

IN BRIEF

Fire danger reduced in state forests

The Clatsop and Tillamook state forests reopened to the public on Friday.

Campfires are allowed with a valid permit or in designated campsites. People traveling state forest roads are required to carry a shovel and an extinguisher or 1 gallon of water.

A countywide burn ban remains in effect, but burning in burn barrels is now allowed until 10 a.m. with a permit.

Nonindustrial chainsaw use is allowed until 1 p.m. Each saw is required to have one shovel, one extinguisher, a spark arresting screen and a one hour fire watch.

River reopens to salmon fishing

Salmon fishing will reopen on the Columbia River ahead of schedule as a fall return of Chinook continues to exceed preseason expectations.

Beginning Saturday and continuing through Dec. 31, the river main stem will be open for Chinook and coho salmon retention from Buoy 10 to the Highway 395 Bridge near Pasco, Washington. Anglers may keep up to two adult salmon, only one of which may be a Chinook.

Other closures and bag limit restrictions on steelhead remain in place.

Deadline approaches for questionnaire on Resiliency Project

Clatsop County recently mailed out a letter and questionnaire pertaining to the Resiliency Project, a multi-phased plan to relocate essential county infrastructure out of the tsunami inundation zone and create alternate routes.

The deadline to complete the questionnaire is Thursday. For more information about the project, visit the county’s website.

People can also sign up for email subscriptions to receive updates on the project.

Astoria officer to graduate from police academy

An Astoria police officer will graduate Thursday from the basic police class.

A graduation ceremony will be held for Samuel Whisler at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem.

The ceremony will be closed to the public because of the coronavirus pandemic.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

Sept. 17, 2020
DEAL, Charles Warren, 66, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

GOSS, Dean Stewart, 66, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Sept. 16, 2020
ROBINSON, Carol Lee, 78, of Clatskanie, died in Longview, Washington. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Sept. 10, 2020
ENDERSON, Jeffrey Aaron, 60, of Ocean Park, Washington, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault
• Joshua David Cook, 32, of Cannon Beach, was arraigned Wednesday for assault in the third degree and criminal mistreatment in the first degree.

Forgery
• Mark Edward Warren, 35, was arraigned Wednesday for forgery in the first degree.

Disorderly conduct
• Kenneth Waite, 61, of Falcon Cove, was arrested Monday for disorderly conduct.

• James Christopher Perata, 51, of Seaside, was arrested Monday on S.E. Anchor Avenue in Warrenton for disorderly conduct in the second degree and resisting arrest.

Trespass
• Cristine Marcy, 51, was arrested Thursday on Marine Drive in Astoria for trespass.

DUII
• Taylorrae Bunch, 29, of Nevada City, California, was arrested Wednesday on the Astoria Riverwalk and 17th Street in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY
Knappa School District, 5:30 p.m., Knappa High School Gym, 41535 Old Highway 30.
Jewell School District, 6 p.m., Jewell Library, 83874 Highway 103.
Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

TUESDAY
Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council, 4 p.m., 800 Exchange St., Room 430, Astoria.
Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 2797 U.S. Highway 101 N.
Astoria Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

theAstorian

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
ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP
All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Astorian become the property of The Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.
COPYRIGHT ©
Entire contents © Copyright, 2020 by The Astorian.
Printed on recycled paper

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

New virus cases tied to Pacific Seafood

The Astorian

Clatsop County disclosed Friday that six workers at the Pacific Seafood plant in Warrenton tested positive for the coronavirus.

Five of the cases were among nine new cases the county reported Friday afternoon, while the other worker lives in Pacific County, Washington.

Some of the other new cases involve two other workplaces, but the county declined to disclose the workplaces or provide any additional information.

The new cases include a man in his 40s living in the southern part of the county.

The others live in the northern part of the county, including a female between the ages of 10 and 19, a woman in her 30s, two men in their 30s, two men in their 40s, a man in his 50s and a man in his 70s.

Michael McNickle, the county’s public health director, said the Oregon Health Authority will handle the new Pacific Seafood cases.

The health authority took over contact tracing and other steps after a worker at Pacific Seafood tested positive for the virus in late June.

County leaders described it at the time as a joint decision, but it came after several days of tension between the county, the health authority and the seafood processor over how to respond to the case.

McNickle disclosed earlier this month that a man in his 40s who

tested positive was a worker at Pacific Seafood.

On Thursday, meanwhile, the county announced that a woman in her 20s tested positive.

The woman lives in the northern part of the county and was reportedly recovering at home.

The county has reported 115 cases since March. Ninety-seven have recovered, according to the county, and the others were convalescing at home.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 30,342 cases and 521 deaths from the virus statewide as of Friday morning.

The health authority tracked 5,363 test results in Clatsop County, including 109 of the positive cases.

Port clearing out Chinook Building for rehab

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Port of Astoria is clearing tenants out of the aging Chinook Building by the end of November for a possible rehabilitation the agency hopes will be supported by city urban renewal dollars.

The Astorian

The Chinook Building will be cleared out by the end of November in advance of a rehabilitation the Port of Astoria hopes to partially fund with urban renewal monies.

The building, like many Port properties, faces a large amount of deferred maintenance, like a broken elevator, shuttered bathrooms, leaking pipes, rot in the wood and settling in the foundation. Will Isom, the Port’s executive director, met with tenants over the past couple of weeks to talk about the future of the building, which he describes as becoming unsafe.

