

IN BRIEF

Cache program launched in Gearhart

GEARHART — “You bring them. You pack them. We store them.”

So read the flyers available at City Hall as Gearhart offers residents the opportunity to store personal belongings in a cache storage area near the city’s water tank on Salminen Road.

Residents will have the option to purchase and house cache containers, to be stored in a large conex bin. The contents are determined by residents and meant to provide emergency supplies.

“People will buy the drums and then rent the space,” City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

Suggested storage items include tents or tarps, sleeping bags, water storage containers, warm clothing, first-aid kit, sanitation supplies, batteries and cookware.

“We’d like this to be a supplement to your 72-hour bag,” Sweet said. “At home, nearby or in your car, everyone should have a pack that gets you through the next three days.”

A 30-gallon plastic drum with lid will be stored at a cost \$40 per year.

Barrels are available for purchase between \$60 and \$80.

— *The Astorian*

Memorial service to honor lost Coast Guardsmen

ILWACO, Wash. — The U.S. Coast Guard is scheduled to host a memorial service at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Ilwaco in tribute to Coast Guardsmen and mariners who lost their lives during seven separate tragic incidents that occurred along the Washington state and Oregon coasts.

“Memorials provide an important link to the past, and it is important to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Capt. Jeremy Smith, the commander of Coast Guard Sector Columbia River. “These memorials allow us to remember the bravery and courage of those who have come before us, while also reminding us of the risks and dangers of our chosen profession.”

— *Chinook Observer*

High court upholds state denial of sublease for Longview coal dock

The Washington Supreme Court has upheld a state agency’s denial of a sublease to Millennium Bulk Terminals, dealing yet another potentially fatal blow to the proposed Longview coal export dock.

Millennium had asked for a sublease on state aquatic lands at the old Reynolds Metals Co./Northwest Alloys dock on the Columbia River. The state Department of Natural Resources’ refusal to grant the sublease in 2017 has been subject to court battles.

“The decision to not allow this coal terminal on our public lands was the right decision for Washington, and I applaud the Supreme Court for recognizing that,” state Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz said in a prepared statement.

“I work every day to make sure Washington’s public lands make our state stronger and healthier, now and for future generations. Allowing a company to use our waters without a full, transparent accounting of the environmental and fiscal impacts would jeopardize that mission,” Franz said.

Representatives for Millennium could not immediately be reached for comment.

The state high court denied a petition from Northwest Alloys to review a Court of Appeals opinion upholding the decision to deny the sublease.

— *The Daily News*

DEATHS

Jan. 9, 2020

DUNZER, Katherine Elaine, 83, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell’s Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.

Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

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

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

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

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Warrenton planners approve jail design without sidewalks

Warrenton Fiber wanted sidewalks

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

WARRENTON — The Planning Commission voted Thursday to approve the design for the new county jail at the former North Coast Youth Correctional Facility.

The commission had extended the public hearing on the design in December after Stephen Fulton, who works on land development and wetland mitigation issues for Warrenton Fiber, asked the city to require a sidewalk in front of the new jail near the company’s housing development.

He said he was concerned about pedestrian safety on 19th Street and suggested the county has the money to pay for a sidewalk. He also claimed Warrenton Fiber has a sidewalk “going to nowhere.”

Clatsop County addressed Fulton’s comments on Thursday, along with details on the process of creating a multi-use pathway. Fulton was not present at the meeting.

The Planning Commission voted 4-1 to approve the jail design with the condition the county add reflective paint on both sides of 19th Street for extra pedestrian safety. Commissioner Christine Bridgens was adamantly in favor of the county building sidewalks on 19th Street and voted against the design.

Terry Hendryx, the county’s assistant public works director, said the county initiated conversations with the city in 2018 for bike lanes and sidewalks on 19th Street to improve pedestrian safety.

He said Kevin Cronin, the city’s community development director, approved the county’s construction of bike lanes on both sides of the road in lieu of sidewalks, due to wetland mitigation issues.

He said the project is and has always been separate from the jail project.

Hendryx said when they met with the city last August to discuss the jail project, Cronin suggested calling the bike path a multiuse pathway so the development of the jail would not require sidewalks.

He said they completed the multiuse pathway in September and met the conditions for approval.

Monica Steele, the assistant county manager, said a sidewalk like Fulton requested would add \$135,000 to the \$250,000 the county has already spent to put in a multiuse pathway. She said that does not include the potential cost of wetland mitigation, which could be up to \$85,000.

“While Mr. Fulton stated in the previous meeting that the county has the funds in our budget to do this, what the county has are limited, dedicated and discretionary

resources that are budgeted to provide various services throughout the county, and we do so in our best fiscally prudent manner,” Steele told commissioners.

“To spend potentially another \$220,000 for 910 feet of sidewalk would postpone other projects that we have planned until the resources are available in the future,” she said.

Based on the recommendation from the city, the county added striping and will also be putting multi-use path templates along the entire stretch of S.E. 19th Street.

