

Judge sides with Astoria grocer in food stamp dispute

Owner gets his day in federal court

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astoria

PORTLAND — A federal judge agreed with Samuel McDaniel, the owner of the Astoria Downtown Market, that prior drug delivery convictions should not bar him from participating in the food stamp program.

McDaniel was convicted in 2007 of felony delivery of marijuana and psychedelic mushrooms in Lane County. The U.S. Department of Agriculture used the convictions to argue that McDaniel lacks the business integrity to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, commonly known as food stamps. McDaniel lost an administrative review and subsequently sued the USDA to reverse the decision.

U.S. District Court Judge John Acosta took up the federal government's motion for summary judgment Friday in Portland.

The Food and Nutrition Service found in McDaniel's case that the prior drug deal reflects on his business integrity, a criteria for denial. The agency can deny applications for retailers convicted of crimes like fraud, embezzlement, theft or forgery, as well as violations of consumer protection or business licensing laws.

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Cap and trade could spare rural areas

But Republican leader says bill too big for short session

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — The environmental plan that launched a thousand logging trucks is getting a makeover in the Oregon Senate.

Private negotiations among state senators have led to a new legislative concept. It's the skeleton of what could be a new system to gradually clamp down on greenhouse gas emissions from Oregon companies.

The Senate president's office has been soliciting feedback from interest groups in recent days. The Oregon Capital Bureau obtained the concept, dated Wednesday.

A previous effort to control emissions and impose significant fees collapsed in the 2019 Legislature.

That proposal, which set up a market system to encourage businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and would have connected Oregon to cap-and-trade systems in Canada and California, passed in the House.

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WIND ENERGY PROJECT POSSIBLE NEAR WAUNA MILL



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

ABOVE: The new project site sits on acres of heavily-forested land and will take significant work to develop the wind project's infrastructure. BELOW: WPD Wind Projects leased 3,600 acres of timberland in Clatsop County to start a new wind energy project.

'THE MAJORITY OF THE WIND PROJECTS — MAYBE ALL OF THE WIND PROJECTS — ARE IN THE MID-COLUMBIA PLATEAU. THAT'S WHERE THERE'S A GOOD WIND RESOURCE, AND THAT'S WHERE THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION'S GRID IS.'

Todd Cornett | secretary for the state Energy Facility Siting Council overseeing placement of large renewable projects

Idea could take a decade or more to achieve

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Clatsop County's comprehensive plan in 1980 included a goal to promote energy conservation and the development of renewables.

"Power systems which utilize solar and wind generated energy are well-suited for the northeast county and shall be encouraged to locate here," the plan stated.

Forty years later, a global wind energy company is exploring a project in the hills above the Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill.

WPD Wind Projects, the onshore wind development arm of German company WPD Group, signed a 45-year wind energy lease with Georgia-based Forest Investment Associates. The firm manages investments on timberlands for corporate pensions, government retirement systems, endowments, foundations and family offices.

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Bernice Hobbs, 89, waited tables and cooked on the Tourist No. 2 when she was 15 years old and the vessel was still taking passengers between Oregon and Washington state.

Shawn Renes

Former Astorian worked the city's history

Hobbs turns 90 next year

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Bernice Hobbs may have only lived in Astoria for short stints, but her resume intertwines with the city's past.

The 89-year-old Clatskanie resident once worked as a teenager in the original Columbia Memorial Hospital, on board the ferries plying the Columbia River and in canneries all along the waterfront.

Originally from the upper peninsula of Michigan, Hobbs came to Astoria in the

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early 1940s with her parents and four siblings, following extended family who came for work in local shipyards during World War II. The families came in five separate carloads, each on gas stamps approved by the U.S. government when fuel was rationed, Hobbs said.

At 13 years old, Hobbs got a permit to work as a tray girl at the original Columbia Hospital on Franklin and 16th streets. The building now houses a long-term care facility for Clatsop Care Center.

"I just always worked," she said. "When I first had to go to work, I made up my mind. If I was going to work, I was going to enjoy it. And I enjoyed every job I had."

Hobbs' father moved the family around a lot, she said. After a short stint in Astoria — and after selling their hillside Victorian house for \$4,000 — the family moved back to Michigan, where Hobbs worked at a hotel in Big Bay once frequented by

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