBIA RIVER PLANE CRASH



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

In March, a private plane crashed into the Columbia River about a mile north of Pier 39, killing the pilot and passenger.

The airplane's owner, John McKibbin — a 69-year-old Vancouver, Washington, man — had flown his friend, Irene Mustain, 64, of Woodland, Washington, to the coast, where she wanted to scatter her husband's ashes on his 69th birthday.

Crews remove plane debris from the Columbia River. The privately owned AT-6 North American military trainer from 1941, crashed into the Columbia about a mile north of Pier 39 in Astoria on March 23.

The pair had taken off in the afternoon of March 23 from Vancouver's Pearson Field and reportedly went down around 4 p.m., according to eyewitnesses.

Sonar scans and blobs of fuel floating on the river's surface led the Clatsop County

Sheriff's Office marine patrol to the missing plane's location. Salvage crews recovered most of the wreckage from the site, along with McKibbin and Mustain's remains.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash. The Federal Aviation Administration, a party to the investigation, said that no flight plan was filed.

WALMART BREAKS GROUND

Seven years after announcing plans for a North Coast location, Walmart broke ground in November at the North Coast Retail Center.

Walmart representatives originally announced in 2009 the company's intent to build a store on vacant land behind Les Schwab Tire Center along U.S. Highway 101. The company's lawyer and design team announced in 2012 a plan to build a supercenter at the retail center.

Clatsop Residents Against Walmart, a group formed in 2010 to oppose the retailer, appealed the store's design, and later a wetland fill permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to level a small portion of the building site. The group's case against the Army Corps was dismissed in August, but is now in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

BONEYARD RIDGE PRESERVED

The North Coast Land Conservancy celebrated 30 years of conserving the Oregon coastal landscape in August.

In July, the conservancy acquired the 340-acre Boneyard Ridge on Tillamook Head for \$1.3 million, linking 3,500 acres of conserved areas. The conservancy plans to turn the former commercial tree farm into a high-functioning temperate rainforest.

In November, the land trust took the first steps toward purchasing 3,300 acres of timberland at Onion Peak. The acquisition would be the largest private land preservation deal in western Oregon. The conservancy will work to raise funds for the purchase, which will cost about \$10 million over five years.

ASTORIA CHOOSES TO RENOVATE LIBRARY



Ending 18 months of indecision, a divided Astoria City Council voted in July to renovate the existing library at 10th and Exchange streets rather than expand.

The city had been looking at

The Astoria Public Library will be remodeled at its current location.

expanding the aging library into the vacant Waldorf Hotel next door or

building a new library — possibly with housing — at Heritage Square.

The 3-2 vote came after councilors determined the high cost and lack of public support for an expansion would undermine a project.