

IN BRIEF

Albany man sentenced to prison on burglary and assault charges

An Albany man was sentenced to nine years in prison for crimes related to break-ins in Cannon Beach in January.

John Draco Workman, 25, pleaded no contest this month to two counts of burglary in the first degree, unlawful use of a vehicle, three counts of menacing and assault in the fourth degree.

Workman was accused of breaking into two homes on Spruce Court in Cannon Beach.

Halibut fishing opens for North Coast

Halibut fishing will open up off the North Coast in August.

State fishery managers announced Tuesday that a recreational season would open Aug. 6 in the Columbia River subarea, which includes ocean waters from Cape Falcon in Oregon to Leadbetter Point in Washington state.

The Oregon and Washington departments of fish and wildlife had delayed setting a season along these popular portions of the coastline as both states’ governments asked people to limit unnecessary travel because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Recreational halibut fishing opened in May in areas farther south, including out of Garibaldi in Tillamook County. As of July 5, fishermen have landed over 60,000 pounds of halibut in the all-depth spring season in the Central Oregon Coast subarea, which runs from Humbug Mountain to Cape Falcon. Halibut landed so far have averaged 20 to 21 pounds.

Around 110,338 pounds — or just over 64% — of quota remain in the central coast fishery. The spring all-depth season in this subarea will continue with opening dates through Aug. 1. A summer all-depth season in this area is scheduled to open Aug. 6.

— The Astorian

Virus detected in Long Beach sewage

LONG BEACH, Wash. — An innovative sewage-water test suggests Fourth of July holiday visitors brought the coronavirus to Long Beach, where two previous tests found no sign of the disease.

A wastewater sample taken from the Long Beach sewer system July 5 indicated about 30 people in Long Beach were shedding the virus in their stool, according to an analysis by Massachusetts-based company Biobot Analytics Inc.

In May, Long Beach began testing the sewer system for the presence of the virus. Long Beach City Administrator David Glasson said two previous wastewater samples showed no sign of the virus.

Long Beach is still waiting on results from a sample taken on June 22. The city wants to test the sewers again in two weeks to better understand what the July 5 result means.

“Did any of it get left here?” Glasson said.

Pacific County has confirmed 18 positive cases since the pandemic began.

Vacation rentals moratorium extended in Pacific County

SOUTH BEND, Wash. — The Pacific County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to extend the county’s moratorium on new short-term vacation rentals at a special meeting last week.

The extension on the moratorium is for a maximum of 60 days, but commissioners said at the July 9 special meeting that the moratorium was needed to bridge the gap between the original expiration date for the moratorium, July 11, and July 30, when the board will hold a public hearing to consider proposed amendments to the county’s vacation rental policies recommended by the county Planning Commission.

— Chinook Observer

DEATHS

July 12, 2020

PERSON, Mark E., 69, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

July 10, 2020

LAVIS, Hayes Patrick “Pat,” 86, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s

Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

July 2, 2020

COGGINS, Betty Lou, 84, of Hillsboro, formerly of Astoria, died in Hillsboro. Westside Cremation and Burial Service in Beaverton is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

DUII

• Maria Avelar Hinojosa, 50, of Warrenton was arrested Tuesday on Whiskey Road in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

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.

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County mental health agency purchases crisis respite center

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

WARRENTON — Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, the county’s mental health contractor, has completed the \$1 million purchase of the crisis respite center building in Warrenton.

The respite center, which opened in 2016, offers residential mental health treatment and crisis care.

Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. had long administered financing for Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, but, in 2019, the Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization chose CareOregon to take on the role.

The mental health agency has since worked to purchase the respite center building from GOBHI.

Last October, Amy Baker, the executive director of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, told the county Board of Commissioners that the agency was having trouble negotiating a purchase price. Commissioners said they would support the



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

The crisis respite center in Warrenton.

THE RESPITE CENTER, WHICH OPENED IN 2016, OFFERS RESIDENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND CRISIS CARE.

agency in the effort to purchase the building.

“The North Coast Crisis Respite and Residential Center is a valuable resource to our community, offering the opportunity for individuals to heal and improve their life situation while in our care,” Baker said in an email. “We look forward to

providing this vital service for many years to come.”

Baker said the respite center has served over 200 people and that most were from the county.

