

IN BRIEF

Police respond to break-in, fire

Police responded Tuesday to a woman who allegedly broke into a home southeast of Astoria and ended up on fire.

A man called 911 to report a woman, identified as Kelley Brownlie, had threatened to shoot him while he was caring for a neighbor's property on Labiske Lane.

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police responded and learned Brownlie had broken into the home. She did not respond to attempts to communicate with her. Officers broke into the home after seeing her on fire through a window and removed her from the burning building.

Brownlie sustained significant injuries and was taken to the Legacy Oregon Burn Center by Life Flight Network. Medix Ambulance assisted with medical response. Olney Walluski Fire and Rescue extinguished the fire.

The Clatsop County Fire Investigation Team is investigating the cause of the fire and asks anyone with information to call Detective Justin Dersham 503-325-8635.

Police investigate assault in Uniontown

Police are investigating an assault in Uniontown after a man was found Tuesday with a head injury.

A homeowner on the 400 block of W. Marine Drive called police to complain about people living in her basement.

When police arrived, they found a man who reportedly had been assaulted. He was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria with a head injury.

Police said they were able to obtain a search warrant for the basement. They found drug paraphernalia and three people with arrest warrants.

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office assisted the Astoria Police Department in securing the location and executing the warrants.

— *The Astorian*

Public health advisory issued for beaches on Oregon Coast

NEWPORT — Health officials have issued a public health advisory because of higher-than-normal bacteria levels found off three beaches near Newport.

Oregon Health Authority officials said Wednesday that people should avoid contact with the water at Beverly Beach State Park and Agate Beach and Seal Rock state recreation sites until the advisory is lifted.

People should avoid wading in nearby creeks, pools of water on the beach, or in discolored water and any water runoff flowing into the ocean.

Officials recommend avoiding swimming in the ocean within 48 hours of any rainstorm because of possible stormwater runoff, sewer overflows, failing septic systems and animal waste from livestock, pets and wildlife.

Health officials say high fecal bacteria levels can cause diarrhea, stomach cramps, rashes and upper respiratory infections, among other illnesses. Children and elderly people may be more vulnerable.

— *Associated Press*

MEMORIALS

Sunday, Sept. 15

STENBLUM, Michael Charles — Celebration of life at 4 p.m., Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

BIRTHS

Aug. 23, 2019

PIUS, Sarah, and SPRAGUE, Kenneth, of Ilwaco, Washington, a girl, Veronica Frances Sprague, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Basil and Babs Pius, of Miles City, Montana, Michael Sprague, of Portland, and Lisa Jarrell and Elliott Jarrell, of Seaside.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Navian Scott Jose, 26, was arrested Monday off of Old Highway 30 for assault in the fourth degree and strangulation.

CORRECTION

Correction: Kelly Braaten, Clatsop County's new juvenile director, moved to the North Coast with his family from Redmond. He had worked in Madras. An A1 story on Tuesday incorrectly said he moved from Madras.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Warrenton Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

My bug



Jeff Ter Har

Wheels and Waves, the annual showcase of classic cars, brought some glamour to Seaside last weekend.

Warrenton pares downtown beautification project

Sole bid came in much too high

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

WARRENTON — The city budgeted a modest amount to beautify downtown around the intersection of Harbor Drive and Main Avenue as part of a master plan.

But after the lone bid from Big River Construction came in at more than \$484,000, the City Commission voted Tuesday to move forward with a severely pared-down beautification.

"We've been meeting with the engineer and the contractor to look at ways to save money," Collin Stelzig, the city's public works director, told the commission.

The urban renewal beautification included landscaping improvements around the intersection and a park near the Warrenton Post Office, where a veterans monument was erected last year. The city is performing other landscaping work near Warrenton High School.

To save money, the city removed much of the landscaping around the intersection, switched from individual pavers to poured concrete, reduced the soil in planting areas, locally sourced supplies and otherwise downsized the scope of the project. The changes brought the cost down to around \$287,000.

"When I first saw the bids come in — the bid, I should say, come in — I was not happy, I guess is the better term, the nicest term I can give for it right now," Mayor



The Astorian

Warrenton is moving forward with landscape improvements at the intersection of Harbor Drive and Main Avenue and a new veterans monument near the post office.

