

IN BRIEF

Army Corps of Engineers seeks public comment on Westport park

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seeks public comment on a dock replacement for the proposed Westport county park.

Clatsop County plans to demolish a boat ramp built in the 1970s and build a new one roughly 20 feet upstream. The boat ramp revitalization is part of a larger plan to develop on the thinly shaped 27-acre property along the Westport Slough.

Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill donated the property in 2015 and gave \$20,000 for a playground and picnic area.

Email comments to Brad.A.Johnson2@usace.army.mil or mail them to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch A, Mr. Brad Johnson, P.O. 2946, Portland, Oregon 97208-2946.

Comments must include a Corps reference number — NWP-2019-93 — and the commenter's name and address. Comments are due by July 11. For more information, visit www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Notices/

— The Astorian

Chapman confirmed winner in transit district election

The final results are in from the May election, and one race that was too close to call is finally decided.

John Chapman defeated Katharine Parker for a post on the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District board by eight votes.

The results were certified June 6 by Clatsop County Clerk Tracie Krevanko.

Chapman received 332 votes, or 25.8%, while Parker received 324 votes. Marti Wajc followed with 317 votes and Shirley Yates received 304 votes.

— The Astorian

Washington AG Ferguson sues Trump EPA over water rule

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson sued the Trump administration for the 39th time last week, in this case to retain water-quality standards that the Washington Farm Bureau and other trade groups say will cost billions of dollars but won't benefit the public.

Ferguson claimed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency bowed to industries, including the farm bureau, when it rescinded the Clean Water Act protections set by the EPA under President Barack Obama.

"(President Donald) Trump's EPA cannot change important water-quality protections at the whim of industry interests," Ferguson said in a written statement. "We keep beating the Trump administration, and we haven't lost yet. I don't plan on starting now."

The standards, commonly summarized as the fish-consumption rule, limit pollutants that can be discharged into water in Washington. The protections now backed by the Trump EPA were developed by Gov. Jay Inslee's administration, but were mostly rejected by the Obama EPA.

The farm bureau and seven other organizations petitioned the Trump EPA to reverse course and accept the state's standards. The farm bureau said it feared restrictions on industrial sites would trickle down to farmers. The Trump EPA granted the petition in May.

The Inslee administration proposed the standards, but has lashed out at the Trump EPA for accepting them.

— Capital Press



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

The state is investigating a workplace death in May at Bornstein Seafoods in Astoria.

State probes death at Bornstein Seafoods

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The state Occupational Safety and Health Division is investigating Bornstein Seafoods after a worker fell and died in late May at the company's seafood-processing plant in Astoria.

Magdalena Blandina Ramon Guzman, 63, of Seaview, Washington, lost her balance while standing on a platform shoveling leftover fish into a hopper,

according to a preliminary state report. She fell nearly 7 feet from the platform to the concrete dock.

"There are guardrails but she fell through the area where the ladder attaches to the platform," the report said.

Guzman was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria and Oregon Health & Science University, where she died. She was buried earlier this month in Veracruz, Mexico.

Bornstein Seafoods co-owner Andrew Bornstein was not immediately available for comment.

Aaron Corvin, a spokesman for the state agency, said the state is interviewing witnesses, looking at equipment and reviewing company records and safety measures.

"It's a process of accountability," Corvin said. "We're looking at whether safety rules were or were not followed."

Investigations can take up to six months, but are often wrapped up sooner, he said.

The state recorded three workplace deaths in Astoria since 2000. The two prior deaths involved a worker crushed at a farm equipment manufacturer in May 2018 and a distribution worker killed in a motor-vehicle accident in April 2018.

Seaside recorded seven workplace deaths since 2000, Warrenton four and Knappa one.

Bus hits Atlantis Auto Glass in Warrenton

The Astorian



Mark Dean Winheim

A bus crashed into Atlantis Auto Glass in Warrenton on Monday.

WARRENTON — A bus rolled into Atlantis Auto Glass in Warrenton on Monday afternoon, causing substantial damage.

