

IN BRIEF

Commercial crab season delayed until end of December

Commercial crabbers will have to wait until at least Dec. 31 after testing found crabs are still too low in meat.

The testing was done in late November and early December in Oregon, Washington state and California.

The state had delayed the traditional Dec. 1 opening of the commercial season because of low meat yield.

Recreational crab harvesting is open.

Homeless camp cleared near Alderbrook

A homeless camp near 40th Street and Lief Erikson Drive in Astoria was removed Wednesday by a contractor for the city.

Police say the camp, which was reportedly abandoned, was constructed of wood and had windows.

It took two dump-truck loads to haul away what was left at the site. Police said when the contractor returned to his excavator, which was used to clear the camp, a log was thrown into it, damaging the seat.

No suspects have been identified.

Kujala takes on new role at hospital foundation

Mark Kujala stepped down as membership director for the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce in November.

Kujala is now the director of the Columbia Memorial Hospital Foundation.

He also serves on the county Board of Commissioners.

Astoria seeks to fill board positions

Astoria is trying to fill several board positions that become vacant next year with the end of terms. Appointments to the boards are the responsibility of the mayor.

Jennifer Cameron-Lattek will not seek another term on the Planning Commission, nor Paul Caruana on the Historic Landmarks Commission or Hilarie Phelps on the Design Review Commission.

“Generally, when a term is up I ask whether the member desires another term,” Mayor Bruce Jones said in an email. “Then, I query the staff to ensure the member is a productive member ... and if warranted, I offer them another term.”

On the Astoria Parks Board, Jim Holen has indicated his willingness to serve another term, or to step aside, Jones said. He will decide whether to appoint someone else to Holen’s position after seeing the applicant pool.

Applications are available on the city’s website and in the city manager’s office on the third floor of City Hall at 1095 Duane St. Applications are due by Dec. 17. Applications from a previous appointment cycle are still valid and remain on file.

For more information, call 503-325-5824 or email jbenoit@astoria.or.us

— The Astorian

DEATHS

Dec. 4, 2019

BIGGS, Timothy, 69, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

DORNING, Doreen, 67, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Krystle Lee Walker, 37, of Warrenton, was arrested Thursday on Windswept Road in Warrenton for assault in the fourth degree, strangulation and interfering with making a police report.

Criminal trespass

• Giovanni Guzman-Santiago, 30, was arrested Thursday on First Avenue and N. Columbia Street in Seaside for criminal trespass in the first degree.

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

Clatsop County Planning Commission, 10 a.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.

Lewis & Clark Fire De-

partment Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

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

Clatsop Community College Board, 6:30 p.m., Columbia Hall Room 219, 1650 Lexington Ave., Astoria.

Astoria Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Gearhart City Council and Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., work session on county housing study, City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

Seaside looks to ease parking regulations to spur housing

Standard is two spaces per unit

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — To spur downtown and workforce housing, the Planning Commission is considering a new zoning amendment to reduce the required number of parking spaces for studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments.

In future meetings, commissioners will also consider a reduction in parking regulations in all zones.

“If you want to modify things or adjust things and be more specific about what this is applying to, then you’ve got latitude to do that,” Planning Director Kevin Cupples said at Tuesday’s meeting.

The current standard specifies two parking spots per dwelling unit, regardless of the number of bedrooms. Commissioners considered language to bring those numbers down, possibly to one parking spot for studios and one-bedroom apartments and 1 1/2 spaces for two-bedroom units.

Vacation rentals, condominiums and townhomes would still require two parking spaces per unit.

Stuart Emmons, an Astoria resident, architect and



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

The Seaside Planning Commission is considering a parking amendment.

planner, said Seaside has the most stringent parking rules on the North Coast. “If we want to bring in more affordable housing, parking is really an issue that can hold up unit count on site,” he said. “I am very supportive of reducing parking ratios for especially studios and one bedrooms, and I would even consider two bedrooms.”

Public Works Director Dale McDowell said he is in favor of using underutilized spaces in the downtown core.

McDowell warned, however, that more cars on the street may make it more difficult to clean because of the turning radius of the street sweeper. “My only comment is how we are going to keep it clean,” he said.

Erick Zuber, a commercial mortgage banker in Seaside, said he has looked at properties in the urban core. “There are some underdeveloped units,” he said. “The people I speak with on a daily basis, the urban feel is, people don’t need cars. They want to walk to work, to shops or restaurants, whether by bike or walking.”

A 2-to-1 parking ratio per unit is a “little bit exorbitant,” Zuber said. “As a developer, I think it’s in good interest to have some safeguards for people who want to live within their community without a car.”

Planning Commissioner Teri Carpenter said she is “absolutely in favor” of adopting the amendment in the downtown core,

but said she is concerned about parking limitations in other parts of the city. “I have found, in my opinion, lack of parking can lead to larger problems down the road,” she said. “But I’m still excited about this downtown.”

