



JEWELL SPENDS BIG TO BRING TRACK HOME

RUNNING WITH PRIDE

Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Coach David Fix points out a sometimes swampy patch of grass used by Jewell School athletes for discus and shot put. The Jewell School District is preparing to spend more than \$700,000 to renovate its track and field, including improved drainage, track resurfacing and new landing areas for discus, shot put and jumps. The school hopes to host events, which it has been unable to do for years.



Megan Golden/Submitted Photo

Jewell School junior Emma Guillen shows how the track is falling apart.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

In honor of the school mascot Bluejays, Jewell School District will resurface its track blue as part of a \$700,000 renovation.

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

When retired Lewis and Clark College track coach David Fix joined the coaching staff at Jewell School in 2015, he said, the prior year's team had only two girls and four boys. The program has grown over the past few years, this spring drawing 18 athletes, a third of the high school's students.

In recognition of the growth, the small, timber-rich Jewell School District is preparing to spend \$705,000 to renovate the track and field this summer into a venue capable of hosting meets.

Superintendent Alice Hunsaker said track and field appeals to her as both an individual and team sport that does not require a fixed number of students to compete, a big deal at a school that can number fewer than 150 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. This year, 54 students attend high school.



Alice Hunsaker

Capital projects

Hunsaker said the school district had already agreed last year to renovate the track, but was delayed in construction by wet weather.

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\$705,000

the amount of money that will be spent to renovate Jewell School's track and field this summer.

54

the number of students who attended high school this year at Jewell School. Of those, 18 participated in track.

\$22.5M

the overall budget that the Jewell School Board will vote on later this month to adopt.

Neighbor to buy J&H Boatworks

Worries surface at Port meeting over future of North Tongue Point

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Announcing the imminent acquisition of his shipwright company by WCT Marine & Construction Inc., J&H Boatworks co-owner Tim Hill pleaded with the Port of Astoria Commission during a Tuesday workshop for direction regarding North Tongue Point.

J&H, owned by Hill and his wife, Debi, has rented part of a former seaplane hangar at North Tongue Point since 2010, one of the Port's first tenants after the agency leased the industrial dock space from Montana-based Washington Development Co. Three years ago, J&H was joined in the same hangar by fellow marine contractor WCT Marine, owned by Willie and Carol Toristoja. Hill and Willie Toristoja estimate their companies together employ between 23 and 28 people.



Tim Hill

The Port Commission established a goal of acquiring Tongue Point. But the Port's lease runs out in 2019, and the cash-strapped agency has no plan to finance the property's acquisition. Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, has said it's hard to make commitments at Tongue Point without having a definite plan for the property.

Hill said the companies need to know whether the Port is going to acquire the land, renew the lease or let it go.

"WCT needs to have a plan from the Port of Astoria," he said. "If it's not to renew the lease, if it's not to purchase, we need to know that as soon as possible."

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Suspicious threats rattle area schools

Astoria Police have tracked incidents

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Several suspicious threats at Astoria schools have police and school administrators scratching their heads.

Twice this week, at John Jacob Astor Elementary and Astoria High, police have been called in response to potential threats. Classes resumed as normal following brief safety precautions.

A man left dozens of pages of odd, disturbing writing Monday morning at the high school. He was located at a residence shortly after and found to have mental health issues. Police trespassed him, meaning he will be arrested if he enters the campus again.

The elementary school received a brief but alarming call Tuesday morning. The caller said something bad was going to happen at the school, but no specific threats were made.

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City Council sides with Cannon Beach Academy

Council votes to negotiate lease at center

By BRENNNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — When the City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to begin lease negotiations with Cannon Beach Academy, a feeling of elation and relief enveloped the council chambers.

"We did it," said Amy Moore, the newly hired executive director of the charter school, fighting back tears. "It's

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Cannon Beach OKs excise tax for affordable housing.
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a small battle that we won, but it's progress. We're doing this for future generations, for the kids in this town."

The council's vote confirmed the academy can move forward in negotiating a lease for the city-owned, former Preschool and Children's Center at 3781 S. Hemlock, which the city's strategic plan had designated as a future location for affordable housing.

If the council did not agree

to the negotiations, the charter school would not have been able to open in the fall.

While details have yet to be discussed, the plan is to sign a three-year lease, which is the amount of time academy board members expect to outgrow the space. As a way to strike a compromise, Mayor Sam Steidel — a longtime supporter of the charter school — suggested whatever is agreed upon as rent would go toward funding affordable housing.

The academy's request will still need to go before the Planning Commission later this

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Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Cannon Beach Academy board member Phil Simmons, supporter Lisa Nofield and academy board President Kelye Dewey all celebrate after the City Council vote to negotiate a lease for the former Children's Center.

