

IN BRIEF

Fire destroys home in Knappa

A home on Simonsen Road in Knappa was destroyed by fire on Thursday morning.

No one was home at the time and no injuries were reported.

In the afternoon, the fire flared up again, but firefighters were able to put it out.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Sunset Beach parking lot, trail to close for controlled burn

A day-use parking lot at Sunset Beach and a portion of the Fort-to-Sea Trail will close this week for a controlled burn.

Beach access for pedestrians and vehicles via Sunset Beach Road will remain open. The portion of the trail that will close is between the Camp Rilea bridge and the beach.

The day of the controlled burn will depend on weather conditions.

The burn will target brush piles, which officials say are prime fuel for wildfires.

— *The Astorian*

Man killed in St. Helens police chase ID'd

ST. HELENS — Police have identified the man in Wednesday's police pursuit that ended with police using deadly force in St. Helens.

Oregon State Police Capt. Tim Fox confirmed Thursday that the deceased was 32-year-old Michael Veatch of Longview, Washington.

The Oregonian reported Veatch allegedly used a gun to threaten someone at a St. Helens Chevron gas station around 5:30 a.m.

Police said he then fled the scene in his vehicle and his vehicle became disabled.

He then fled on foot. A St. Helens police officer used force against Veatch, officials said, and he died.

Veatch's partner, Savannah Eastman, said he died after being hit by a car. Police have not confirmed how Veatch died.

Veatch was connected to an April incident in which Brian Butts shot and killed Cowlitz County Sheriff's Deputy Justin DeRosier. At the time, police also arrested Veatch and questioned him.

— *Associated Press*

DEATHS

Oct. 9, 2019

VAUGHN, Ann Marie (Schultz), 66, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the

arrangements.

LOFGREN, Joanna Lee, 73, of Seaside, died in Portland. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Burglary

• Steven Michael Wolf, 42, was arrested off Alternative U.S. Highway 101 on Thursday for violating a restraining order, interfering with a police officer, burglary in the second degree and escape in the third degree.

Strangulation

• Tyler James Richards, 21, of Warrenton, was arrested Thursday at Sunset Beach Lane in Warrenton for strangulation and harassment.

Criminal trespass

• Spencer Alan Wil-

liams, 29, of Fresno, California, was arrested Thursday for criminal trespass in the first degree, disorderly conduct in the second degree and resisting arrest. Police said he was walking on Astoria Bridge and disrupting traffic.

Disorderly conduct

• Quinlan Eric Kualii Hundley, 23, of Astoria, was arrested Wednesday in the Goodwill parking lot in Warrenton for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

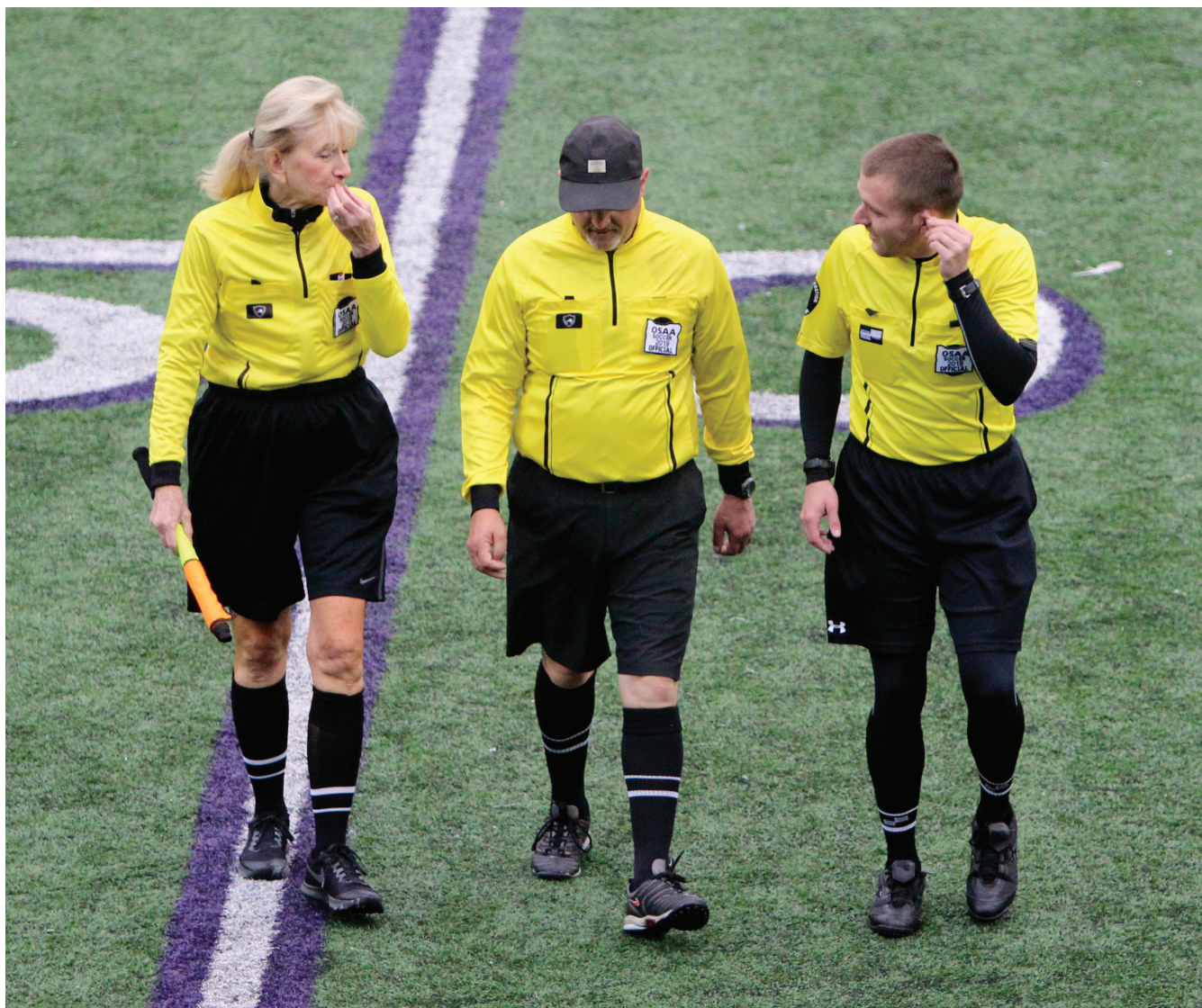
Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:15 p.m., City Hall, 1095

