

IN BRIEF

Health advisory lifted for waters off Cannon Beach

The public health advisory for ocean waters off Cannon Beach has been lifted.

State Department of Environmental Quality testing shows fecal bacteria levels have subsided.

However, state officials recommend staying out of large pools on the beach that attract birds, as well as runoff from these pools, because the water may contain increased fecal bacteria.

An advisory was issued on Tuesday.



Marquis advocates for enforcing laws against animal cruelty

Former Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis has led the formation of the National Law Enforcement Council under the Animal Wellness Foundation and Animal Wellness Action.

The new council is advocating for increased funding to help law enforcement enforce federal, state and local laws against animal cruelty. The council also supports the passage of the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act, which they say will crack down on animal cruelty.

The organization said animal cruelty is often a staging ground for other illegal behavior.

“Cruelty to animals is not some isolated, easily compartmentalized act of aggression,” said Marquis, the co-chair of the council. “When we stamp out animal cruelty and apprehend people who have lost empathy for the suffering of others, we make our communities safer for everyone.”

Clatsop Care seeks members for oversight committee

Clatsop Care Health District is seeking people to join its Tax Levy Oversight Committee.

In May 2018, Clatsop County approved a five-year, \$3 million levy to fund program enhancements, critical maintenance and technology upgrades to the health district’s three long-term care facilities in Astoria and Warrenton and an in-home care agency.

The committee will oversee how the levy funds are being used, make recommendations to the board of directors and maintain transparency between Clatsop Care and the community. Committee meetings will begin in the fall.

To apply, visit www.clatsopcare.org/news.php. For more information, email Clarissa Johnson, the community outreach director, at cjohnson@clatsopcc.edu.

Brownson to hold meet and greet

Astoria City Councilor Tom Brownson is holding a “Meet Your Councilor” event from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday in the Flag Room at the Astoria Library, 450 10th St.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

June 16, 2019

NOBLE, Paul Raymond, 52, of Elsie, died in Elsie. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 9, 2019

UTTI, Harry Alan, 72, of Gearhart, died in Cathlamet, Washington. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIALS

Saturday, June 22

DAVIS, Mary Louise (Wooldridge) — Memorial and celebration of life at 1 p.m., St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 2036 S.E. Jeffer-

son St. in Milwaukie.

HOLWEGE, Betty Jane Roundy — Celebration of life from 2 to 4 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 350 Niagara Ave.

ON THE RECORD

Strangulation

• Zachery Kyle Catron, 24, of Yakima, Washington, was arrested in Clatsop County on Wednesday for strangulation and harassment.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Hotel continues to shape riverfront discussion

Hollander Hospitality has yet to build

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

A hotel that has yet to be built continues to haunt discussions about waterfront development in Astoria.

On Monday night, city councilors heard a slew of amendments to the Riverfront Vision Plan, rules and standards that lay out how development occurs along the river. Most of the changes are relatively minor — housekeeping measures, city planners said — intended to clarify and update what the city requires.

The City Council will consider amendments to standards for building size and height at a future meeting. The Planning Commission is still discussing a variety of new limits on building height and size in the Bridge Vista section, which runs from Portway Street to Second Street.

A four-story Marriott-brand hotel — the Fairfield Inn and Suites — at the base of Second Street was the first test of the Riverfront Vision Plan’s codes for Bridge Vista.

During public hearings on the hotel, the city identified gaps or confusion in



Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian

Grass and weeds grow tall around Stephanie’s Cabin in Astoria. The property, owned by developer Hollander Hospitality, has remained vacant since it was sold in 2016.

the codes. The developer, Hollander Hospitality, also asked for direction and clarification from the city. The project weathered multiple denials by city boards and was appealed to the City Council, where it was approved last year.

“The City Council approved the appeals but noted that portions of the code were not clear on what was intended for various design aspects,” Rosemary Johnson, a city planning consultant, noted in a memo to the City Council.

