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COAST WEEKEND • INSIDE

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ONE DOLLAR

Getting to the source



Photos by Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Assistant Public Works Director Trevor Mount collects water samples at the Chisana Creek outfall at Tolovana State Park.

Cannon Beach revives water testing after high bacteria readings

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — After high bacteria readings at Cannon Beach outfalls, the city has revived a water testing program in search of a solution.

In late June, routine sampling conducted through the Oregon Beach Monitoring Program found readings at two freshwater outfalls exceeded the state's recreational water standard of 130 mpn, or most probable number, a testing method used to estimate the number of colony forming units of bacteria.

The Chisana Creek outfall at Tolovana State Park registered at 465 mpn, more than three times what is considered safe by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Ecola Court outfall pipe hit 134 mpn. Ingesting bacteria contaminated water can result in illness.

Bacteria levels appear to have steadied for now. But questions persist about why,



Assistant Public Works Director Trevor Mount collects water samples at the Gower Street outfall.

after almost a decade, Cannon Beach continues to see higher levels of bacteria at several beach outfalls.

According to the Surfrider Foundation, which has tested outfalls around Cannon Beach for 10 years, 25 to 50 percent of readings have exceeded state standards, depending on the year. There have been four high readings registered since 2016 with the Oregon Beach Monitoring Program.

Cannon Beach is consistently one of the five beaches on the Oregon Coast that causes the organization the most concern with regard to bacteria levels, Charlie Plybon, Surfrider's Oregon Policy Manager, said.

So what is the source, and why is it difficult to identify it?

The problem

Sources of contamination to surface waters include wastewater treatment plants, septic systems, storm runoff, and domestic and wild animal manure, according to the EPA.

For almost a decade, the city ran a variety of tests to try to identify anything within the infrastructure that could be the source. The steps included weekly water sampling, using optical brighteners to look for human causes of pollution like household detergents and cleansers, and conducting smoke tests. The monitoring sought to find out whether human fecal matter was making it to the beach. The program ended in 2015 after former Public Works Director Dan Grassick deemed issues were unrelated to the wastewater system.

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Nonprofit plans drop-in center for homeless

Services will expand beyond free lunches

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

An Astoria nonprofit is opening a day-time drop-in center for the homeless.

Filling Empty Bellies, best known for providing free lunches at Peoples Park near the Astoria Riverwalk downtown, announced Wednesday it would be sharing space at the former Tide Point restaurant off state Highway 202 with an employment agency.

The nonprofit plans to offer a suite of services at the building, including job-skills training, referrals, showers and laundry facilities, said Erin Carlsen, co-director of Filling Empty Bellies. The building will also be a place to store food, clothing and other donations.

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Warrenton looks at campus purchase

Plan depends on a November bond

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton-Hammond School Board on Wednesday authorized Superintendent Mark Jeffery to negotiate the purchase of property for a master campus pending the passage of a \$32.4 million bond in November.

The school district will float the bond to purchase the land and build a middle school, part of a longer-term plan to move the entire

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Vigil honors man killed in motorcycle crash

Burrell overcame substance abuse

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

With the wind blowing at the Astoria Column, Kristen Sands had trouble lighting her candle. So she used the inside of her boyfriend's motorcycle helmet as a shield until she finally was able to light the flame.

Sands then placed the helmet near the memorial for the man who once wore it.



Damian Burrell with his girlfriend, Kristen Sands.

Friends and family gathered Wednesday night at the Column for a candlelight vigil for Damian Burrell, 30, of Warrenton, who died Monday

in a motorcycle crash on state Highway 202.

Originally from Baltimore, Burrell moved west a few years ago and checked in at Astoria Pointe, a drug and alcohol treatment center. After he became sober, he worked at the treatment center, which recently closed.

People who knew Burrell spoke of his wisdom, selflessness, happiness and sense of humor. Since many of them, like Burrell, are transplants who moved to Astoria to escape a past life, they form a surrogate family.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Mourners gathered at the Astoria Column on Wednesday night for a vigil to celebrate the life of Damian Burrell, who was killed in a motorcycle accident on Monday.

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