

IN BRIEF

Man injured, elk killed after a crash on Highway 101

A 73 year-old man was injured Thursday after crashing into a herd of elk on U.S. Highway 101 in Warrenton.

The man was driving a pickup and heading south-bound near Old Pine Drive when he collided with a herd of elk crossing the highway.

Three elk were killed and were claimed for salvage. The man was taken to a local hospital.

No parking proposed on parts of Sunset Boulevard in Seaside

SEASIDE — In a move aimed to protect dog walkers, bicyclists and pedestrians, the Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission recommended a parking reduction on the west side of Sunset Boulevard.

The proposed change came before the City Council on Monday night.

“When vehicles are parked along the curb, it reduces the drive lane to less than 8 feet in width,” Public Works Director Dale McDowell said. “Vehicles are forced to drive into the oncoming lane to go around the parked cars.

“You come around the corner and all of a sudden you are on top of somebody.”

He said homeowners have been notified of the proposed change.

“We wanted to get as much input as we possibly could,” McDowell said. “We’re looking to get as much input as we can before we take any parking away anywhere.”

— The Astorian

Pacific County surpasses 100 virus cases after virus activity balloons

SOUTH BEND, Wash. — A state of emergency was declared Feb. 29 in response to COVID-19 in Washington state.

On Oct. 10, 224 days later, Pacific County surpassed 100 confirmed cases of the virus that has infected some 38 million people worldwide and killed more than 1 million.

The Pacific County Health and Human Services Department reported 14 newly confirmed cases in a span of just 24 hours on Oct. 9 and Oct. 10. The eight cases announced on Oct. 9 were the most reported by the county in a single day since the pandemic began, and the 14 cases were the most reported in back-to-back days.

Two more cases were reported on Monday, bringing the county’s total case count to 107, up from 91 the previous week.

— Chinook Observer

DEATHS

Oct. 15, 2020

DAHL, Martha Claire, 66, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 14, 2020

REYNOLDS, John Perry Jr., 81, of Oysterville, Washington, died in

Ilwaco, Washington. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 13, 2020

DeCAMP, Sally Ann, 67, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Theft

• James Gardner, 46, of Astoria, was arrested Thursday on Hillcrest Loop in Astoria for theft in the first degree and criminal trespass in the second degree.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Jewell School District Board, 6 p.m., Jewell School Library, 83874 state Highway 103.

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

TUESDAY

Union Health District of Clatsop County Board, 8 a.m., Seaside Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

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

Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:15 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Herzig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

the Astorian

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

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

A child holds up a large piece of kelp while playing on the beach at Fort Stevens State Park on Wednesday afternoon.

Policy: Workman looking for more training for officers

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actions to see if things can be done differently or better.”

Jimenez, 34, was arrested by Warrenton police on April 17 for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest after he was seen walking into the street on S. Main Avenue.

An investigative report into Jimenez’s death conducted by Oregon State Police, which was reviewed by The Astorian, described Jimenez as a veteran with mental health and drug abuse issues who was homeless before finding a Warrenton apartment last year through a social service agency.

His file with the Warrenton police cautioned that Jimenez could have violent tendencies. Jimenez had several previous interactions with local police, none of which ended in arrest.

Jimenez was under the influence of methamphetamine when two officers saw him on S. Main Avenue in April. The investigative report indicated police believed Jimenez was experiencing a mental breakdown and was high on drugs.

Body camera footage,

‘ONE OF THE MORE PROMISING APPROACHES I AM LOOKING INTO IS A ‘CRISIS TEAM’ THAT USES MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES TO RESPOND AS A TEAM.’

Police Chief Mathew Workman

reviewed by The Astorian, shows an officer shouting at Jimenez to get on his knees after he did not react to the officer’s command to get out of the road.

Jimenez resisted when police began to take him into custody and the officer used a Taser to subdue him.

Jimenez was screened by a doctor at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria from the police SUV because of coronavirus restrictions and medically cleared to go to the Clatsop County Jail.

During a struggle at the sally port of the jail, sheriff’s deputies placed spit hoods over Jimenez’s head and deputies and an officer held him down while applying leg and ankle restraints. Jimenez lost consciousness and was taken back to Columbia Memorial,

where he died.

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.

District Attorney Ron Brown ruled that Warrenton police had probable cause to arrest Jimenez and that none of the officers and sheriff’s deputies involved used excessive force.

