

IN BRIEF

Coast Guard cutter Alert returns after patrol along California coast

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Alert returned to Astoria on Tuesday following a 60-day living marine resources patrol along the California coast.

The crew enforced federal, state and local policies for U.S. commercial fishing vessels, according to the Coast Guard, which resulted in 17 living marine resources violations and 30 safety violations.

The crew terminated the voyages of three commercial fishing vessels, which were deemed unsafe to continue operating because of overdue survival craft servicing, expired hydrostatic releases on survival craft and expired flares.

Seaside approves parking limit for Sunset Boulevard

SEASIDE — The City Council approved a measure to limit parking on parts of Sunset Boulevard.

In a move aimed to protect dog walkers, bicyclists and pedestrians, the Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission recommended a parking reduction on the west side between 3000 and 3182 Sunset Blvd., an area affecting 11 homes and the Lanai condominiums.

When vehicles are parked along the curb it reduces the driving lane to less than 8 feet wide, forcing drivers into the oncoming lane to go around parked cars.

Neighbors showed support for the change in an Oct. 12 public hearing and in letters to the City Council, which had continued the public hearing through Monday night’s City Council meeting.

“There has been an occasion or several occasions in the past when cars have been parked along this west side curb making visibility extremely hampered when we have needed to pull out of our driveway,” resident Jan Knickerbocker wrote. “On a couple occasions during a big event in town such as Fourth of July, cars have even blocked the entrance to our driveway.”

The Transportation Advisory Commission recommended the public works director stripe, sign and paint curbs to eliminate parking along this section of roadway.

Vacancy coming up on Seaside Planning Commission

SEASIDE — With Bill Carpenter’s term on the Seaside Planning Commission expiring on on Nov. 1, a seat is vacant on the seven-person commission. Carpenter indicated in October he will not seek reappointment.

The Planning Commission is to recommend to the City Council and other public authorities plans for regulating the future growth, development and beautification of the city. The commission meets at least once monthly, with meetings scheduled the first and third Tuesday of the month. The term of office is four years.

—The Astorian

DEATH

Oct. 27, 2020

NORLIN, Pamela Jean, 71, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

CORRECTIONS

Incorrect name and city — Ashly Alexandria Lukoszyk, 36, of Astoria, was arrested Sunday on U.S. Highway 101 Business for unlawful entry into a motor vehicle. An On the Record item on A2 on Tuesday incorrectly listed her first name as Ashley and said she was from Warrenton.

ON THE RECORD

- Assault**
- Nicole Danielle Bowers, 24, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on Harrison Avenue in Astoria for assault in the fourth degree
- Unlawful weapon use**
- Joseph Eugene Campos, 27, of Coos Bay, was arrested Tuesday for unlawful use of a weapon, menacing, assault in the fourth degree and pointing a firearm at another.
- Theft**
- Ashly Alexandria Lukoszyk, 36, of Astoria, was arrested Monday on Loukas Lane for unlawful use of a motor vehicle, criminal mischief in the second degree, theft in the first degree and criminal trespass.
- DUII**
- Cecelia Stowell Cole, 44, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on state Highway 104 and Whisky Road in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETING

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



An aerial view of Broadway Middle School. Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District is located at top right-center.

Inspection reveals aging at former Seaside middle school

Park district moves through due diligence

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District will ask consultants to review results of a Broadway Middle School inspection report, delivered in advance of the district’s \$2.25 million purchase.

Things are going well as due diligence proceeds, Skyler Archibald, the recreation district’s executive director, said at a board workshop on Monday.

“The majority of the middle school building is in the the condition that you would expect a building of its age and usage to be,” Archibald said.

But, he added, while there are areas in “terrific shape, there are areas throughout the whole school that aren’t in as great a shape as we would like.”

The inspection report details concerns with structural integrity, the roof, heating and ventilation system, he said. The roof has been a constant work in progress with patching and repatching.

“It may not be a concern for right now, but it’s something we should definitely have in our head as far as life cycle and cost,” Archibald said.

Board member Michael Hinton said the roof and the building’s older gym, built in 1949, could become capital projects in the future, suggesting they redo the gym and build a larger one.

With a purchase price of \$2.25 million, the middle school’s 3 acres are zoned residential and 2.4 acres are zoned for commercial use of the 5.4-acre property. The school is vacant after the Seaside School District moved the campus to a new location on Spruce Drive outside the tsunami inundation zone.

Forecasts for the cost of repairs is not included in the inspection report, Archibald said.

Archibald met with construction consultants from the Klash Group after discussion at last week’s board meeting. “They’re really excited about this opportunity,” he said. “This is up their alley.”

The Klash Group served as project manager for the \$15 million Seaside Civic and Convention Center expansion and renovation.

The district did not sign a contract with the Klash Group, Archibald added. “We are looking at working with them to utilize their experience that would be relevant to the property and opportunity ahead,” he said.