“Mr. Fulton also said Warrenton Fiber is being required to ‘build a sidewalk to nowhere,’” Steele said. “The portion of Bugle Road that Warrenton Fiber is constructing will be connecting to the portion of Bugle Road that the county is developing, which will include sidewalks on both sides of the road as well as lighting.”

Seaside commission moves to lift downtown parking requirements

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — The city could take a step toward a more urban lifestyle if the City Council adopts an amendment to eliminate or reduce parking requirements.

The amendment, a product of Planning Commission work sessions, aims to eliminate parking requirements for above-ground apartments over commercial uses within the downtown core, and to relax requirements for one bedroom or studio apartments within all zones.

The aim, Planning Commission

Chairman Chris Hoth said at Tuesday’s meeting, is to make workforce housing more economical for developers and provide more affordable housing for tenants.

According to Planning Director Kevin Cupples, the current standard specifies two spots per dwelling unit, regardless of the number of bedrooms or where they are located. The requirements place “a significant impact” on the amount of backup land necessary to develop smaller apartments or multifamily dwellings, which in turn drives up the land cost to develop smaller rental

housing.

Public Works Director Dale McDowell warned at a previous meeting that an unintended side effect may be parked cars blocking periodic street cleaning.

Signage could notify the public of street-cleaning dates, Cupples said. “I’m confident that if there’s additional signage that needs to be done to restrict parking to have adequate street sweeping, the public works director is going to get it done,” he said.

“What we’re voting on tonight is sending this to the City Council,” Hoth said. “They can decide



Seaside Visitors Bureau

Seaside could adjust parking rules downtown.

if it’s strict or not strict enough. We’re sending it as a recommendation.”

The motion to send the amendment to the council for consideration passed unanimously.

Gearhart land use application fees to jump

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

GEARHART — First on the City Council agenda for 2020: a bump in land use application fees.

The intent is to bring Gearhart’s fees in line with other cities, and to meet the cost of processing application fees and planning department resources.

Developers seeking conditional use permits, street vacations and variances could pay fees up to 10 times higher in order to meet the cost of staff reports, maps, legal notices, map searches and appeals, among other tasks.

“This is a project that’s been worked on for some time,” City Administrator Chad Sweet said. “We’re going to talk about building fees and basic permit fees, because we haven’t made changes in 20 years.”

Sweet said fees failed to cover planning costs, leading to a burden made up by taxpayers. “We want to make sure costs are covered for the city,” he said.

In a staff report, City Planner Carole Connell estimated costs associated

with conditional use fees at \$2,483 — far greater than the current fee of \$250, put in place in 2005. Other cities, according to her report, list conditional use fees in a range from \$400 to almost \$7,000.

Similar increases would be seen across the board for all land use applications. Street vacation filings could rise from \$750 to more than \$3,000. Subdivisions, with a current fee of \$500 plus \$10 per lot, could increase to more than \$3,300, more in line with fees of other cities.

“When you look at other cities’ fees are, you think, ‘Whoa, we should have looked at this a while ago,’” Mayor Matt Brown said. “I think there’s really no downside to adjusting those fees.”

Discussion of restructuring building fees was delayed, but like the land use fees, will allow the city to become comparable with other cities in Clatsop County.

As for the land use fees, “We’re going to clarify a few of these things and bring it back next month,” Sweet said after Wednesday’s meeting.

Sullivan selected new chairwoman of county commission

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The county Board of Commissioners selected Kathleen Sullivan on Wednesday as the board’s new chairwoman.

Sullivan, who served as vice chair last year, was elected in 2016 and represents eastern Astoria to Westport. She replaces Commissioner Sarah Nebeker.

She is up for reelection this year, and although she has not publicly announced whether she will campaign for another four-year term, she is expected to run. Courtney Bangs, a Knappa teacher, will run for Sullivan’s post in the May election.

“It is an honor to be selected as board chair of the Clatsop County commissioners,” Sullivan said in an email. “I appreciate the wide range of talents and experiences of my fellow commissioners and our staff and know that together, we will continue to provide excellent leadership for Clatsop

County.”

Sullivan, Commissioner Mark Kujala and Commissioner Lianne Thompson nominated themselves Wednesday to be the board’s next leader. They all voted for themselves. Nebeker and Commissioner Pamela Wev voted for Sullivan.

Following the selection of Sullivan, Nebeker, Kujala and Thompson nominated themselves for vice chair. Wev and Sullivan voted for Nebeker, making her the board’s new vice chair.

Nebeker is also up for reelection this year. Her district covers Gearhart and Clatsop Plains and portions of Seaside and Warrenton.

“As chair, my goal is to further teamwork among the board members and staff, to maintain accountability to the public by being open and transparent in our work as a board, to basically tell our story so that folks know what their county government does every day, and very well,” Sullivan said.

She hopes to increase public involvement in all levels of local government.

“The county government not only provides necessary services to the residents and visitors of Clatsop County, it is one of the largest employers in the area,” Sullivan said. “It is important that we all work together to be the best we can be.”



Kathleen Sullivan

the Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)

Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

DailyAstorian.com
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

Circulation phone number:
503-325-3211

Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR
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