On Monday, City Councilor Joan Herman still had concerns and wanted to clarify how developers used adjacent properties to jus-

tify certain design characteristics in new construction. The Fairfield Inn developer used the Astoria Warehousing building, a collection of large and low buildings to the west, as part of their justification for the hotel’s size, Herman said.

City staff clarified this requirement in the code changes, Johnson replied. Developers must look to all buildings visible within three blocks and cannot zero in on only one building.

Concerns about the size of the hotel — planned at the former Ship Inn restaurant — as well as its initial boxy design stalled the project early on and ignited vocal protests from some in



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

The expansive gym at the Cannon Beach Elementary School sits unused.

Cannon Beach Elementary purchase falls through

Museum passes on deal for now

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

The Cannon Beach History Center and Museum will not be moving ahead with a plan to purchase the former Cannon Beach Elementary School from the Seaside School District.

The museum had hoped to restore the gymnasium and create a cultural event center for the community.

“Over the past few months it has become clear that our timeline for this purchase must be pushed back,” Elaine Trucke, the museum’s executive director, said. “We hope to approach the school district in the future, but for now, we must focus our energy on the museum and its collections.”

In November, Sheila Roley, the school superintendent in Seaside, said the school district supported the sale.

The building, which has sat vacant at the north end of Cannon Beach since the

school was closed in 2013, has long been of interest to the city, which discussed buying it as some form of event or community center on and off for years.

The Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes also showed interest in preserving the unique building as a cultural landmark.

The former elementary school is one of four buildings the school district is attempting to sell as it builds a new campus out of the tsunami inundation zone.

“We would definitely be interested in the future,” Trucke said. “Just not right at the moment. Sheila Roley and the Seaside School District have been very supportive of this endeavor. In fact, there has been so much support from the community. We hope to revisit this next year.”

The real estate firm of Norris & Stevens is preparing to market other school buildings, including Broadway Middle School, Seaside High School and Gearhart Elementary School, as part of the plan to relocate students to a new campus.

Seaside man pleads guilty to encouraging child sexual abuse

The Astorian

A Seaside man pleaded guilty on Tuesday to encouraging child sexual abuse in the second degree for possessing child pornography.

Joshua Allen Pickering, 35, was arrested last year and charged with 18 counts

of encouraging child sex abuse in the first degree and one count of felon in possession of a firearm.

He came into possession of the visual recordings between January 2016 and January 2018.

Pickering is scheduled to be sentenced in October.

Astoria man arrested after allegedly running over woman

The Astorian

An Astoria man was arrested for assault on Wednesday after allegedly running over a woman with his car.

Ronald Keith Hobbs, 56, was arrested for assault in

the fourth degree and reckless endangerment in the incident on Nordmark Drive off of U.S. Highway 26. Authorities said he could face additional charges.

The woman suffered serious injuries and was flown to a Portland hospital.

Appeals court upholds Tillamook transmission line approval

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

The Oregon Court of Appeals has upheld the approval of a 9-mile transmission line across farms and forestland in Tillamook County without explaining its legal reasoning.

Last month, the Tilla-Bay Farms dairy was joined by the Oregon Coast Alliance conservation group in arguing the project didn’t comply with land use rules.

The transmission line is controversial because critics fear it will disrupt farm activities, such as aerial spraying, while encouraging trespass and vandalism of private forestland. The Oregon Farm Bureau and Ore-

gon Dairy Farmers Association have opposed the project’s approval.

The Tillamook People’s Utility District says the transmission line is necessary for reliable service to the community of Oceanside, which faces power outages from vehicles and trees colliding with an existing distribution line.

Opponents claim the project could be avoided by building a second distribution line along existing road easements, which wouldn’t take additional farm and forestland out of commission.

During oral arguments in May, the appeals court focused on whether such a transmission line is permissible within estuary zones in Tillamook County.

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