Workman questioned the medical examiner’s finding that the Taser was a factor in Jimenez’s death, but acknowledged he is not a medical expert.

The police chief said he plans to meet with Columbia

Memorial, the Astoria Police Department and the sheriff’s office to discuss procedures when taking suspects to the hospital for treatment or medical screening.

Workman said he is also looking for more training for officers when interacting with people experiencing a mental health crisis or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

“One of the more promising approaches I am looking into is a ‘crisis team’ that uses multiple disciplines to respond as a team,” he said in an email. “Because of our limited resources I am not sure we could create (a) working team here in Clatsop County but I do believe we could do training with the officers on a team approach and give them the ability to call in pieces of a team to assist them.

“One of the components of this team is already in place and that is the crisis response team from Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare. I want to do more training/education with the CRT so all officers can work in unison with them and not assigning one or two officers to a designated team.”

Resiliency: ‘We’re looking for the safety of our citizens’

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the south part of the Lewis and Clark Mainline, which is about 5 miles long. But the county is not pursuing the north part of the mainline, which is about 2 miles and runs parallel to Lewis and Clark Road and U.S. Highway 101.

“For a variety of factors, including the results of our public engagement, and lack of agreement over the purchase of the property, the north mainline segment is no longer part of the Resiliency Project,” the county said in a statement.

Potential acquisition of the Lewis and Clark Mainline was met with opposition by nearby neighbors who believe the construction of a bypass will fundamentally change the landscape of the rural area and invite new development.

Concerned Friends for Clatsop County, a group formed to respond to the project, has challenged the county over a lack of trans-

parency and has called the county to look at other locations to relocate the public works facility, like the county-owned North Coast Business Park. However, the county has already eliminated that property and others as viable options.

Neighbor concerns

More than two dozen people, including Concerned Friends for Clatsop County, submitted testimony during a county Board of Commissioners meeting on Wednesday in opposition or raising concerns about the project.

Many residents and public officials have criticized the county’s communication and outreach. There has also been skepticism over a recent questionnaire that was sent to residents.

More than 2,600 people responded to the questionnaire, with 69% indicating they support moving the public works facility out of the tsunami inundation zone and 28% in opposition.

About 29% indicated sup-

port in moving the public works facility to the Warrenton Fiber sort yard, while 25% indicated they did not and 46% were not sure. As far as whether the county should acquire existing or private roads for alternate and emergency routes, 65% said they are supportive and 30% were not supportive.

“As we’ve been going through this questionnaire process, we did receive a lot of helpful feedback, and we’ll continue to take that feedback into consideration,” Assistant County Manager Monica Steele said. “I’ve had several people explain to us that they responded ‘not sure’ because they didn’t know where some of these locations were.

“The term ‘sort yard’ is known by many, but not known by all, and so trying to identify it by another name or by the address, along with mainline north and mainline south and Pipeline, we learned created some confusion for people because, again, they didn’t know where these locations were.”

During a county Planning Commission meeting Tuesday, Commissioner Nadia Gardner said she did not feel like she had enough information to complete the questionnaire.

“I got a lot of negative feedback on the survey,” she said. “The people that I saw online and I talked to really were confused by it. And I don’t think that it should be considered data to rely on for the pulse of the county.

“Actually, the vast majority of the county did move here in the last 20 years, they’re not old-timers. And so most people don’t know

what those places are. And there was very little information on the mailing to get people to understand it.

“I encourage all of the county departments to try to do better at really telling the story to our communities, and telling that story and then inviting feedback so that we can get more valid statistics on who supports what and who makes what a priority.”

Due diligence

The Board of Commissioners directed staff during a work session in early October to move ahead in the due diligence process of the Resiliency Project agreements following results from the questionnaire.

Commissioner Pamela Wev, who represents the Lewis and Clark area, said she feels like the county has extensively addressed people’s concerns. She thinks the response to the questionnaire was supportive of the project.

“I’m not sure we have done a good enough job in helping our citizens understand how important our public works department and facilities and other material is in the face of any climate emergency,” Wev said. “And I think it’s time for us to get moving on this.

“We have narrowed it down to two sites. We have eliminated a very controversial site. Our project goals, in my estimation, have not changed. We’re looking for the safety of our citizens — for all of our citizens — and we have responded to neighborhood concerns about some of the sites.

“We backed off.”

VOLUNTEER PICK OF THE WEEK



Dottie

Senior female Tuxedo

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