Henry Balensifer said. "I have a hard time swallowing value-engineering this project considering it's importance in the plan, to such an extent that it would remove most of the plantings."

Part of the removal of plantings was based on the Main Street Storage and the Warrenton Mini-Mart, which both already take care of their properties, said City Manager Linda Engbretson. The city also removed landscaping around Lighthouse Park because it's private property the city doesn't maintain, she said.

Balensifer pushed city staff to create a connection from the sidewalk that cuts off northwest of the Lighthouse Park to the Warrenton Waterfront Trail that runs to Tansy Point. City staff agreed to look into the connection as a separate project.

"It's just kind of pointless to have a sidewalk that goes to nowhere," the mayor said.

The city could save another \$7,500 by having Spruce Up Warrenton, a volunteer group, do some of the pressure washing at the park, Commissioner Rick Newton said.

Commissioner Mark Baldwin, who abstained from the vote on the landscaping plan, shared his concern over the cost of designing a landscaping project out of the city's budget.

"I was against it to start with, and this is partially why," he said of the landscape improvements. "I believe somebody built something pie in the sky to look real pretty and charge a whole bunch of money for that we could never see to fruition. I'm not right very often, but I get a prize this time."

The city has thought of rebidding the project, but has had a lack of bidders on projects because of how busy the construction indus-

try is at the moment, Stelzig said.

"We've basically begged other people to bid, and we're not getting it," he said.

The City Commission talked about going back to the drawing board. But Engbretson said the city had already spent a lot of money getting the project to the bidding phase.

Balensifer shared Engbretson's concerns and Baldwin's frustrations, but said the city needs to keep up momentum on the project. He recommended the city speak with Spruce Up Warrenton about doing work at the Lighthouse Park.

Newton said he hates the price tag but agreed the city needs to maintain momentum.

"I concur that this post office park is going to be a model for how we want to move forward with some of the other projects," Commissioner Pam Ackley said.

Seaside residents want limits on Sixth Avenue

Complaints were first made in March 2018

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Is anybody listening?

That's what homeowners asked City Council on Monday.

Residents of Sixth Avenue between U.S. Highway 101 and N. Holladay asked the city to take action on a problem that has only worsened since they brought the matter before the council in March 2018.

"We were here a year ago during the public comment period and our comments seemed to slip into the black hole of public comments," Sixth Avenue resident Dennis Brodigan said.

He said letters to the City

Council on the issue have been unanswered.

"This is not about tourist traffic, but commercial traffic on a small-town neighborhood street," he said. "Why can't we restrict tractor-trailers between Sixth Avenue and North Roosevelt Drive?"

Holding a petition with the names of 17 residents, Brodigan said that local businesses, including Seaside Vacation Homes and Cleanline Surf, do not comply with the residential commercial zone.

Seaside Vacation Homes stores a fleet of cars, crushing equipment, drywall materials and pallets, Brodigan said. "Is this a residential/commercial business?" he asked. "I don't think so."

The street is not designed to handle commercial traffic, he added.

Cleanline "has people

that camp in the parking lot during summer," Brodigan said. "We have UPS trucks, we have Fed Ex trucks, tractor-trailers — even 18-wheelers that sit and wait for an opportunity to get onto our street while kids play basketball. How can you allow this to go on in our neighborhood and why don't you do anything about it?"

Mark Tolan, the owner of Seaside Vacation Homes, responded that the business met the criteria established by the city for the residential-commercial zone.

"We're still doing the same thing these buildings were designed to do," Tolan said, adding he would support restrictions of trailers on Sixth Avenue. "If there is any request for restriction of large vehicles, by no means do I think that request should be denied."

Tolan already directs drivers to avoid Sixth Avenue, he said.

Mayor Jay Barber said this was the first time he's heard that there are additional concerns since the public comments presented at the 2018 meeting.

"We've heard you now that you have additional concerns," the mayor said. "The council would like to deal with those now that we're aware things have not improved to the level the neighborhood would like. The issues about zoning, traffic, parking on that street are all issues this council would like to deal with."

Barber invited all parties back in October. "It will be back on the agenda so there will be expedient action on your request," he said. "We've heard you."

The discussion is scheduled for Oct. 14.

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