

IN BRIEF

Man dies after jumping from Astoria Bridge

A 27-year-old man from Lacey, Washington, died Saturday night after jumping from the Astoria Bridge.

Police were called at about 8 p.m. after Desmond Jovan Brown jumped and landed on Marine Drive near the Triangle Tavern.

Authorities investigating death behind Costco

Authorities are investigating a dead body that was found Saturday at homeless camps behind Costco in Warrenton.

The identity of the person has not been publicly released.

The Clatsop County Major Crimes Team is investigating the cause and manner of death.

Three injured in crash on Highway 30

Three people were injured Friday in a crash on U.S. Highway 30.

Officials say a driver heading westbound near milepost 73 crossed into the eastbound lane, crashing into the side of an oncoming vehicle.

Both drivers and a passenger were taken to Peace-Health St. John Medical Center in Longview, Washington.

Suspicious device brought to Astoria police

Authorities investigated a possible explosive device left Sunday morning outside the Astoria Police Department.

Officials say someone located the device in Pacific County, Washington, and brought it to the Astoria Police Department at about 11:30 a.m.

The building — shared by the Astoria Police Department and Astoria Fire Department — and 30th Street and Log Bronc Way were closed until the Oregon State Police Bomb Squad arrived from Salem.

The streets reopened Sunday afternoon after the bomb squad removed the device.

Astoria Police Chief Geoff Spalding recommended that people who find possible explosive devices to leave the devices in place and call police.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

Oct. 3, 2020

BROWN, Desmond, 27, of Lacey, Washington, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

CANAVAN, Michael, 68, of Boise, Idaho, died

in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 1, 2020

HANSETH, Donald, 54, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIAL

Thursday, Oct. 8

LARSON, Yvonne Joanne — Graveside service at 2 p.m., Greenwood Cemetery, 91569 Oregon Highway 202.

ON THE RECORD

Menacing

• Jonathan Richard Rausch, 32, of Seaside, was arrested Friday on Cow Creek Road in Jewell for three counts of menacing in the first degree and disorderly conduct.

Criminal trespass

• Thai Clappe, 38, was arrested Saturday at Fred Meyer in Warrenton for criminal trespass in the second degree.

• Whitney Obad, 26, was arrested Saturday at Fred Meyer in Warrenton for criminal trespass in the second degree.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, noon, work session, (electronic meeting).

Port of Astoria, 4 p.m., workshop, (electronic meeting).

Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

Clatsop Care Health District Board, 5 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Astoria Planning Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Astoria Library Board, 5:30 p.m., Flag Room, 450 10th Street.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

WEDNESDAY

Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., 698 Pacific Way.

THURSDAY

Warrenton Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., Gearhart firehouse, 670 Pacific Way.

the Astorian

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Moratorium placed on businesses in rights of way

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County has placed a moratorium on permits for businesses operating within county rights of way after a neighborhood dispute over a firewood stand in Warrenton.

Following guidance from the county Board of Commissioners during a September work session, the moratorium took effect on Monday and could be in place until March.

County staff will draft a policy and commissioners will determine whether to set more rules or potentially ban businesses in county rights of way.

“Historically, county right of way is used for transportation, access to property, utility, drainage and things such as this that has to do with county roads,” Ted McLean, the county’s public works director, said during the work session. “We historically have not allowed a business venture in the county right of way.”

The moratorium affects two firewood stands along Ridge Road in Warrenton. Ongoing complaints about one of the stands prompted the county to take action.

Allen Berry has been operating the firewood stand for about three years in front



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Allen Berry points to the firewood stand in the front yard of his home off of Ridge Road in Warrenton.

of his home, which sits next to the county right of way.

Neighbors say the business draws a lot of traffic to the residential area, as it is conveniently located near Fort Stevens State Park and the KOA.

Complaints to the city and county include excessive noise from chainsaws all hours of the day. Some neighbors say communicating their concerns with Berry has not helped. One neighbor is moving as a result.

The county recently required the businesses to apply for a right-of-way permit to better monitor and enforce activity and alleviate the complaints. But neighbors say tensions have escalated.

Berry, who is running for

the Warrenton City Commission in the November election, called it a neighborhood issue and believes he is being personally targeted by the county. He said he and his wife live off of Social Security and that firewood sales are how he pays for his medications.

“It’s not a county issue,” he said. “(County officials) made it a county issue.”

Commissioner Mark Kujala, who lives nearby, said neighbors who feel the stand is a disruption brought the issue to him about a year and a half ago.

Kujala questioned whether right-of-way permits should be issued in residential areas where there is a lot of traffic.

“That wood stand is where

emergency access is located, so are we going to be blocking an emergency access to a neighborhood?” he said. “Those kinds of things, I think, need to be really addressed.”

“And a lot of jurisdictions have right-of-way permit ordinances where they have thought through all of the conditions for when a permit would be issued and under what circumstances.”

“And I think that’s what we need to do, is to really kind of review if this is something that we want to try to accommodate in the future, or is it something we just don’t want to get into because we want to reserve those for the public use, for roads, for utilities, for other public needs.”

Warrenton hires new community development director

Hess relocates from Utah

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

WARRENTON — It took Astoria more than two years to find a new community development director after the departure of Kevin Cronin, who took a similar position with Warrenton.

