IN BRIEF

Astoria OKs Fort George tax break

The Astoria City Council on Tuesday approved a 15-year tax break for Fort George Brewery, which is redeveloping the former Astoria Warehousing near Uniontown to use for brewing, canning and distribution.

Fort George will become one of the first companies in rural Oregon to participate in the state's long-term rural enterprise zones. The program offers up to 15 years of tax breaks in exchange for at least $12.5 million of investment and the creation of at least 35 jobs paying at least 130% of Clatsop County's average annual wage.

The brewery will still pay property taxes on the land and buildings at the sprawling waterfront campus. But it will save an estimated $617,000 in property taxes over the next 15 years on new equipment there. It is buying a 60-barrel brewhouse from the shuttered BridgePort Brewing Co. in Portland, building out an 11,000-square-foot cold storage and eventually adding a 4,000-square-foot taproom in another vacant warehouse looking out on the Astoria Bridge.

— The Astorian

Future of Hawaiian Chieftain in doubt

ABERDEEN, Wash. — The future of Grays Harbor Historical Seaport's Hawaiian Chieftain is in serious doubt after U.S. Coast Guard inspectors discovered significant problems with the steel in her hull and bowsprit last year.

The tall ship is forbidden from operating in her current condition.

Brandi Bednarik, executive director of Grays Harbor Historical Seaport, which owns and operates the Lady Washington and the Hawaiian Chieftain, said the Seaport is going to put the Chieftain up for sale and focus its attention on the Lady Washington and developing Seaport Landing, the property it acquired from Weyerhaeuser on the south bank of the Chehalis River.

"We have come to the difficult decision that Hawaiian Chieftain's role within GHHS is coming to an end," Bednarik said in a news release.

— The Daily World

DEATHS

Feb. 14, 2020

HAKALA, Raymond Henery, 77, of Astoria, died in Portland. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 12, 2020

HAMLIN, Monty E., 57, of Raymond, Washington, died in Vancouver, Washington. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 10, 2020

SWANSON, David A., 71, of Forest Grove, formerly of Astoria, died at home. There will be no service. To sign the online guest book, or to send a condolence to the family, go to tualatinvalleyfa.com

CORRECTION

Name misspelled — Todd Johnston is the executive director of the Northwest Oregon Housing Authority. His last name was misspelled as Johnson in an A1 story on Tuesday.

ON THE RECORD

Sex abuse

• Jonathan David Wyatt, 37, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday at the Clatsop County Jail for sex abuse in the first degree.

Burglary

• Steven Michael Wolf, 42, was arrested Sunday on Alternative U.S. Highway 101 in Warrenton for burglary in the first degree, possession of a controlled substance and resisting arrest.

Theft

• Richard Elwin Bailey, 40, of Seaside, was arrested Tuesday at Sweet Relief in Astoria for theft in the second degree.

Criminal trespass

• Lonie Charles Davis, 41, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday on Brownsmead Hill Road for criminal trespass in the second degree.

DUII

• Matthew Allan Ness, 25, of Astoria, was arrested Monday on W. Marine Drive and Florence Avenue in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants. His blood alcohol content was 0.14%.

• Barbara Rittel, 60, of Astoria, was arrested Sunday on S.E. Ensign Lane and S.E. 19th Street in Warrenton for DUII. Her blood alcohol content was 0.22%.

• Robert Ed Stevenson, 61, of Seaside, was arrested Saturday at Netul Landing off of Fort Clatsop Road for DUII.

• Christopher Edard Francis, 30, of Tillamook, was arrested Friday on 39th Street and Lief Erikson Drive in Astoria for DUII. His blood alcohol content was 0.24%.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Astoria City Council, 1 p.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

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

Subscription rates

Effective May 1, 2019

MAIL (IN COUNTY)

EZpay (per month) $11.25
13 weeks in advance $37.00
26 weeks in advance $71.00
52 weeks in advance $135.00

Out of County Rates available at 800-781-3214

DIGITAL

EZpay (per month) $8.00

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The new location of Fresenius Kidney Care is almost complete.

Kidney center sells as opening nears

Dialysis treatment on the waterfront

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

No. 10 Medical Ventures, owners of the new kidney dialysis center being built at Sixth Street and Marine Drive, has sold the development for $4.4 million to a family trust as the project nears completion.

The building will house the new location of Fresenius Kidney Care, currently located in the Park Medical Building. The dialysis center is in the final month of construction and could open in April, said Chris King, a project manager with Fresenius.

"The Park Building has a number of constraints," King said. "We were starting to outgrow that location. This will have better access for patient care."

