

TOUGH RULES

DA YANG SEAFOOD EXPLAINS WASTE, LABOR VIOLATIONS

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

In April, Da Yang Seafood was hit with its second round of wastewater violations in as many years by the state Department of Environmental Quality. The proposed penalties came on the heels of separate labor law violations that have heightened the calls by some for the Port of Astoria to punish the seafood processor.

But representatives from Da Yang, which has invested heavily in its base of operations at the end of Pier 2 since setting up there in 2004, said the company operates in a more nuanced and difficult environment of crumbling infrastructure, unclear wastewater requirements and unique working conditions with perishable seafood.

Da Yang was fined \$54,600 last month for discharging wastewater into the Columbia River on more than 200 occasions in 2015 without a permit.

"Despite installing the same wastewater treatment technology as all the other processors in Oregon, meeting the current limits remains a challenge," a statement from the company in response to the fines said.

Most seafood processors operate under a state 900-J permit regulating wastewater discharges based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. The five-year permit expired in 2011 and is still being renegotiated by the state and seafood processors, with a draft expected for public comment near the end of the year.

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Work at the Da Yang Seafood processing facility in Astoria includes upgrades to infrastructure in order to comply with environmental regulations.

Da Yang Seafood rents space in the Port of Astoria's Pier 2 seafood-processing warehouse plant, along with Bornstein Seafoods.

Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian



Balensifer gets nod as new mayor

Newton withdraws his name in Warrenton

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Henry Balensifer was appointed mayor Tuesday night by the City Commission after Commissioner Rick Newton withdrew his name from consideration.

Balensifer had been acting mayor since Mark Kujala resigned in March to spend more time with his family and business. Newton had expressed interest in the appointment, setting up a potential tie vote. It was assumed the two candidates would vote for themselves, leaving Commissioners Pam Ackley and Tom Dyer to make or break the tie.

But only three minutes into the City Commission meeting, Newton announced he was withdrawing. Reading from a statement, he thanked the people who had supported his bid, but said the possibility of a tie vote "weighs more heavily on my thoughts than anything else does."

A tie would have meant that Balensifer would have served as acting mayor until the end of Kujala's term in 2018 and a vacancy would have remained. The commission has been short one member since Kujala's resignation.

"I want the best for the city of Warrenton, and I do not believe leaving an empty position is in the people of Warrenton and Hammond's best interest," Newton said.

Dyer made the motion to appoint Balensifer as mayor and Ackley seconded it. The commission voted, unanimously, to appoint

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Henry Balensifer

CB ditches 40 percent water hike

Public works panel looks at alternatives

By BRENNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — A 40 percent water rate increase is no longer being considered in Cannon Beach for next fiscal year.

The rate increase was proposed earlier this year to help finance the water and wastewater master plan that detailed about \$3.4 million in water infrastructure and \$1.3 million in wastewater projects. The projects would focus on rehabbing or replacing a variety of systems, including brittle water lines and water storage tanks.

But concerns from the public works committee about discrepancies within the rate study and disagreements about how certain projects were prioritized has made a substantial rate increase a problem.

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Another speed bump for Cannon Beach Academy

Charter school tries to lock down new digs

By BRENNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Days after securing enough students to open the Cannon Beach Academy, the board of directors will have to find a new location before opening this fall.

The last-minute change came when the board received a cost estimate of \$245,000 — more than \$150,000 over the \$90,000 they budgeted for construction costs.

The original location on Sunset Boulevard would need to be renovated extensively to meet state school fire codes, board member Phil Simmons said.

"We budgeted \$90,000 based on what my contractor friends told me, based on the square footage we were renovating," Simmons said. "They weren't envisioning code requirements for school."

The board submitted their plans for the charter school more than two years ago, Simmons said, but weren't able to get a formal estimate for construction until after submitting their building permit in March.

Board members are now seeking to lock down the former Preschool and Children's Center at 3781 S. Hemlock, hoping to fast-track the process amid a looming fall opening.

New space

When the board originally submitted their charter school plans to Seaside School District, the Children's Center was not available, Simmons said.

But the Children's Center closed in April 2016, and in a lot of ways, Simmons said the building is more suitable than the original location.



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

The Cannon Beach Preschool and Children's Center may be an option for the Cannon Beach Academy.

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