Now only three months after Cronin’s departure to become city manager of Mount Angel, Warrenton has found a new community development director in Utah.

Scott Hess, 36, will start at the end of October. He is the director of community and economic development with the Wasatch Front Regional Council, an association of five counties in and around the Salt Lake City metro region.

Hess has held other planning positions in cities and counties around northern Utah. He earned a master’s of public administration and bachelor’s of urban planning

from the University of Utah.

For the past 20 years, Hess has been visiting a family friend’s Gearhart home. He proposed to his wife 14 years ago near the Del Rey Beach access. The two have three young daughters — twin 4-year-olds and a 1-year-old.

“I would watch jobs in Oregon, and randomly over the last 13, 14 years applied for jobs and saw that one,” Hess said. “And it felt like it was applying somewhere that felt like home that’s also 750 miles away from Utah.”

City Manager Linda Engbretson said the city interviewed five candidates for the position. The experience Hess has with city and county government and transportation planning stood out, she said.

“I think that transportation planning will just be a tremendous asset to Warrenton, as well as he’s had lots of experience in facilitating and training planning com-

missions, that type of work,” Engbretson said. “I think he can be a real assistance and help to our volunteer board.”

Hess steps into a quickly growing city with a government that has put more emphasis in recent years on smarter growth.

Warrenton has translated an urban renewal fund into several projects to improve downtown, building the new Warrenton Memorial Plaza, improving sidewalks and landscaping and providing grants for building owners to spruce up their facades.

The city created a master plan for Chelsea Gardens, a central triangular neighborhood in between older Warrenton and the North Coast Retail Center where it hopes to attract a mix of commercial and higher-density housing without exacerbating nearby traffic backups.

Hess said Warrenton seems more like a real city than nearby second-home vacation

spots, with an already vibrant regional business hub at the retail center.

“My thinking and focus is on how do you help the community, the public and the local businesses continue to invest or reinvest into the downtowns of Warrenton and Hammond to the north,” he said.

Hess is the second community development director to leave an urban area in the Mountain region for the North Coast. Megan Leatherman, Astoria’s community development director, who is also in her 30s, came from Idaho’s Ada County, where she oversaw development rules around the Boise metro area.

“For us, it’s going to be a great adventure,” Hess said of his family’s move. “It’s going to be totally different. I’m coming up there with a young family. Our kids aren’t in school yet. It feels like this perfect kind of Goldilocks time to bring them somewhere new, and let them experience something that my wife and I have experienced for years.”

Bybee Lakes homeless shelter opens in Portland

Powered by Helping Hands

By LIZZY ACKER
The Oregonian

Bybee Lakes Hope Center, the building formerly known as the Wapato Jail, opened its doors for the first time Friday, in advance of its official opening to residents on Oct. 12.

The 57,000-square-foot north Portland shelter will have 84 open beds during its first phase of opening, with around 400 more beds for longer-term housing expected to become avail-

able in December.

Wapato Jail sat empty for 16 years, after costing about \$58 million of taxpayer money to build. Multnomah County sold it for \$5 million in 2018 to developer Marty Kehoe. It was then purchased by developer Jordan Schnitzer.

Schnitzer has attempted to turn the unused jail into a shelter since he acquired the property. On Friday, he achieved that goal.

“To all the doomsayers,” Schnitzer said at a press conference in front of Bybee Lakes Hope Center, “this is really a testament to a dream.”

The facility will be run by Helping Hands, a nonprofit that does outreach with the homeless and other low-income people struggling with housing. Bybee Lakes will be the group’s fourth homeless reentry center in the state, including Clatsop County.

Alan Evans, CEO of Helping Hands, said his company had created a “data-driven, trauma-informed homeless reentry program” that it will use at the Bybee Lakes facility.

“This is a tad bit surreal for me,” Evans said as he took the mic at the press conference, “because 20 years ago I was sleeping under the Burnside Bridge where I nearly froze to death one night.”

Evans said during his time on the streets, it was difficult to get all his needs met in place.

“If you want to get something that you need, you have to go to multiple places in multiple directions,” he said, “and when your life is falling apart that’s impossible.”

The new center will work to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness on many levels, he said, using an individualized approach to everyone who walks through the door.

Some doubted the project would ever come to fruition, said Raven Russell, director of data and major projects for Helping Hands.

“Sometimes you have to

prove people wrong,” she continued, “and we have.”

On concern with the site was a lack of public transit access, Russell said.

“TriMet called us,” she said. “We said we need a bus stop to make this happen.”

She told the gathered group, “You guys drove past it on your way here.”

Russell said the timeline of the center was sped up in an effort to help people affected by coronavirus.

Several officials were on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, including Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, and state Sen. Lew Frederick, Sen. Betsy Johnson and Sen. Elizabeth Steiner-Hayward.

“We had many years where this incredible public asset was just sitting vacant,” Wheeler said. “It really took the leadership of the community.”

“Government couldn’t do it alone, he added, “Here we now stand together and we’re seeing the best of what this community has to offer.”

Frederick said he was “incredibly pleased” about the opening of the center.

He said in a two-block walk earlier in the morning, he saw six tents with people living in them.

“These are folks I would like to be able to say, here’s an opportunity, here’s a place where you can go,” Frederick said. “It’s not just a program, it’s not just a facility, it’s a basic concept that we do care.”

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