

School construction project wins key permit in Seaside

‘We are thrilled to have that behind us’

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — It was a good week for the Seaside School District. Despite cloudy skies and periodic rain, hundreds turned out to celebrate a public groundbreaking for the new middle and high school campus in the Southeast Hills.

Perhaps even better news came for the district with a permit approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

School district project manager Jim Henry made the announcement at Tuesday’s meeting of the school district’s board.

The district received and business manager Justine Hill signed the permit and mailed it back with the \$10 check, he said. “We are thrilled to have that behind us.”

The Army Corps’ preliminary review, delivered in April, indicated the project, designed to move endangered schools out of the tsunami zone, would adversely affect essential fish habitat.

“Approval was granted with the condition we need to finalize the stream mitigation solution on Neawanna Creek within 90 days,” Henry said Wednesday.

Superintendent Sheila Roley thanked the public officials and contractors who “helped solve problems in a thoughtful and creative way in adjusting to the permit schedule.”



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian
Project manager Jim Henry at the public groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 15. Behind him are architect Dan Hess, Seaside Mayor Jay Barber, U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici and state Sen. Betsy Johnson.

The district originally presented plans to the Corps for on-site remediation which would have resulted in the permanent placement of almost 4,800 cubic yards of soil, concrete and stone within 0.16 acre of wetland and more than 2,000 linear feet of stream considered essential fish habitat.

When the Corps failed to sign off on that plan, the district offered a “compensatory mitigation” proposal off-site to provide an environmental easement on property behind the district bus barn on U.S. Highway 101. The goal was to provide protection for waters downstream to make

up for potential impacts at the new school site.

The off-site mitigation along Neawanna Creek behind the bus barn, above the high-water mark, is to improve the habitat along the creek.

“The district’s bus barn and adjacent properties to the south are on Neawanna Creek and have enough frontage that we can do vegetative cleanup there,” Henry said at an earlier meeting. “We’re working with the Necanicum Watershed Council to make sure we have the right strategy for mitigation.”

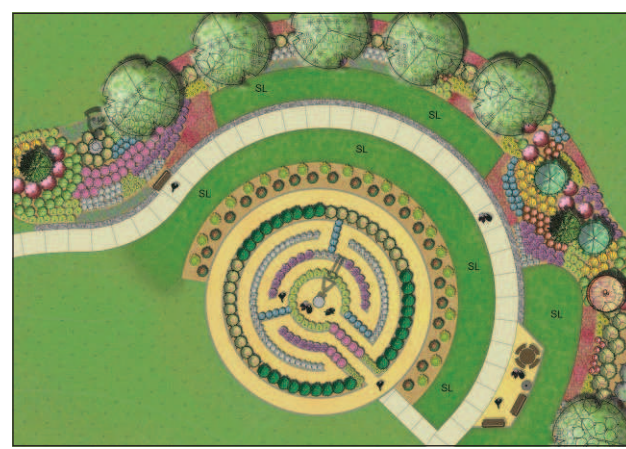
To complete the work for the Corps, the district will

need a survey for the easement agreement, an invasive species removal plan, approved species planting plan and erosion control plan to have in place while the work is being done, Henry said Wednesday.

Hoffman Construction will implement the mitigation work, both on-site and off-site. They have yet to finalize their schedule.

The final building permit will be submitted to the city on Sept. 28.

Bids for the next construction phases are underway, Henry added, including bids for the building’s roof, metal siding, interior and site work.



Columbia Memorial Hospital

The planned CMH Health and Wellness Park.

Hospital plans new health and wellness park

The Daily Astorian

Columbia Memorial Hospital is planning a park, picnic area and walking labyrinth on its main campus along Exchange Street to promote health and wellness.

The CMH Health and Wellness Park is under construction between the main hospital and the Knight Cancer Collaborative, a cancer treatment center recently opened in partnership with Oregon Health and Science University.

