



Signs around the Hammond Marina remind visitors to follow social distancing while on shore.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Buoy 10: ‘It’s been busy. It’s just been a weird year’

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The delay meant boats hit the water at what is typically the peak of the Chinook salmon run up the river. For the Warrenton and Hammond marinas, this meant that instead of focusing closer to the river’s mouth, many boats began their efforts farther upriver. Harbormaster Jane Sweet estimated business was down by half at the Hammond Marina, which in recent years has pulled in much of

its annual operating budget through moorage and camping fees during the Buoy 10 fishery. “It’s been busy,” she said. “It’s just been a weird year.” She laid one employee off at the start of the budget year in July, anticipating that camping and moorage might be down as the coronavirus pandemic continued and state guidance and restrictions limited certain activities. She hopes to bring the position back next year. For now, she said, “Thank

goodness for the commercial fleet. They’ve still been out catching tuna and salmon.” Overall, fishing for Chinook salmon began strong in the Buoy 10 fishery but dropped off as poorer weather and tides moved in, according to John North, fisheries manager for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Columbia River Program. “Coho catch has been pretty low so far as expected,” he added. Guide boat operations

posted pictures on social media of large Chinook salmon caught on their boats. Some were still advertising available seats on boats as the fishery wound into its final week. State public health officials continue to caution people to limit unnecessary travel and recreate close to home because of concerns about the spread of the coronavirus, but the Buoy 10 fishery — as is typical — drew in a number of out-of-town anglers and guide boats.

Investigation: Forensic report concluded manner of death was accidental

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The state medical examiner’s forensic report concluded the cause of Jimenez’s death was the toxic effects of methamphetamine and the manner of death was accidental. The report listed fatty liver disease and the application of the Taser as other significant conditions. The forensic examination did not find physical injuries from the struggle at the jail that might have caused the death.

The Oregon State Police led the investigation for the Clatsop County Major Crimes Team and delivered the findings to the Clatsop County District Attorney’s Office.

District Attorney Ron Brown determined Warrenton police had probable cause to arrest Jimenez and that “no excessive force was used at any juncture.”

The investigative report, reviewed by The Astorian, describes Jimenez as a veteran who was homeless before finding a Warrenton apartment last year through a social service agency. An advocate with The Thom-Boy Project who helped Jimenez with his government benefits and finances told investigators he had schizophrenia and used methamphetamine and heroin.

Jimenez, who the advocate described as Eskimo, Hispanic and Black, liked to dress in women’s clothes. He was known to Warrenton police after several episodes where he was seen yelling or behaving erratically in public.

The investigative report listed eight prior contacts Jimenez had with police, all of which were resolved without arrest.

His file with the police cautioned that Jimenez could have violent tendencies. The advocate told investigators he was afraid of police and terrified of going to jail.

The investigative report indicates that Warrenton police officers and sheriff’s deputies believed Jimenez was high on drugs and having a mental breakdown.

When police officers walked toward Jimenez in the street, body camera footage shows, he was

talking to himself and one of the officers shouted, “Down on your knees, you’re under arrest.” Jimenez initially had his hands on his head but resisted the officers’ commands and was taken to the ground. At several points, both during the arrest and later at the jail, Jimenez is heard shouting for help and demanding to know why he was being arrested. “They’re going to kill me,” he said before the Warrenton officer used the Taser.

THE FORENSIC EXAMINATION DID NOT FIND PHYSICAL INJURIES FROM THE STRUGGLE AT THE JAIL THAT MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THE DEATH.

A nurse who was working at Columbia Memorial the night Jimenez died told investigators she was concerned about the circumstances of Jimenez’s death. According to investigators, she said it was unusual for a 34-year-old, even someone with health issues and on methamphetamine, to go into cardiac arrest that way.

The nurse said she later heard one or more of the officers had kneeled on Jimenez during the struggle at the jail.

The doctor who screened Jimenez before he went to jail also flagged what he considered a discrepancy. The doctor told investigators that he had later spoken with an officer involved and was left with an impression vastly different than when Jimenez was brought back to the emergency room from the jail.

According to investigators, the doctor said the officer told him several officers were on top of Jimenez during the struggle.

Jimenez, who served in the U.S. Army, was buried at Willamette National Cemetery.

Whitlock: ‘I’ve always loved the Oregon Coast’

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She had been nervous about returning to school after feeling so aimless the first time around. For a while, she was just as lost as she had been in her 20s.

The Women Interested in Going to School conference offered through the community college — a free conference intended to help women explore educational and career opportunities — gave her a start. When one of the conference speakers spoke about her work in oceanography, Whitlock said it suddenly felt like her heart would burst.