The move will increase the number of stations from 12 to 17. The dialysis center will run two to three shifts a day and also cater to visitors in need of dialysis, a method of filtering and purifying blood after the kidneys begin to fail. Fresenius has around 40 dialysis centers in Oregon.

No. 10 Medical Ventures is owned by developers Chester Trabucco and Stephen Allen. The partners secured $3.2 million in funding to build the center and sold it to the California-based Chiang Family Trust, which will rent the building to Fresenius. The company will have a 15-year lease with four five-years options.

"They own at least one, maybe two, DaVitas, which are competitive … kidney dialysis centers," Trabucco said of the trust. "So they have experience in this space."

The city has faced consternation about allowing medical and other professional offices along the waterfront. The Astoria Planning Commission, acknowledging the difficulties for property owners trying to find uses that will cover higher maintenance costs over pilings, allowed offices in new and existing buildings along the Columbia River. They also allowed new hotels to locate in existing buildings.

People want more aesthetically pleasing businesses like kayak repair shops on the waterfront, but the dramatic rise in construction costs make them financially unfeasible, Trabucco said.

"When people talk about working waterfront, unfortunately those types of activities that pay the freight are medical, dental and hospitality," Trabucco said.

Trabucco and Allen also own two docks on either side of the Sixth Street viewing platform, where the No. 10 Sixth St. commercial complex and the adjacent Gunderson's Cannery Cafe burned down in 2010. The docks are two of the only developable pieces of property left along the waterfront.

Trabucco wants to build a Cannery Cafe replica, along with a commercial and residential mixed-use development at No. 10 Sixth St., to bring more activity to the area.

Blake finds unexpected treasure at cleanup

An old plaque under a Sitka spruce

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

When Mary Blake joined about 30 other local volunteers at the Mill Ponds in early February for the Seaside Community Cleanup, she picked up where she left off 30 years ago.

Blake said she was underneath a Sitka spruce, "going through needles and layers of decomposing cardboard and just stuff," when she saw a piece of glass. She thought it was a jar. "But it wasn't quite a jar. It was curved," she said.

After scraping away layers of dust, she recognized a beveled glass plaque from Providence Seaside Hospital, delivered to her after she joined the hospital board in 1987.

Holding the glass to the light, she read the inscription: "God will not forget your work and the love you have shown by your service past and present, to people." The attribution: "Hebrews 6:10."

For a woman who describes herself as "spiritual but not religious," the message she rediscovered was profound, a reminder of her service in the 1980s and beyond with the Rotary and Providence Seaside boards, bringing assistance to people on the margins in the same Mill Ponds.

Susan Williams

Mary Blake makes a find in the Mill Ponds. She was among more than 30 volunteers to collect garbage at the cleanup.

The Mill Ponds originated early in the 20th century as rock pits. Later, the ponds became part of a lumber planing and shingle mill operation. After the mill burned down, the land was abandoned. Homeless people congregated in old school buses.

"People took their couches, refrigerators — it was a dump," Blake said. "This is not a first-time experience with this."

With encouragement from the city, the North Coast Land Conservancy acquired the site in 1999 and began extensive wetland restoration efforts.

But after more than two decades, illegal campers continue to construct makeshift dwellings in the woods or riverbanks, in some cases leaving trash, stockpiling stolen goods or discarding used hypodermic needles. In the 2018 parks master plan, Mill Ponds ranked last in quality of Seaside's 18 parks.

"It's not only something that's happening right in our front yard and backyards," Blake said. "People are being pushed out of lands that are in drought or in floods or because of political issues. This is homelessness and poverty and it's been here as long as we've been here."

The Seaside Community Cleanup, inspired by the efforts of Jesse Anderson and Brady Chandler, sought to address the mess.

Anderson launched the cleanup in late January after walking his dog near the Tillamook Boat Launch on the Necanicum River south of the city, where he found used needles littered amid piles of trash.

Undeterred by record-breaking rains, the campaign drew volunteers, police and corporate assistance and public works manpower and equipment.

While officially retired since 2012, Blake, a former Sunset Empire Park and Recreation director, serves on the city's Parks Advisory Committee. She joined Brady, Chandler and others at the Feb. 8 cleanup.

Volunteers collected tires, bikes, batteries and needles — 26 tons of debris. In all, more trash was hauled than the city collects during a typical July Fourth cleanup.

Even Mayor Jay Barber joined in. "Our mayor was right down in the mucky muck of it," Blake said.

Blake said future park cleanups will be devoted not only to restoring habitat, but assisting people living on the margins.

"We just need to all collectively hold hands and say we're in this together — rich, poor, young, old, really beat the drum and see how we can tackle some of these harder questions.

"We will get people together to recapture their park."