“The CMH Health and Wellness Park is a part of our strategic initiative to enhance the patient and caregiver experience, providing a place to inspire wellness,” Erik Thorsen, CEO of the hospital, said in a news release. “Through this space, we hope to support and encourage outdoor activity, rest and relaxation for our caregivers, patients

and their family members.”

A walking path lined with plants, shrubs and trees winds around the labyrinth. A singular trail leads to the middle in between more shrubbery. The park will also include picnic areas and a bocce ball court.

“For years, patients and caregivers suggested that we create healing outdoor spaces to walk in,” Thorsen said. “Once we finished building the Cancer Collaborative, we realized that the greenspace between buildings offered the perfect opportunity. We’re really excited for the CMH Health and Wellness Park to open and I hope that it gets a lot of use.”

The park was designed by MacDonald Environmental Planning of Portland. Construction is being overseen by Al Jacques of CM Services Co. Construction is expected to finish by the end of fall.

Autopsy: Man shot 9 times by campus police in Portland

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Two campus security officers at Portland State University fired 17 times at a legally armed black man who was trying to break up a fight and struck him nine times, killing him, according to a report released Wednesday.

Oregon State Medical Examiner Dr. Rebecca Millius ruled the death of Jason Washington, 45, a homicide, the report shows.

Washington was struck in the chest, back, abdomen and legs and had graze wounds from a bullet that glanced off his head, she said.

A grand jury ruled on Sept. 13 that PSU Officers James Dewey and Shawn McKenzie should not face criminal charges in the June 29 shooting.

Washington, a Navy veteran and Postal Service employee, had been out drinking with friends when his group got into a confrontation with another group outside a bar called the Cheerful Tortoise just off campus in downtown Portland.

A lengthy report released last week by the Portland Police Bureau, as well as footage pulled from the officers’ body-worn cameras, show Washington had a gun in his right pocket when he tried to come to a friend’s assistance during a fight. Officers later found a legal permit to carry a concealed weapon in the dead man’s wallet.

The footage from Dewey’s camera shows the campus police officer rolling up to a fight on a street on the fringes of the university campus.

Dewey exits his patrol vehicle and a man at the scene says several times, “He pulled a gun on us! He pulled a gun!” as he points to Washington, who appears to be trying to keep his friend from a fight.

At that point, Washington’s visibly intoxicated

friend breaks away and begins punching another man until he is kicked by a third person in the head and knocked out.

As Washington tries to pull the man away from his unconscious friend, Dewey grabs Washington’s arm from behind and tells him to back away from the fight. A black object that appears to be a gun is visible protruding from Washington’s right hip pocket at that moment in Dewey’s body camera video.

Washington stumbles backward and falls to the ground as someone says, “He’s got a gun!”

Washington gets up, takes several steps away from Dewey and turns to face the two officers as they shout at him to drop the gun.

The medical examiner’s report quotes one of the officers as yelling, “Do not pick up the gun!” just before the officers fired 17 shots “in very quick succession.”

A witness told several media outlets immediately after the shooting that she saw the gun fall out of Washington’s pocket when he fell, and he was shot after he picked it up.

It’s unclear from the angle of both body camera videos, however, whether Washington is holding the gun when he is shot.

Toxicology reports show Washington had a blood-alcohol content of more than three times the legal driving limit.

His wife, Michelle Washington, has said she will file a lawsuit in her husband’s death.

Portland State University’s president has hired two independent firms, one to examine the school’s policy of arming campus police and another to conduct its own investigation into the shooting. Students are planning a rally later this month to press the school to disarm its campus police.

PSU decided to arm its campus security officers in 2014 despite concerns raised by students.

Wyden: Senate targeted by hackers

By FRANK BAJAK AND RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

Foreign government hackers continue to target the personal email accounts of U.S. senators and their aides — and the Senate’s security office has refused to defend them, a lawmaker says.

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, said in a Wednesday letter to Senate leaders that his office discovered that “at least one major technology company” has warned an unspecified number of senators and aides that their personal email accounts were “targeted by foreign government hackers.” Similar methods were employed by Russian military agents who leaked the contents of private email inboxes to influence the 2016 elections.

