



Astorian

Astoria upholds denial of Grocery Outlet

Unanimous vote by council

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Astoria City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to uphold the denial of a Grocery Outlet over concerns about whether a new store would fit on a con-

strained, triangular lot off Marine Drive. Main & Main Capital Group has been seeking city approval to build a 16,000-square-foot store where Commercial Street runs into Marine Drive near the Mill Pond neighborhood. The building, fronted by a parking lot, would face

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A developer wants to build a Grocery Outlet on a triangular-shaped lot.

Hailey Hoffman/
The Astorian



Cannery Pier Hotel closes spa services

Employees were laid off

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa abruptly closed spa services during the holiday weekend amid a labor dispute with staff.

Massage therapists working Saturday evening said they were told it would be their final day after the last client left. Then about a dozen part-time employees said they were notified via email that evening that their employment would end effective immediately.

In a letter to staff, Don West, Cannery Pier's general manager, said the hotel would be "ceasing spa operations." The letter instructed them to pick up their final paycheck Monday afternoon.

West said the decision was made because of lower business levels in the winter and spring seasons and upcoming renovations.

"There's never a good time to do something like this. It's horrendous on the staff, it's horrendous on the hotel," West said. "It's an entire hotel renovation and there's a lot of thought that needs to be taken place on how the spa might fit into that going forward. So, we just had to make this determination at this time, and I feel very badly for the staff. I feel very badly for the community."

The former employees walked together to the hotel on Monday to pick up their last paychecks. They said they believe the decision came after a letter they sent Feb. 13 to corporate officials at Vesta Hospitality — the Vancouver, Washington, based company that purchased the hotel last year — regarding a change in the pay structure, which they say would result in a pay cut.

"After cutting all existing fringe benefits for spa staff, like quarterly bonuses and discounts, Vesta then offered a wage reduction which would

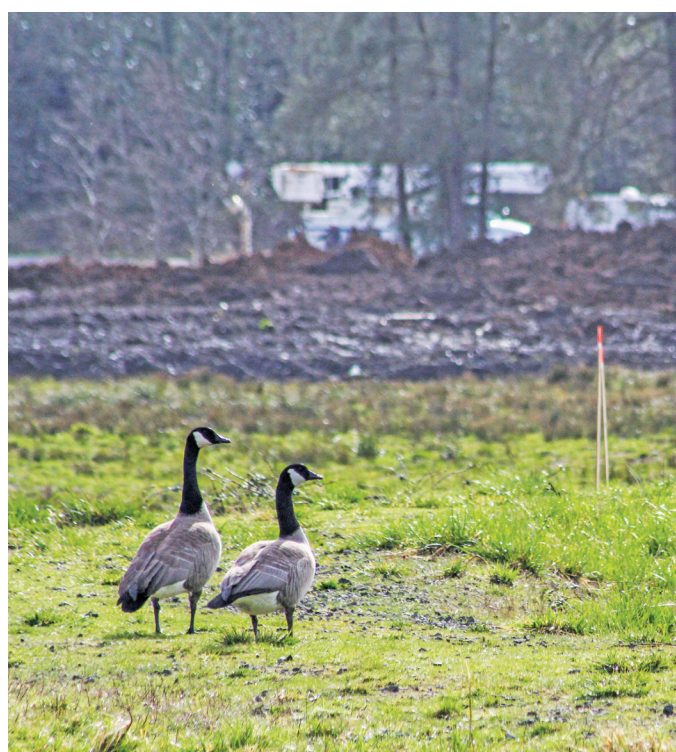
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Wanted: Master plan for Skipanon development



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The Kujala family owns a large portion of undeveloped land in the middle of Warrenton.



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Geese walk the Skipanon River Trail in front of property the Kujala family is filling for a potential housing development.

Potential for high-density housing

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

WARRENTON — The Kujala family, owners of a large swath of land on the eastern end of the Skipanon River just north of state Highway 104, has started filling in uplands and hopes to build higher-density housing.

But city officials, more cognizant of the impacts of development on the surrounding community, want a master plan similar to the recently approved Chelsea Gardens neighborhood.

The Kujala property is zoned for an intermediate density of single-family homes, municipal offices, schools, parks, libraries and places of worship. The family has started filling in 2 acres worth of uplands at the site and applied to revise the zoning to high-density residential like the land owned by Stan Johnson, who is developing a 16-unit apartment complex along Highway 104.

"If they're going to do a zone change, they need to show us how it's going to be phased, either through a planned unit development or how they are going to do a master plan to show how it's going to be developed over time," said Kevin Cronin, the city's community development

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Johnson digs in against cap and trade legislation

Critical of suggestion on pulp and paper mills

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

State Sen. Betsy Johnson blasted what she described as a last-minute suggestion to amend the cap-and-trade bill to benefit pulp and paper mills.

Johnson, D-Scappoose, a critic of cap and trade, has opposed the legislation over fears it would



Betsy Johnson



Brad Witt

damage the Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill, the largest single employer in Clatsop County with more than 700 workers.

Johnson issued a statement Tuesday with Rep. Brad Witt, D-Clatskanie, that said one of the co-sponsors of cap and trade

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Forrester highlights late senator



Nicole Bales/The Astorian

Steve Forrester, the president and CEO of EO Media Group, spoke at the Columbia Forum on Tuesday night.

Neuberger an influential Oregonian

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Steve Forrester remembers U.S. Sen. Richard Neuberger visiting his family's home in Pendleton.

Forrester's father and Neuberger met in the 1930s while they were working as writers at The Oregonian. Although Forrester was only about 8 years old, he said Neuberger's energy and intellect left a lasting impression on him, and he has been fascinated by his life and career ever since.

Forrester, the president and CEO of EO Media Group, has detailed the

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