

## IN BRIEF

## Park district faces pushback over middle school purchase

SEASIDE — A small but vocal group of residents came to the Bob Chisholm Community Center on Tuesday to show opposition to a purchase of Broadway Middle School.

Speakers reacted to the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's purchase of the property, vacant after the school district moved the campus to a new location on Spruce Drive outside the tsunami inundation zone.

Board members approved the process after a previous board had rejected a potential purchase in June.

"Why are people just now receiving information on the survey for their opinions if the purchase is already in the works?" Lindsey Morrison, a former member of the park district board, asked in a letter. "Why are the Seaside taxpayers not enraged by this deceit?"

The park district and the Seaside School District are in the due-diligence phase of a \$2.2 million purchase.

A bond for the expansion of Sunset Pool failed in 2018. This time, the park district is seeking tax-exempt debt financing through the Special Districts Association of Oregon rather than asking voters for a bond.

The park district has 45 days to conduct due diligence, at which point the earnest money would become nonrefundable. An inspection report received this week is under review.

— *The Astorian*

## Clam season paused over marine toxin increase

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Health officials hit the pause button on fall razor clam digging on Wednesday because samples taken from outer coast beaches are trending toward having too much domoic acid, a marine toxin.

Clams harvested in the past week were within the safety threshold and are still safe to eat, according to the Washington Department of Health.

In Washington state, clam harvests are stopped when domoic acid levels in the meat surpass 20 parts per million. Levels were about 1 parts per million for most of the summer and fall through Oct. 8 before starting to increase.

— *Chinook Observer*

## Oregon wants companies to help pay for a new recycling system

Confusing labels and mismatched rules across the state are leading Oregonians to put too much trash in their recycling bins.

Recycling companies are struggling to sort the trash from the recyclables and find buyers for the contaminated material they receive, so a lot of it is getting dumped in landfills. Since China stopped buying contaminated recyclables in 2018, local governments have had to raise the price of recycling collection or make drastic cuts in recycling services.

For the past two years, a statewide recycling steering committee has been working on how to solve these problems. The proposed new strategy requires companies that sell paper and packaging to help pay for solutions.

It calls for dramatic changes in how product packaging is labeled, what's allowed in everyone's recycling bins and who pays for things like trucking recyclables long distances, upgrading recycling technology at sorting facilities and tracking where recyclable material ends up.

— *Oregon Public Broadcasting*

## DEATHS

Oct. 22, 2020

CHASTAIN, Kathy Ann, 72, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

INMAN, Larry Robert, 70, of Astoria, died

in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 19, 2020

SOSSAMAN, Jeromy, 48, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

## ON THE RECORD

## Civil disorder

• Ty John Fox, 23, of Astoria, was charged Friday by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Oregon with civil disorder during a protest in Portland. He allegedly threw a firework toward police.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## MONDAY

**Astoria City Council**, 1 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.  
**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District**, 4:15 p.m., 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Seaside City Council**, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

## TUESDAY

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

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

## the Astorian

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## GOAT PATROL

**TOP:** A goat explores the hill off of 15th Street in Astoria as cars drive by.  
**LEFT:** A goat devours a plant on the hill off of 15th Street in Astoria.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

## Elk: 'Injuries to humans are inevitable'

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## Managing elk

After Boyle purchased the 100-acre, 18-hole course in 2011 and made improvements, golfers and elk flocked to the links.

When Jason Bangild, the course general manager, arrived in 2013, there were 20 or 30 elk in the herd.

That number went to more than 100 three years ago and is closer to 150 now and will likely exceed 200 in the near future.

Boyle, Bangild and staff used measures like herding the elk off the course using golf carts. They bought coyote urine to deter them. They placed eight plastic coyotes on the course to divert the herd.

Paintball guns had no effect. Fencing was considered costly and ineffective.

Bangild said Forrest Goodling, the course's superintendent, kept track and noted it cost \$30,000 annually in extra hours to repair elk damage. It's safe to say it's about the same now.

Culling the herd, either through firearms or bow-hunting within city limits, faced political obstacles and safety concerns.

The city instituted no-feeding rules and added signage.

But interactions between elk, humans and pets escalated.

A whippet was trampled and killed by a herd of elk at The Reserve in 2016. In 2017, an elk cow protecting its calf by the 10th Street entrance to the beach charged a bicyclist before the elk was tranquilized and brought to safety by emergency responders and officials from the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

An attack on a 12-year-old corgi by an elk on N. Marion Avenue early last year brought the safety issue to the fore.

"The incident is just the most recent in a long series of interactions with these large animals whose populations have exploded and who have no natural predators," Boyle wrote in an email last



Neal Maine/PacificLight Images

**Gearhart's elk herd, as seen at Gearhart Golf Links, continues to expand.**

year to Mayor Matt Brown. "The elk population is now at the stage where injuries to humans are inevitable."

Trap-and-transfer relocation plans have been considered before.

If those plans should move ahead, Manuel Padilla, project manager for Oregon Solutions, said details around how much that might cost, where elk would be placed and how many would need to be moved to make a difference would need to be answered by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"Aside from theoretical cost, it is my understanding that the answers to those questions could only really be determined through the creation of a trap-and-relocate plan that is not currently in existence," Padilla said. "So I don't believe those answers are readily available at this time."

## Oregon Solutions

Gearhart joined Warrenton, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Police and private landowners to work with Oregon Solutions to find ways to mitigate issues with the elk herd.

Gov. Kate Brown designated the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative an Oregon Solutions project in April 2019. She appointed Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer and Seaside Mayor Jay Barber as project co-conveners.

The project team acknowledges that people

have tried many times to address the elk issue in Clatsop Plains.

Gearhart Golf Links, a project team member, is part of the process in helping to determine effective solutions for the cohabitation of elk and people in the Clatsop Plains area and making commitments to help implement those solutions, Padilla said.

"Because of the comprehensive nature of the problem, individual efforts are fruitless and smaller group efforts have run into problems and lost traction," he said. "The Oregon Solutions process is geared towards working through issues, in a more inclusive and collaborative way, which have left past efforts without results."

A declaration of cooperation is the culmination of the collaborative process, coming from recommendations developed by the project team for taking action.

"The declaration works to iron out any issues and create agreement on what is to be done," Padilla said. "In this case, the declaration lays

out the framework for a new wildlife management plan specifically for the Clatsop Plains area. In every case, the declaration's purpose is to lay the groundwork, create the conditions, and generate and align resources for unified action."

Members of the project team remain in discussion on aspects of the plan. They anticipate wrapping up the plan at the beginning of next year.

"This timeline is later than we wanted but it's the right one given the challenges of this year and the seriousness of the Clatsop Plains elk issue," Padilla said.

Specific financing discussions have yet to occur.

Once the declaration is signed, that is the green light to get to work, Padilla said. Management at the golf course has waited a long time for change but appear ready to let the collaborative's work come to a conclusion.

"I think we would all like 'sooner than later,' but realize these steps must be navigated first," Bangild said.

**Volunteer Pick of the Week**

**Patty**  
Senior Pit Terrier/Labrador Retriever Blend

It's not their color, their size, or their breed: it's their love. Send your heart to the rescue.

(Read about the pet of the week on Facebook)

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