

# From restaurants to reefs: recycling discarded oyster shells

Project to protect Louisiana's coastline

By JANET McCONAUGHEY  
Associated Press

ON LAKE ATHANASIO, La. — If you slurp oysters from the half-shell in New Orleans, you may be doing more than satisfying a culinary craving: You could be helping to construct reefs that environmental groups hope will save a bit of Louisiana's coastline.

Since 2014, restaurants have contributed nearly 2,600 tons of shells to the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and The Nature Conservancy. About one-quarter of those shells now form a half-mile-long reef about 40 miles from New Orleans.

Tiny oyster larvae prefer to cement themselves to oyster shells as their permanent home. But for thousands of years, people have been eating oysters and tossing the shells.

Although Louisiana's oyster fishery is the nation's largest, until recently the state built shallow-water reefs mostly of concrete or limestone. Oyster-shell recycling was inspired by programs in other states, including Texas.



AP Photo/Janet McConaughy  
Richie Blink, left, of the National Wildlife Federation, and Ben LeBlanc, president of LeBlanc Marine Construction, look over a map of the area where a reef was constructed from recycled oyster shells in St. Bernard Parish, La.



Large piles of shell being stored in Buras, La., were collected for an oyster shell recycling program. The program spearheaded by two environmental groups in coordination with area restaurants aims to take a waste product that used to fill landfills and instead make it into a structure that tiny oyster larvae can latch onto and grow. The structures in turn can slow erosion and storm surge that is swiftly eating into Louisiana's coast as well as provide other environmental benefits.

Sarah Pate/Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana



Gabion baskets filled with recycled oyster shells in Buras, La., before being loaded onto a barge for reef construction.

Nic Dixon  
Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana

# Drugs vanish at some VA hospitals

Lax in tracking drug supplies

By HOPE YEN  
Associated Press



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster  
Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin speaks in Washington, D.C., in February.

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities are stepping up investigations at Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers due to a sharp increase in opioid theft, missing prescriptions or unauthorized drug use by VA employees since 2009, according to government data obtained by The Associated Press.

Doctors, nurses or pharmacy staff at federal hospitals — the vast majority within the VA system — siphoned away controlled substances for their own use or street sales, or drugs intended for patients simply disappeared.

Aggravating the problem is that some VA hospitals have been lax in tracking drug supplies. Congressional auditors said spot checks found four VA hospitals skipped monthly inspections of drug stocks or missed other requirements. Investigators said that signals problems for VA's entire network of more than 160 medical centers and 1,000 clinics, coming after auditor warnings about lax oversight dating back to at least 2009.

"Drug theft is an area of concern," Jeffrey Hughes, the VA's acting assistant inspector general for investigations, told AP. He said the monthly inspections could help the VA uncover potential discrepancies and root out crime.

Both the inspector general's office and the Drug Enforcement Administration said they have increased scrutiny of drug thefts from the VA, with the DEA reporting more criminal investigations.

## Special scrutiny

It's not clear if the problem is worse at the VA than at private facilities, where medical experts and law enforcement officials say drug theft

is also increasingly common in a time of widespread opioid abuse in the U.S. But the VA gets special scrutiny from lawmakers and the public, given Americans' esteem for ex-servicemembers served by the agency and because of past problems at the VA, especially a 2014 wait-time scandal in which some patients died.

"Those VA employees who are entrusted with serving our nation's wounded, ill and injured veterans must be held to a higher standard," said Joe Davis, spokesman for Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The drug thefts will be among the challenges facing newly confirmed VA Secretary David Shulkin, who served as the department's undersecretary of health while the drug problem was growing. At his confirmation hearing this month, Shulkin said he was proud that the VA identified the opioid addiction problem before others did and "recognized it as a crisis and began to take action."

Still, the VA acknowledges it has had problems keeping up with monthly inspections and said it was taking steps to improve training. It also said it was requiring hospitals to comply with inspection procedures and develop plans for improvement.

It did not respond to AP requests made three weeks ago to provide a list of VA facilities where drugs had been reported missing or disciplinary action was taken, saying it was still compiling the information.

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## Legal Notices

AB6139 PUBLIC NOTICE The Seaside Urban Renewal Agency has prepared the annual report required under ORS 457.420 - 457.460 and placed it on file with the City of Seaside, 989 Broadway, Seaside, Oregon.

Any interested parties may contact the City of Seaside for a copy of this report.  
Published: February 8th and 22nd, 2017

LIVE OUTSIDE ASTORIA? To place your ad in the Daily Astorian Classifieds, simply dial:

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## Legal Notices

AB6153 PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE "Where Community and Nature Come Together" at the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge in Long Beach Washington

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge want you to contribute your interests and ideas on behalf of the new natural resource center.

Willapa National Wildlife Refuge encompasses diverse salt marshes, muddy tidelifts, rain-drenched old growth forests, and dynamic coastal dunes and beaches.

It is also rich in wildlife and recreation opportunities. We are seeking input from you to help meet our goals:

- Create a modern accessible refuge center
- Inspire education both indoors and outdoors
- Expand trail connections and systems
- Showcase the refuge's uniqueness
- Create community space
- Address essential emergency needs earthquake/tsunami assembly area

Please join us for the first of three community meetings to provide input on the new Natural Resource Center.

Who: Those interested in contributing your ideas  
When: Thursday, March 16, 2017 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Where: Pacific Coast Cranberry Museum 2907 Pioneer Rd. Long Beach, WA 98631  
Sponsored by: US Fish & Wildlife Service & CTA Architects Engineers

Published: February 22nd, 2017.

HOME DELIVERY! Your Daily Astorian should arrive by 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. If it does not, please call us at 503-325-3211 or 1-800-781-3211.

## Legal Notices

AB6156 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF CLATSOP  
In the Matter of the Estate of MICHAEL WILLIAM FOSTER, Deceased.

Case No. 17PB01071  
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Marilyn R. Birkel has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present them, with vouchers attached, to Marilyn R. Birkel, personal representative, at P.O. Box 1030, Astoria, Oregon 97103, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice or the claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative, Blair J. Henningsgaard, P.O. Box 1030, Astoria, Oregon 97103.  
Dated and first published: February 22, 2017.

Blair J. Henningsgaard OSB #78240 Attorney for Personal Representative P.O. Box 1030 Astoria, OR 97103 (503)325-0151

Published: February 22nd, March 1st and 8th, 2017.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

AB6214 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE  
On March 23, 2017, at the hour of 10:00 AM at the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, 1190 SE 19th Street in the City of Warrenton, Oregon, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property commonly known as: 316 Lexington Avenue, Astoria, OREGON. The court case number is 16CV16981, where NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC is plaintiff, and CAITLIN M. SARANIERO; DAVID M. SARANIERO; U.S. BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK OF OREGON; RAY KLEIN, INC. (D/B/A PROFESSIONAL CREDIT SERVICE; CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A.; ASSET RECOVERY GROUP INC.; COMMERCIAL ADJUSTMENT CO.; PARTIES IN POSSESSION is defendant. The sale is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand, made out to Clatsop County Sheriff's Office. For more information on this sale go to: http://oregonsheriffssales.org/ (OR), http://files.co.clatsop.or.us/ccso/foreclosures.pdf  
Published: February 22nd, March 1st, 8th and 15th, 2017.