The Sunset Empire Transportation District bus was parked across the street at Les Schwab Tire Center awaiting service before the bus drifted across Marlin Avenue, striking the business, police said.

No one was in the bus and no injuries were reported. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

In Oregon, it will be paper, not plastic

Single-use bag ban passes in Salem

By MARK MILLER
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — When you get takeout food from your favorite restaurant, you might be handed a thin plastic bag, with foam containers inside containing your meal, plus a plastic straw or two if you ordered a drink.

Those straws? Gone.

The bag? History.

The foam containers? Not going anywhere.

State lawmakers delivered a split verdict on bills cracking down on plastic wares that comes from retailers and vendors.

The state Senate on Tuesday approved House Bill 2509, which bans plastic checkout bags at stores and restaurants statewide starting next year.

Senators last week approved Senate Bill 90, prohibiting stores and restaurants from giving out plas-

tic straws to customers. Customers can still ask for one under the legislation, which takes effect next year.

A third bill, House Bill 2883, that would have prevented vendors from providing food to customers in polystyrene containers failed, 15-14. Three Democratic senators — including state Sen. Betsy Johnson, of Scappoose — joined all 11 Republicans in opposition. It needed 16 votes to pass.

Most Republicans opposed all three bills. Some argued that paper alternatives to plastic straws and bags are inferior.

Notably, the bag bill requires grocers to sell checkout bags for a nickel each.

"The goal is to get people to ... bring their own bags," said state Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, who carried all three bills on the Senate floor.

Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas, said banning single-use plastic bags is a good idea, but the fee will have

"unintended consequences."

"We continue ... to think we cannot educate our people and we must punish them by fining them, punish them by raising costs, instead of actually talking to our citizens rationally," Boquist said, arguing that adding a mandatory fee on paper bags would reduce their usage and hurt paper mills and recycling centers.

Since they were introduced into widespread use in the 1970s, plastic bags have risen in popularity at the expense of paper. One study suggested that Americans used more than 100 billion single-use plastic shopping bags in 2014.

"Single-use plastics, in general, are polluting our state and our planet," said Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton.

The plastic straw bill doesn't outright ban them, but such straws would no longer be the default option. Customers can request a plastic straw, but otherwise, vendors won't be allowed to give them one.

By weight, straws make up a tiny fraction of 1% of all the plastic waste that's thrown away. It would take more than two million plastic straws to make a ton.

However, straws can cause severe injury or death when they're eaten by marine life. An international movement to ban plastic straws gained traction after a video

was circulated in 2015 showing a straw being extracted from a sea turtle's nose.

SB 90 will prevent local governments from completely banning plastic straws on their own.

Disability rights advocates argued that banning plastic straws altogether would be detrimental for people who need them for food and drinks.

Three Republicans — Sens. Cliff Bentz, of Ontario, Bill Hansell, of Umatilla County, and Tim Knopp, of Bend — supported the straw bill.

The straw and bag bills now head to Gov. Kate Brown for signature.

All Republicans opposed the polystyrene ban, and when Democrats Johnson, Laurie Monnes Anderson, of Gresham, and Arnie Roblan, of Coos Bay, voted with them, it was enough to kill the bill.

One Oregon company, Tigard-based Agilyx Corp., accepts foam products for recycling. Sen. Alan Olsen, R-Canby, argued that Oregon should embrace efforts to recycle more forms of plastic.

"If we ban this, we are giving up a worldwide opportunity to recycle plastic," Olsen said.

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group, Pamplin Media Group and Salem Reporter.

DEATHS

June 11, 2019

LOVERIDGE, Stephanie, 66, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

June 10, 2019

CAMERON, Joyce Marie, 82, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 9, 2019

OLSON, James Daniel, 25, of Clatskanie, died in Astoria. Caldwell's

Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PLETSCHET, Fern Ann, 83, of Beaverton, died in Beaverton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 8, 2019

WELCH, Jenny Kay, 59, of Gearhart, died in Gearhart. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Astoria City Council, 1 p.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., Seaside Civic and

Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

Cannon Beach Academy, 5:30 p.m., 3781 S. Hemlock St.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

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