Karen Wheeler, the CEO of GOBHI, called the respite center an essential resource for people experiencing serious behavioral

health issues.

“GOBHI, in partnership with Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, developed this resource to meet the needs of individuals with serious and persistent mental illnesses and who required respite services when we were managing the behavioral health benefit through an agreement with Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization,” Wheeler said in a statement. “We are very pleased to have completed the sale of this property to Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare and have no doubt this essential resource will continue to help those most in need.”

Contracts with the Oregon Health Authority and Columbia Pacific CCO pay for services at the center.

The Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare board of directors governs the respite center. The Caring for Clatsop Coalition — the former governing body, which included GOBHI, Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria and Providence Seaside Hospital — dissolved last fall.



Seaside School District

A drone shot of the new Pacific Ridge Elementary School.

Virus: ‘It’s going to be a day-to-day operation’

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Completion of the high school and middle school interior is expected by the end of July. The first day of school is Sept. 14.

“This throws some uncertainty there,” Roley said. “We’re in a wait and see. Is this the only incident we’ll see or is there some indication that there is some community transmission? We’re in the same boat as everyone else in the country, living in uncertain times.”

The project, funded by a voter-approved \$99.7 million bond in 2016, brings a

high school, middle school and renovation of the former Heights elementary school to a location in the Southeast Hills outside of the tsunami inundation zone.

Hoffman Construction, the company building the campus, is continuing to monitor the absences of employees. The company will require anyone with COVID-19 symptoms to be tested before being on the construction site, Roley said.

“It’s going to be a day-to-day operation to really know exactly where we are now,” Roley added.

New coronavirus case reported by county

The Astorian

Clatsop County reported Tuesday that a man in his 60s living in the southern part of the county tested positive for the coronavirus.

The man was reportedly convalescing at home.

The county has disclosed 56 virus cases since March 23. Forty-eight recovered, according to the county, while the others are convalescing at home.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 13,081 cases and 247 deaths statewide as of Wednesday morning.

The health authority tracked 2,905 test results in Clatsop County, including the 56 positive cases.

Hotelier: City Council will hear appeal Aug. 6

Continued from Page A1

conditions created by the pandemic make the project eligible for more time.

Megan Leatherman, the city’s community development director, countered that virus restrictions on hotels started 18 months after Hollander’s permits were approved by the City Council in 2018. She cited the Bowline Hotel still under construction near Buoy Beer Co. and the Hilton Home2 Suites moving forward at the former Bay-side Sentry Market near the New Youngs Bay Bridge.

“The city finds that the economic effects of the pandemic are temporary and a recovery is now beginning,” she wrote in the city’s denial. “The fact that two other hotel operators have obtained building permits in 2020 and are in the process of construction, provides evidence that economic conditions in the

Astoria hotel market do not advise against proceeding with this project.”

Hollander’s attorney argued that the projects started before the pandemic, after which no new hotels have sought building permits.

Leatherman also cited in the denial how Hollander’s group “has literally done nothing to advance this project” in the 18 months since securing permits.

Hollander’s attorney argued that the developer has submitted local and federal permits, signed contracts for geologic and other site reports and begun engineering, site design and construction. He also argued that the city has held back a land use compatibility statement, preventing the developer from securing other state and federal permits for the project.

Hollander gained approval to build the hotel from the City Council in

2018 after appealing denial of the project by the city’s Design Review Commission and the Historic Landmarks Commission.

The debate over the project, along with fears that large hotels could crowd people’s views of the Columbia, galvanized the City Council to amend the Riverfront Vision Plan and lower height and size limits along the waterfront. In the Bridge Vista zone, height limits were reduced from 45 to 28 feet for nonmarine uses, essentially lowering new waterfront buildings from four to two stories.

Leatherman cited the new rules and community concern as part of her discretion to deny the extension for Hollander’s project.

“It is likely that the current design of this project would be found to be incompatible and conflict with the height and building massing requirements that now exist in the Bridge Vista Overlay Zone,” she wrote.

Hollander’s attorney argued that Leatherman needed more substantial evidence to exercise her discretion, describing her decision as “improper, incorrect, arbitrary and capricious.”

The City Council will hear Hollander’s appeal Aug. 6. There will be limited, socially distanced seating at City Hall. The public can also participate in the hearing through a Zoom teleconference reached through astoria.or.us.

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