The ordinance will return for refinements at the Planning Commission work session on Dec. 17, and could be referred to the City Council at the commission’s January meeting.

“It’s a lot easier to ratchet things slowly than doing it in one fell swoop and realizing, ‘Oh gosh, we’ve got an error,’” Cupples said. “With the push for affordable or workforce housing, the goal is to get something designed and put on the plate.”

State fines Bornstein Seafoods after worker death

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The state Occupational Safety and Health Division fined Bornstein Seafoods \$7,600 for unsafe working conditions in the wake of an employee’s death in May.

Magdalena Blandina Ramon Guzman, 63, of Seaview, Washington, lost

her balance while standing on a platform shoveling leftover fish into a hopper and fell about 5 feet to a concrete dock. She later died at Oregon Health & Science University Hospital in Portland.

The state claimed Bornstein Seafoods did not ensure employees 4 feet or more above a lower level

were protected by guardrails at least 3 1/2 feet above the walking surface, safety nets, or other personal protection systems. The finding came with a \$6,000 fine.

The state also cited Bornstein Seafoods for not having wide-enough walkways or guarding protruding shafts, and for not inspecting workplace safety or con-

vening a safety committee quarterly.

“The company corrects any deficiencies whenever we are notified about them,” co-owner Andrew Bornstein said in a statement.

Bornstein Seafoods received the citation Nov. 19. The company has 30 days from that date to pay or appeal the fines.

HP floats major new site in Vancouver

By MIKE ROGOWAY
The Oregonian

HP Inc. plans to build a new facility in Vancouver, Washington, the city said Thursday, with potential to expand into an enormous corporate campus.

Initial plans call for 330,000 square feet of office space in two buildings, part of the city’s broader effort to encourage economic development on Vancouver’s eastern edge. Intriguingly, public documents indicate HP’s project could expand to 1.5 million square feet in research and manufacturing space on nearly 100 acres over 15 years.

However, the news comes as HP prepares to cut up to 9,000 jobs company-wide and works to fight off a hostile takeover by rival Xerox Corp. It’s unclear why HP would want to quadruple its Vancouver operations at a time its profits are falling and it is cutting back nearly everywhere else.

“We are exploring opportunities that support our long-term presence in Vancouver but have no immediate plans to change our existing real estate footprint,”

HP spokeswoman Camelia Gendreau said in an email. She declined to describe the company’s plans in detail.

The Columbian newspaper first reported HP’s news Wednesday.

Plans submitted to the city call for the Silicon Valley company to use the new site for research and development and related activities. Construction would begin in 2023, with HP moving in late in 2025 or early 2026.

That first phase would be modestly bigger than HP’s current Vancouver facility, but city documents indicate the company is considering a massive expansion in subsequent years to a full campus of 1.5 million square feet.

HP and its corporate predecessor, Hewlett-Packard Co., have operated in Vancouver for nearly four decades and once employed more than 3,000 there. After years of downsizing HP now has 1,000 workers there, according to the city, including more than 300 contractors.

Hewlett-Packard sold its 174-acre east Vancouver campus in 2009 and moved

into leased space nearby. That company split up four years ago and the new HP inherited the trailblazing company’s fading printer and PC businesses.

Hewlett-Packard’s Vancouver site originated as a printer factory but the current facility is focused on research to develop 3D printers, which HP hopes could reduce its dependence on the fading market for printed documents.

City documents say HP looked at “various locations” for future development beginning in 2018 and considered two sites in Vancouver before settling on the new development in east Vancouver last summer. The documents say HP was seeking “flexibility for future development options.”

HP also employs an unspecified number at a major research site in Corvallis. It’s unclear if a Vancouver expansion would affect operations there.

In the city’s agreement with HP, Vancouver agreed to spend \$10 million for public infrastructure, including streets and trails. It also agreed to waive \$1.25 mil-

lion in business license fees over 20 years and reduce traffic impact fees by up to \$200,000. Vancouver may also defer water and sewer development charges.

The new HP office would sit among 553 acres Vancouver annexed in 2008. The city has classified 440 acres as having commercial development potential in the coming decades.

HP announced in October it hopes to save \$1 billion by cutting between 7,000 and 9,000 jobs worldwide amid declining demand for printers and PCs. That represented up to 16% of its global workforce.

HP’s sales were roughly flat in its last fiscal year at \$58.8 billion. But profits fell from \$5.3 billion to \$3.2 billion.

Amid that backdrop, HP quietly began talking to Xerox last summer about a deal to combine the two companies in hopes of saving costs. When HP walked away, Xerox moved in with a hostile bid offering \$33.5 billion, or \$22 a share.

HP rejected that offer, saying it undervalued the company. HP shares closed Thursday at \$20.32.

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