“I think at this point we’re sort of at an inflection point, and it’s prudent to get the tenants out of there and meet their needs elsewhere as we do something with that building,” he told the Port Commission on Tuesday.

Isom said he is reaching out to regional lender Craft3 about financing for a possible renovation.

The Port recently held a walk-through of the building with the city to possibly access money from the Astor-West Urban Renewal District. The city improve-

ment fund, supplied by property taxes, covers the Port and Uniontown neighborhood. But the city has wanted a master plan for the area before partnering.

Three years ago, the Port leased out the Chinook Building to developers Chester Trabucco and William Orr, who wanted to make it part of a larger marina village district with the Astoria Riverwalk Inn. But when the partnership left the hotel, they also left management of the Chinook Building. The Port is now contemplating selling the hotel and leasing the land underneath.

Tenants like Astoria Tax Consulting, Tiki Charters, Northwest Wild Products

and World Class Fishing all moved into the Chinook Building around a decade ago after the Port opted to renovate rather than raze the building. All of the original tenants have moved out except Astoria Tax Consulting, which the Port had to relocate to a different suite after the business suffered water damage.

Roy Breur, who opened Astoria Marina Seafoods this summer with his partner and former NW Wild Products co-owner Amanda Cordero, said he’s pitching the Port to let them operate the business from a field just east of the Chinook Building. Part of the Port’s impetus for signing Breur

Development fills in along Dolphin Avenue in Warrenton

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

WARRENTON — The emerging industrial and commercial corridor along Dolphin Avenue is quickly filling up after the recent approval by the Warrenton Planning Commission of two developments to the north and east of Clatsop Care Health District’s Memory Care Community.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Dolphin Avenue is a growing industrial and commercial corridor in Warrenton.

Developer Ryan Osburn will first build 30,000 square feet of office and warehouse space for Osburn Plumbing, Osborn-Olsen Land Development and an as-yet unidentified tenant. He would later add more than 10,000 square feet for more tenants.

Osburn plans to access his complex from an alley that runs along the north side of the memory community, for which he got a variance to go 200 feet farther than most private alleys are allowed.

The Planning Commission received several letters from board members, staff and supporters of the health district concerned about dust, noise and other impacts of construction on the fragile group of 30 residents next door, as well as traffic on the access road.

“We take care of the area’s most frail individuals, and we take our mission related to this very seriously,” wrote Linda Crandell, chairwoman of the health district’s board. “Whatever we do, we are always looking at it from the best interest of them. The community needs this facility, however, we need to be mindful of what this project may do to the residents who currently reside here; as well as future residents and their families.”

Impact
Construction on the complex could start sometime between the end of the year and spring, lasting about six months. Adam Daly, an architect for Osburn, said a fence and landscaping would be installed first to minimize noise, with watering and sweeping to minimize dust. Osburn also agreed to install sidewalks along Dolphin Avenue and speed bumps along the alley in the future if necessary.

Osburn, who is relocating his business from Clatsop Plains to Warrenton, said he wants to be a good, long-term neighbor. The traffic from his business will be minimal, he said, with employees leaving in the morning for job sites and the occasional delivery truck. Osburn and his team reminded planning commissioners that the land is also zoned for more intensive uses, such as retail and apartments.

“Once all the construction is done, the dust will be down,” he said. “The noise will be down. And actually, what I’m building in that zone is a lot less impact than what could be built there.”

Roy Little, a board member with the health district, said the organization’s con-

cerns appear to have been met over subsequent edits to Osburn’s proposal.

Planning Commissioner Ken Yuill, who grilled Osburn’s team on what they’d do to protect memory care residents and still had doubts, in the end acceded to his right to develop the land.

“I’m not happy about the situation, but rights are rights,” he said.

Dolphin Avenue has become home to a broad mix of businesses and several institutional users seeking high ground out of the tsunami inundation zone, including the state Department of Transportation, Oregon State Police, Pacific Power and Medix Ambulance.

The Planning Commission last week approved a new regional service center for NW Natural, the region’s natural gas utility, on the east side of Dolphin, north-east of the memory community. Wedged between NW Natural and the Department of Transportation will be the driveway to Warrenton-Hammond School District’s new master campus.

Like schools and other critical services, NW Natural is leaving its Astoria location to remain viable after a Cascadia Subduction Zone

earthquake and tsunami. Wayne Pipes, the company’s director of facilities, security and emergency management, said the facility would be low impact, with fewer than 10 employees on site. NW Natural requested higher fences, which Pipes said was mostly about improving cybersecurity.

“It’s a standard we’re implementing at all our facilities, because we don’t want people getting access to a property (where) they might then get access to our gas network, our control system and so forth,” he said.

Heavy traffic
Rebecca Reed, who lives in one of the few homes on Dolphin Avenue north of the developments, opposed both because of issues with construction noise, the deteriorated condition of Dolphin from heavy truck traffic and the affect of the sites on her views.

There is no work planned for Dolphin Avenue in the city’s recently approved street paving contract. Yuill urged Reed to bring the street up at Mayor Henry Balensifer’s virtual Monday Mayor’s Coffee meetings.

Both NW Natural and Osburn promised landscaping at their sites. Paul Mitchell, the chairman of the Planning Commission, commiserated with Reed but said the area is changing.

“We are at that point in this area, unfortunately, where this part of the community is growing, and it’s going to continue to grow,” Mitchell said. “The school’s going to be there. There’s a lot of things happening there.”