Wyden did not specify the timing of the notifications, but a Senate staffer said they occurred “in the last few weeks or months.” The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

But the senator said the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, which oversees Senate security, informed legislators and staffers that it has no authority to help secure personal, rather than official, accounts.

“This must change,” Wyden wrote in the letter. “The November election grows ever closer, Russia continues its attacks on our democracy, and the Senate simply does not have the luxury of further delays.” A spokeswoman for the security office said it would have no comment.

Wyden has proposed legislation that would allow the security office to offer digital protection for personal accounts and devices, the same way it does with official ones. His letter did not provide additional details of the attempts to pry into the lawmakers’ digital lives, including whether lawmakers of both parties are still being targeted.

Google and Microsoft, which offer popular private email accounts, declined to comment.

The Wyden letter cites previous Associated Press reporting on the Russian hacking



AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin

A Capitol Hill staffer uses a smartphone inside the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

group known as Fancy Bear and how it targeted the personal accounts of congressional aides between 2015 and 2016. The group’s prolific cyberspying targeted the Gmail accounts of current and former Senate staffers, including Robert Zarate, now national security adviser to Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, and Jason Thielman, chief of staff to Montana Sen. Steve Daines, the AP found.

The same group also spent the second half of 2017 laying digital traps intended to look like portals where Senate officials enter their work email credentials, the Tokyo-based cybersecurity firm TrendMicro has reported.

Microsoft seized some of those traps, and in September 2017 apparently thwarted an attempt to steal login credentials of a policy aide to Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill, the Daily Beast discovered in July. Last month, Microsoft made news again when it seized several internet domains linked to Fancy Bear, including two apparently aimed at conservative think tanks in Washington.

Such incidents “only scratch the surface” of advanced cyberthreats faced by U.S. officials in the administration and Congress, according to Thomas Rid, a cybersecurity expert at Johns Hopkins

University. Rid made the statement in a letter to Wyden last week.

“The personal accounts of senators and their staff are high-value, low-hanging targets,” Rid wrote. “No rules, no regulations, no funding streams, no mandatory training, no systematic security support is available to secure these resources.”

Attempts to breach such accounts were a major feature of the yearlong AP investigation into Fancy Bear that identified hundreds of senior officials and politicians — including former secretaries of state, top generals and intelligence chiefs — whose Gmail accounts were targeted.

The Kremlin is by no means the only source of worry, said Matt Tait, a University of Texas cybersecurity fellow and former British intelligence official.

“There are lots of countries that are interested in what legislators are thinking, what they’re doing, how to influence them, and it’s not just for purposes of dumping their information online,” Tait said.

In an April 12 letter released by Wyden’s office, Adm. Michael Rogers — then director of the National Security Agency — acknowledged that personal accounts of senior government officials “remain prime targets for

exploitation” and said that officials at the NSA and Department for Homeland Security were discussing ways to better protect them. The NSA and DHS declined to offer further details.

Guarding personal accounts is a complex, many-layered challenge.

Rid believes tech companies have a sudden responsibility to nudge high-profile political targets into better digital hygiene. He said he did not believe much as been done, although Facebook announced a pilot program Monday to help political campaigns protect their accounts, including monitoring for potential hacking threats for those that sign up.

Boosting protection in the Senate could begin with the distribution of small chip-based security devices such as the YubiKey, which are already used in many secure corporate and government environments, Tait said. Such keys supplement passwords to authenticate legitimate users, potentially frustrating distant hackers.

Cybersecurity experts also recommend them for high-value cyber-espionage targets including human rights workers and journalists.

“In an ideal world, the Sergeant at Arms could just have a pile of YubiKeys,” said Tait. “When legislators or staff come in they can (get) a quick cybersecurity briefing and pick up a couple of these for their personal accounts and their official accounts.”

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POW/MIA DAY
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Friday, Sept. 21ST
4 pm until gone
\$8.00
6PM
“Karaoke Dave”
ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION
Clatsop Post 12
1132 Exchange Street
325-5771