Duane St. **Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board**, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.
Seaside School District Board of Directors, 7 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin.
Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., work session, City Hall, 989 Broadway.
Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

Speak no evil ...



Gary Henley/The Astorian

Referees Teena Toyas, Zdravko Barbic and Ben Sago appear to do a variation on the 'three wise monkeys' as they walk off the field at the end of the first half of an Astoria vs. Seaside boys soccer game at CMH Field.

Warrenton chooses Bergerson for Hammond dredging

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

WARRENTON — The City Commission approved a nearly \$750,000 contract with Bergerson Construction to dredge the Hammond Marina, dismissing a complaint filed by a rival bidder.

The city put out bids to dredge 70,000 cubic yards of sediment from 10 acres in the marina, which it recently took ownership of from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Bergerson Construction, a pile-driving and dock-building company that invested in a dredge, came back with a bid of \$748,560 to dredge most of the marina.

Underwater Earth Movers, from Vancouver, Washington, came back with a bid of more than \$1.6 million, but protested that Berger-



Bergerson Construction

Bergerson Construction recently purchased a hydraulic dredge, attaching it to an excavator that is then parked on a barge and floated into small marinas and harbors.

son's bid omitted information about its equipment, schedule, impact on the marina and other challenges.

"Bergerson met all of the criteria in the bid," City Manager Linda Engbretson said Tuesday. "We did not specify a type of dredge."

The city has heard nothing further since responding to the complaint letter, she said.

Bergerson, located at North Tongue Point in Astoria, routinely beats out competition for work in the lower Columbia River

region because of its lack of mobilization costs. City commissioners also appreciated that the money from the contract would stay locally with Bergerson's employees.

Greg Morrill, the president of Bergerson, said the dredging project will probably take two seasons to complete. The company will dispose of dredge spoils in the shipping channel and can only do so on an outgoing tide.

Bergerson's dredge, working in Westport, Washington, has completed a couple of projects in the region as the company grows into a new market servicing small ports.

"It seems like small marinas are the types of facilities that are underserved," Morrill said. "We've crafted our dredging program around that need."



A rendering of the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

By JAMIE HALE
The Oregonian

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is already one of the biggest attractions in the state, but now it aims to get even bigger.

The Newport aquarium announced a fundraising campaign Wednesday for an \$18 million renovation, which would remodel existing facilities and add a marine rehabilitation center, as well as an outdoor play area.

According to the aquarium, this would be the first major remodel since open-

ing to the public in 1992. In that time, the attraction has drawn some 15 million visitors, officials said.

"When the aquarium opened more than 25 years ago, it was never built to see the number of people that come through our doors," Carrie Lewis, CEO of the Oregon Coast Aquarium, said in a news release. "It's time to update our exhibits. It's time to improve the visitor experience. It's time to provide a true facility for the animal rehabilitation that we do behind the scenes."

Aquarium workers use an old, repurposed ware-

house to care for endangered marine life, and haven't been able to offer the kind of intensive medical care they'd like to provide for animals like sea turtles, seals and snowy plovers, officials said. The renovation would include a building designed for that purpose.

In its present state, the Oregon Coast Aquarium remains a popular attraction, drawing more than 420,000 visitors each year, according to aquarium numbers. Its indoor tanks of jellyfish, rays, sharks and sea stars are complemented by outdoor exhibits that hold sea lions,

birds and an octopus.

The original 40,000-square-foot facility was built on 23 acres of land, and gained international attention in 1996 when it hosted "Keiko," the orca who was featured in "Free Willy," before he was shipped to Iceland for release into the wild.

It sits on the southern shore of Yaquina Bay and neighbors the Hatfield Marine Science Center and Rogue Brewer's on the Bay — a fitting place for an establishment that bridges the worlds of tourism and science.

the Astorian

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