

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

146TH YEAR, NO. 61

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

ONE DOLLAR

COURSING THROUGH

Athletes head out onto the course during the 3-Course Challenge. See the muddy photos on 10A.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

County seeks help to ID dead body

Man could be in his 60s

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

In a rare move, Clatsop County officials are seeking the public's help identifying the body of a man recovered Friday from the Columbia River near the Astoria Bridge.

No missing persons reports match the body, and none of the man's personal effects or identification were found on him, Clatsop County Medical Examiner JoAnn

Giuliani said.

The medical examiner said this is the first time in her 16 years working for the county that she hasn't been able to identify a body within three days. "It's very, very, very rare," Giuliani said.

Several tests revealed no signs of overt trauma, and he appeared to have been in the water for several weeks, Giuliani said. It's likely the man was last on the Washington side of the river in Wahkiakum County or west.

See BODY, Page 7A



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A body was found Friday in the Columbia River near the Astoria Bridge.

BODY FOUND

Authorities are asking for help in identifying the body of a man found in the Columbia River.

DESCRIPTION:

- Approximately 60-year-old male, unknown ethnicity
- About 5 feet, 7 inches tall; 160 pounds
- Dark hair, 5 inches in length in the back, may have frontal balding
- Brown eyes
- No upper teeth, may have worn a plate
- Salt-and-pepper-colored beard, 6 inches in length and curly

- No scars, tattoos or jewelry

CLOTHING:

- Good condition
- Patagonia dark blue or purple fleece pullover
- Great Northwest Clothing Co. women's petite blue fleece vest
- Medium Kirkland orange T-shirt and tie-dye T-shirt
- Key work jeans
- Denali brown hiking boots, size 7
- Brown belt with silver metal and a black "lighter leash" attached

Anyone with information about the man can call the sheriff's office at 503-325-8635.

Judge dismisses flood plain suit

Warrenton had joined the complaint

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit brought by developers against the federal government over proposed flood plain rules.

Oregonians for Floodplain Protection, a development coalition including building trade groups, Realtors, farmers, landowners and local govern-

ments, sued the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency last year. Warrenton, which is contending with flood-control issues, joined the lawsuit.

Lawyers for the coalition argued that flood plain rules proposed by the agencies are based on inadequate analysis, would restrict development and have bypassed the public rule-making process.

Federal officials argued the lawsuit was premature, lacking jurisdiction and should be dismissed because they have not

implemented the rules.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon sided with the federal agencies' argument that no agency action had been taken regarding the alternative flood plain rules aside from sending notice letters to communities served by the flood insurance program.

"The bottom line is thus clear: plaintiffs have not alleged to date any ongoing, concrete injury arising from FEMA's implementation of the" alternative flood plain rules, Leon wrote in his ruling.

A report finding no significant impact from the alterna-

tives would need to be issued to constitute final action by FEMA and is not expected until next year, Leon wrote.

"I know that we are very disappointed by the court's ruling and believe that the court misunderstood key components of our arguments," said Molly Lawrence, a lawyer for the coalition. "That said, we were relieved by the court's conclusion that FEMA has not yet taken any action to implement any of the substantive provisions" of the flood plain rules.

See LAWSUIT, Page 7A

Astoria Co-op, neighbors reach compromise

New store in Mill Pond

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Co-op Grocery could break ground on a new store as early as January after reaching a compromise with neighbors.

The City Council was scheduled to hear arguments from both sides earlier this month after three property owners appealed a city board's approval of the co-op's plans to expand from downtown to

property in the Mill Pond neighborhood.

The natural and organic food store planned to use Steam Whistle Way, a narrow road that runs between the co-op's land and the Mill Pond properties, as the new store's access road — a move that could have created traffic snarls and safety issues in the neighborhood, the property owners argued.

But instead of refuting their claims, developer Don Vallaster, representing the co-op, announced he had new designs to submit. Under the new plans, access

See CO-OP, Page 7A

Port faces big legal bill over the Riverwalk Inn

A six-figure loss on attorney fees

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria faces more than \$158,000 in attorney fees related to a lawsuit brought by Param Hotel Corp. over the operation of the Astoria Riverwalk Inn.

Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge Dawn McIntosh cut more than \$54,000

from the original amount sought by Param's attorney, Colin Hunter, but still left the Port with a six-figure payment.

"The time and labor required were significant, as were the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved," McIntosh wrote in her decision. "The amounts in controversy were substantial and the per hour fees reasonable considering the experience, reputation and ability of the lawyers."

The Port's legal defense has so far been paid for by the Special Districts Association of Oregon, which provides insurance, legal representation and other services to public agencies. Luke Reese, the Port's attorney through the association, declined to comment on the case but said that Param's attorney fees would not be covered by the association's insurance.

See PORT, Page 7A



Astoria Co-op Grocery

The Astoria Co-op Grocery plans to build a new store in the Mill Pond neighborhood.