In seeking tax-exempt debt financing, the park district is represented by a member of the Special Districts Association of Oregon, Archibald said, with a deadline of Nov. 30 and a purchase possibly complete by

the new year.

The park district has used tax-exempt debt financing in the past to expand the Sunset Pool and acquire park district property.

The park district will assemble an internal management team to discuss what will be the next steps for the facility.

The district plans to take occupancy in January. “Our plan right now is to really use the building for the same purposes that we’re using it currently, which is for youth programming and indoor recreation sports in the gyms,” Archibald said.

Within the next three to six months, the district will transition other programs over there, specifically recreation programs like pottery, art classes and drop-in fitness space. Eventually, the park district could expand fitness facilities, room rentals and more internal programming.

“Overall, I’m feeling really confident,” Archibald said.

State Department of Energy ignoring rules to benefit power plant, critics say

By TED SICKINGER
The Oregonian

Oregon Department of Energy staff are ignoring state administrative rules, requirements laid out in an Energy Facility Siting Council project authorization and facts on the ground to help developers of a proposed natural gas plant in Umatilla County meet a deadline to begin construction.

Meeting that deadline, critics say, would allow developers to avoid millions of dollars in extra carbon emission fees under global warming standards that Gov. Kate Brown strengthened earlier this year.

To meet the regulatory deadline, developers of the proposed Perennial WindChaser plant started clearing land for a road at the site near Hermiston last month. But they did so illegally, without first obtaining a required stormwater erosion permit from the Department of Environmental Quality.

water resources in siting new energy facilities.”

But it’s far from clear that’s taking place for this and other projects, prompting critics to say the agency has gone rogue. They speculate that Perennial is gambling that the cost of any enforcement action by the Department of Environmental Quality would be a tiny fraction of the increase in carbon fees it would owe if forced to seek an extension of its approval by the council.

Perennial officials did not reply to an email requesting comment. Meanwhile, Columbia Riverkeeper, a

ply conditions. It would provide electricity, for instance, when wind farms aren’t generating power.

While they provide operational flexibility, such facilities are less efficient than so-called base load plants because they burn more gas and generate higher emissions relative to their output. The company says the facility would emit nearly 1.1 million tons of carbon dioxide and equivalents annually. That would make the plant one of the largest stationary sources of greenhouse gases in the state, surpassed by only a few other power plants.

as construction conditions in the council’s approval of the project, called a site certificate.

The council originally approved the plant’s site certificate in 2015, and at the company’s request, amended that approval in November 2019 to extend its deadline to start construction — defined as spending \$250,000 on the development — to Sept. 23.

But the council’s final order on the 2019 amendment noted that even if the council amends the site certificate to extend the construction commencement date to Sept. 23, Perennial “would not be able to commence facility construction without a valid DEQ permit.”

Moreover, Oregon Administrative Rules clearly state that certificate holders “may not begin construction ... or create a clearing on any part of the site until the certificate holder has construction rights on all parts of the site.”

The governor’s office told The Oregonian in August that Brown was committed to ensuring the state was doing everything to limit greenhouse emissions. “If we don’t take action now, it is the next generation that will pay the price,” said Nikki Fisher, a spokeswoman for her office.

“That is why Gov. Brown expects all energy facilities in Oregon to strictly adhere to the requirements of state law, including the CO2 standard for new power plants. Our office has asked ODOE to review this issue to ensure that the facility in question meets the conditions of its site certificate.”

Yet staff at the Department of Energy, led by division administrator Todd Cornett, dismissed Columbia Riverkeeper’s concerns. They said the group’s definition of construction rights was overly broad.

‘ODOE NEEDS TO STOP BENDING RULES FOR THIS MAJOR NEW SOURCE OF CLIMATE-ALTERING POLLUTION.’

Erin Saylor | staff attorney for Columbia Riverkeeper

conservation group, has formally threatened to sue the company, a wholly owned unit of Sumitomo Corp., under the federal Clean Water Act.

“We are flabbergasted that, at the invitation of the ODOE, the Perennial fracked gas plant rushed to begin construction without a key stormwater permit, in direct violation of both its site certificate and the Clean Water Act,” said Erin Saylor, staff attorney for Columbia Riverkeeper. “ODOE needs to stop bending rules for this major new source of climate-altering pollution.”

The 415-megwatt Perennial WindChaser gas plant has been on the drawing board for years. It would be a peaking facility, designed to operate a limited number of hours per year to respond to fluctuating demand and sup-

After a Republican walk-out killed climate change legislation this spring, the governor issued an executive order updating state carbon reduction goals and directing state agencies to enact policies to meet them. The energy department subsequently raised the carbon offset fees for large polluters by 50%.

Back in August, conservation groups argued that Perennial couldn’t begin construction because it hadn’t satisfied conditions in the council’s approval. Developers hadn’t completed wildlife and vegetation surveys for the site required by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Moreover, they didn’t have an air quality permit from the Department of Environmental Quality. Both are specifically cited

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

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