It happened that at the same time she was taking classes, Ed Joyce, a geology instructor at the college, was in the middle of coordinating the launch of a new certificate program.

The environmental steward certificate program, offered through the college and Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, requires students to take 12 credit hours of environmentally-focused classes and complete 30 hours of volunteer work with Oregon Shores or in other monitoring and citizen science efforts.

Whitlock decided to give it a shot. She now credits the program with giving her a framework for her college coursework and helping her land her part-time, seasonal job as an environmental interpreter with the Haystack Rock Awareness Program in Cannon Beach. It also changed her perspective on many aspects of her life, even recharging her creative energy for personal projects, she said. The volunteer work she was required to complete for the certificate program helped her see the places she loved in a new light: the human impact on complex ecosystems. The mile of beach she monitors in Seaside through Oregon Shores’ beach adoption program was one she had often walked with her Italian greyhound, “Cricket.” She thought it was familiar territory. The first day she walked it as an official volunteer observer, though, it felt very different. “I’ve always loved the Oregon Coast,” Whitlock said, “but I never knew what to do with that love. ... This puts that love into action.”

Alaska mine could impact salmon

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE — A proposed gold and copper mine at the headwaters of the world’s largest sockeye salmon fishery in Alaska would cause “unavoidable adverse impacts,” the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said in a letter to the developer released Monday.

The corps is giving Pebble Limited Partnership 90 days to come up with a mitigation plan for thousands of acres and nearly 200 miles of streams to secure a key federal permit to proceed. Once filed, the corps said it will decide if the plan for Pebble Mine is sufficient, David Hobbie, the corps’ regional regulatory division chief, said in a letter to James Fuego, vice president for permitting at the partnership.

It’s a seemingly stunning reversal for the corps, which just last month said in an environmental review that the proposed mine under normal operations “would not be expected to have a measurable effect on fish numbers and result in long-term changes to the health of the commercial fisheries in Bristol Bay.”

Since then, some high profile Republicans, including President Donald Trump’s eldest son, have urged him to intervene to block the mine.

“As a sportsman who has spent plenty of time in the area I agree 100%. The headwaters of Bristol Bay and the surrounding fishery are too unique and fragile to take any chances with,” Donald Trump Jr. has tweeted.

The company said the letter is a normal part of the process, and it is working on a mitigation plan.

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Donald Trump Jr.

“A clear reading of the letter shows it is entirely unrelated to recent tweets about Pebble and one-sided news shows,” Pebble CEO Tom Collier said in a statement. “The White House had nothing to do with the letter nor is it the show-stopper described by several in the news media over the weekend.”

Collier said nothing in the letter came as a surprise, and the company was informed six weeks ago about how the corps was leaning toward mitigation plans.

“We began at that time focusing on a preliminary plan. We built two temporary camps in the watershed housing a total of about 25 people,” Collier said. “A number of teams from those camps have been mapping the wetlands in the region for about four weeks now.”

Under a section of the Clean Water Act, the corps found “factual determinations that discharges at the mine site would cause unavoidable adverse impacts to aquatic resources and, preliminarily, that those adverse impacts would result in significant degradation to those aquatic resources,” the letter to Fuego says.

Accordingly, the corps is ask-

ing for compensatory mitigation of 2,825 acres of wetlands, 132.5 acres of open waters and 129.5 miles of streams within the Koktuli River watershed for direct and indirect impacts.

The cops also determined mitigation is required for unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources from discharges along with the transportation corridor and the port site. That amount to 460 acres of wetlands, 231 acres of open water and 55 miles of streams.

“The corps lays it out. Thousands of acres of wetlands would be destroyed, 191 miles of streams would be harmed by this project, and the company has done nothing to mitigate that actual harm,” said Joel Reynolds, western director of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The company’s current mitigation plan includes making sewage treatment upgrades, adding culverts and picking up debris along the beach, he said.

“None of that has anything to do with the devastation that this project would cause to the wetlands, to the water and to the world’s greatest wild salmon fishery,” Reynolds said.

Messages to the corps were not immediately returned over the weekend or on Monday.

Council: Hilton has filed for the Ward 4 seat

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here all their lives,” he said. “The fact that I own a business in Astoria ... gives me a good pulse on our community and our economics, and I think that needs to be on the

council.”

Brownson, who ran uncontested when he was elected in 2016, said he welcomes an opponent and believes people should have a choice. “Having somebody else

run against me is a good thing regardless of who it is,” he said.

Tom Hilton, who runs the Hawthorn Crab Co. on Pier 39, has filed for the Ward 4 seat representing the east side. City Councilor Jes-

samyn Grace West, who was appointed to the post last year, announced this month that she would not run for election.

The last day to file for the November election is Tuesday.