

Mushen to resign from Port

Commissioner cites health reasons for exit

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Robert Mushen, who led the Port of Astoria Commission through a tumultuous period of infighting, said he will resign as commissioner for health reasons.

Mushen, 73, was appointed to the Port Commission in 2014 to replace Commissioner Jack Bland and ran unopposed for election in 2015. A Cannon Beach resident, he has often served as an emissary between the Port and South County.



Robert Mushen

He will announce his resignation during today's Port Commission meeting. The commission will appoint a replacement to fill out the remaining two years of Mushen term.

In April, Mushen suffered a blood pressure spike during a heated discussion among commissioners and Port Attorney Eileen Eakins. He briefly lost the ability to speak coherently during a vote, after which the meeting was canceled and he was taken by paramedics to Columbia Memorial Hospital.

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Pearl of Seaside's owner pulls plug on plans

Pending sale prompts end of luxury hotel

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Some neighbors may rest a little easier as plans for a luxury hotel on the Prom were scrapped this month.

After a year of Planning Commission and City Council review — and a challenge to the state's Land Use Board of Appeals — an application for a variance for the proposed 45-room Pearl of Seaside at 341 S. Prom was withdrawn because of the pending sale of the property.

City councilors took action Monday to suspend any further action on the appeal, according to City Planner Kevin Cupples.

Owner Antoine Simmons indicated the purchaser was not planning to pursue the proposed development project, so the request for an 8-foot property variance "has effectively been withdrawn from consideration at this point," Cupples said.

Two other Simmons properties, Seaside's Gilbert Inn and the Inn at the Prom, are included in the sale.

"The offer came out of left field and was too good to pass up," Simmons said. "I couldn't say 'no.'"

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GIVING BACK

VOLUNTEER CREW HELPS CLEAN UP CEMETERY MESS



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Andrew Schwarzman, right, and Johan Ruiz, left, with the U.S. Coast Guard took time Monday morning to volunteer with about 20 of their colleagues to help tend to Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Personnel with the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Alert volunteer on Monday to help clear weeds and perform other maintenance at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A member of the U.S. Coast Guard clears away weeds from a headstone at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton on Monday.

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Following numerous complaints from the community and criticism from the Warrenton City Commission about the "shameful" condition of its grounds, the sprawling Ocean View Cemetery is getting some much-needed love.

Crew members from the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Alert worked most of the day, chopping down weeds between grave markers, removing trash and debris and cleaning up around markers and headstones at the cemetery Monday.

They wanted to give back to the community, they said.

"It definitely gets us moving forward," said Astoria Parks Maintenance Supervisor Jonah Dart-McLean. "You can't really substitute the labor of 20 odd people with what we've got currently."

Ocean View is located in Warrenton but owned and operated by Astoria's Parks and Recreation Department. It is maintained by a two-person part-time crew. This year, the parks department fielded a number of complaints, most recently from the Warrenton city commissioners, regarding uncut grass between gravestones and a flourishing population of dandelions, but says funding cuts and staff levels make it difficult to maintain the cemetery to the level expected.

"I think that's where the community really saw the impact this year," said Astoria Parks Director Angela Cosby.

In the last six months, the city of Astoria has discussed a variety of ways to better fund the parks department. Last week, the Astoria City Council conducted the first reading of an ordinance that will increase the lodging tax to 11 percent, generating additional revenue for parks. Though the city will be able to funnel money to parks after the ordinance is finalized in a second reading, the tax increase itself will not be implemented until January.

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Megan Blackburn/Spokesman-Review

Ray Prestegard, Krist Novoselic, Jillian Raye and Erik Friend are Giants in the Trees. The band played two shows in eastern Washington last weekend — on Friday at the Big Dipper in Spokane and on Saturday at Republic Brewing Co. in Republic.

'KEEPING IT LOCAL'

For Krist Novoselic, music remains a hard habit to break

By CAROLYN LAMBERSON
Spokesman-Review

SPOKANE, Wash. — Krist Novoselic knows that the majority of people who came to the Big Dipper last Friday night, or to Republic Brewing on Saturday, will be there to see him.

They will know little to nothing about the band he'll be playing with, Giants in the Trees. The simple fact is that

HAVE A LISTEN

Giants in the Trees

When: 8 p.m. Aug. 12

Where: Fort George Brewery and Public House, 1483 Duane St.

Info: fortgeorgebrewery.com

for fans of Novoselic's previous band, the landmark '90s grunge trio Nirvana, the chance to see him in an intimate setting like the Dipper or rural Republic will be impossible to ignore.

Novoselic, 52, is OK with this. Because as Giants in the Trees is finding out, curiosity may bring the crowds in, the music makes them stick around.

"It seems like people are into it," Novoselic said in a recent phone interview from his home in Wahkiakum County, in the southwestern corner of Washington. "We get good applause. I appreciate that people stick

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