

CORONAVIRUS

Fish meal company explores airport

Wastewater leak
a potential obstacle

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

WARRENTON — A new fish meal plant is being proposed near the Astoria Regional Airport in Warrenton, but the city wants the Port of Astoria to first solve a wastewater leak.

Scoular is a global animal food company based in Nebraska and listed as one of Forbes magazine's 100 largest private businesses. The company is exploring a 14,400-square-foot processing plant along Airport Road that would turn fish meal and oils into pet food and related products.

The company specializes in the logistics and processing of grain and food ingredients. Amy Bailey, a spokeswoman for Scoular, said the company has been planning for some time to expand fish meal processing.

"Warrenton makes a lot of sense for us as the location, because it's close to the raw material supply in the Warrenton-Astoria area," she said. "But there's a lot of stages that we still need to work through on that. So we're at very, very early design and feasibility stages."

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Family among new virus cases

Eight local cases
over past few days

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County disclosed eight new coronavirus cases over the past few days, including five that involve a family.

Two women in their 30s and a man in his 50s living in the southern part of the county tested positive for the virus, the county Public Health Department reported Friday.

Two girls and a boy under 9 living in the southern part of the county also tested positive.

Ellen Heinitz, a naturopathic physician and the county's community health project manager, said five of the new cases on Friday were from a family.

"I think this is a great opportunity to bring awareness to the fact that the virus can spread between household members very rapidly," she said in an email.

On Thursday, the county reported that a man in his 60s living in the northern part of the county tested positive for the virus and was convalescing at home. A male between the ages of 10 and 18 years old also tested positive and was convalescing at home.

A case disclosed on Thursday involving a man in his 20s who was hospitalized for an unrelated condition has been transferred from the county after being reported as a Washington state resident.

The county has recorded 64 coronavirus cases since March 23. Forty-eight have recovered and the others were convalescing at home, according to the county.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 13,802 cases and 254 deaths from the virus statewide as of Friday morning.

The health authority tracked 2,986 test results in Clatsop County, including 59 of the positive cases.

City seeks better access to Tongue Point

Questions on
federal property
complicate
development

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Developer Cary Johnson's proposed 120-unit apartment complex at Tongue Point, potentially one of the largest housing projects in Astoria in some time, came with the caveat of figuring out access issues through federal property.

The city has taken the first steps in dedicating legal public access to Tongue Point, paving the way for both Johnson's project and others around the former World War II-era naval base.

The federal government took control of Tongue Point during the war to house a seaplane base. Military housing was built at Emerald Heights and Blue Ridge, an area near the top of Tongue Point now filled with run-down houses, foundations and one remaining household.

After the war, the U.S. Navy sold off parcels of mostly undeveloped land along the federally owned old U.S. Highway 30. The old highway loops through Tongue Point between 54th Street near the Astoria Crest Motel and Maritime Road across the highway from the entrance to Emerald Heights.

Rosemary Johnson, a city planning consultant, said she started working on access issues at Tongue



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

ABOVE: The proposed housing development will be located at Tongue Point behind the Astoria Crest Motel. BELOW: A potential 120-unit apartment complex at Tongue Point faces issues with public access through federal property.

Point as the city's planner 15 years ago because of potential development. That's when the city found out there was no legal access for property owners wanting to develop the land.

"We've had title companies, we've had four different city attorneys, and we could not resolve the legal status of these sections," she said. "There were conflicting information, titles, deeds, how they were constructed."

The city received a \$60,000 grant from Business Oregon to study the ownership and access issues around Tongue Point. That work culminated in a decision last week by the City Council to survey 54th Street and Maritime Road, beginning the process of dedicating them as rights of way.

"In the case of Maritime Road, it's kind of bizarre," said Blair Henningsgaard, the city attorney. "The federal government just built it through county land. I assume back when they did it, they had some sort of handshake agreement with Clatsop County to construct it. In any case, they constructed it with no permits, no official surveys. There's nothing that causes it to be a public road."

The city will survey the roads and send a notice to adjacent property owners. The City Council will hold a hearing to see if it's in the public's interest to make them public rights of way.

Cary Johnson faces other access and design issues with the federal

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Study sheds insight into fish-eating terns



Oregon State University

Terns screech at a seagull holding a fish.

A consistent taste
for steelhead

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Caspian terns can take a significant bite out of certain steelhead runs in the Columbia River, according to a new study.

The research suggests actions state and federal agencies have taken to curb specific tern colonies likely resulted in some threatened and endangered fish surviving to return to the river as adults.

But, as state and federal agencies eye a growing col-

ony of double-crested cormorants on the Astoria Bridge, researchers warn against a blanket application of their findings to other fish-eating birds.

"I think fisheries managers have to be really careful about extrapolating the results of this study to double-crested cormorants," said Dan Roby, a professor emeritus in Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences and one of the authors of the study. "In fact, I think they have to be careful about extrapolating it to other populations of Columbia Basin salmonids."

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