

IN BRIEF

Trails End Recovery fined for environmental violations

The state Department of Environmental Quality has fined Trails End Recovery \$89,820 for causing pollution in state waters, failing to implement erosion, sediment and stormwater control plans, reducing water quality to below standards and failing to have proper permits.

Trails End Recovery collects and repurposes construction and landscaping debris and other materials along U.S. Highway 101 Business near Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

Custom Excavating By Dean Larson Inc. does business as Trails End Recovery.

Man arrested after stealing and crashing vehicle in Astoria

A man was arrested Friday afternoon after stealing and crashing a vehicle in Astoria.

Police said Bret Michael Wilson, 35, allegedly stole a vehicle from the Astoria Mini Mart East parking lot. Soon after, police were called to a crash involving the vehicle on Williamsport Road and James Street. Wilson reportedly crashed off an embankment and fled from the scene.

Police located Wilson and he was arrested for unlawful use of a motor vehicle, criminal mischief in the first degree and reckless driving.

The vehicle was totaled.

Man found dead in water near New Youngs Bay Bridge

Authorities found a dead body in the water Friday afternoon near the New Youngs Bay Bridge on the Warrenton side.

Police said the man was seen walking along the causeway before he was found in the water. Traffic on the bridge was delayed while officials investigated and removed the body.

District Attorney Ron Brown said the death is not a homicide.

The man's name and cause of death will be released after his next of kin is notified.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

Oct. 30, 2020

FINCK, Victor, 78, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

JASPER, Billy, 95, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

STEVENS, Chase, 31, of Portland, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom

Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 29, 2020

HOPKINS, Carla, 67, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 25, 2020

PAULSON, Keith, 72, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Criminal trespass

• Joel Seda, 38, was arrested Sunday in Warrenton for criminal trespass in the first degree and offensive littering.

• Dylan Robert Rabell, 26, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday at McDonald's in Astoria for criminal trespass in the second degree.

DUI

• Chase Osborne, 21,

of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on N.W. First Street and N.W. Elm Avenue in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, driving while suspended and driving uninsured.

• Lisa Lyons, 49, of Hammond, was arrested Friday on Pacific Drive in Warrenton for DUI and reckless driving.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

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

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

THURSDAY

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

the Astorian

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HALLOWEEN ON THE COAST



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

TOP: Children rush to search the remains for seeds from the 1,328-pound crushed pumpkin from Pacific Giant Vegetable Growers at the annual pumpkin drop in Seaside on Sunday. **ABOVE:** A spider hangs from the ceiling as actors lurk in the hallway of the Astor Street Opry Company's Haunted Circus on Friday night. The company's actors dressed as clowns, scarecrows and creepy creatures to scare groups who entered their haunted playhouse.

Owner leaves house to his dog

By PATRICK WEBB
For the *Chinook Observer*

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The greatest bond that ever exists is between a man and his dog.

Gordon Weil and "Kari" were inseparable. And before he died in June at the age of 82, Weil made sure that his pet would be looked after.

He set up a trust naming the sheltie as the beneficiary of his Long Beach Peninsula home. And he asked his daughter, Dee Cooper, to administer that obligation.

Cooper recently shared Kari's story on the Long Beach Peninsula Friends of Facebook page. It was published when locals were posting photos of their pooches as an upbeat alternative to everything else going on.

Typical of the punny comments was from Kevin Hogan: "It's a ruff life at the beach!"

Amid all those cute poodles and retrievers, Kari's story stood out.

Christine Noble, Ed Williams and Evelyn Benenati posted comments admiring Kari's tri-color fur — black and white with a hint

of brown. "My dream dog," added Colette Lynn Oberg.

Others put their tongues firmly in cheek to ask curious questions about a dog owning a house.

"How is she able to pay the property tax, utilities, maintenance, etc.?" inquired Marty Wall.

"Or mow the lawn?" teased M.B. Fontana.

Keri Baker Salvner won the Internet, adding, "Plus, someone took these pics — they don't look like selfies."

Cooper was delighted to explain. "I am her caretaker. She tells me what to do constantly," she teased back.

She has known her dad's pet since Kari was a puppy and was quick to reassure locals that the sheltie was well cared for.

The breed — actually a Shetland sheepdog — is described during TV kennel club broadcasts as "affectionate, intelligent and loyal." However, when the traditional herder becomes a family pet, the breed has something of a reputation, leading Cooper to suggest that human owner-companion is a euphemism for "servant."

"She is taken everywhere

and very spoiled and healthy. She has a great life," Cooper said.

Weil was a logger from Montana who retired to the Long Beach Peninsula 22 years ago. His wife, Sylvia, who died seven years ago, was a regular visitor to the senior center with Kari.

Now for most of each week the pet hangs out at Cooper's Longview store, Kitsch on Commerce, then comes home to Long Beach for weekends.

Kari is 12 and suffering from arthritis. Shelties commonly live to about 15. A ramp was built at the house to assist her movements. "She doesn't do stairs," Cooper laughed.

Her chocolate Labrador died recently, so she has been getting the sheltie used to being around her three cats. "She's adjusted well."

Amid discussing the fun elements of her family story, Cooper said that it does raise a serious issue. "People need to really plan for their animals if something happens to them," she said. "My dad absolutely made sure she was cared for."

So, will this huge act of



Gordon Weil and his dog, 'Kari,' were inseparable companions for a dozen years. He set up a trust leaving his home to his dog when he died in June.

kindness set a trend?

Cheri Byam, who joined in the Facebook fun, wonders if it might. "Those are the best dogs ever. My parents have one and I can literally see my dad leaving everything to 'Wendell.'"

State wildfires raise questions of forest management

By TED SICKINGER
The *Oregonian*

From a small airplane flying above the Holiday Farm and Beachie Creek fires, the extent and severity of the devastation look colossal, as if some angry god took a blowtorch to the landscape and didn't stop until it lay in ruin.

Firefighters once called this the asbestos forest. A dense mat of green conifers fed by mineral soils and plentiful rains from clouds scraping over the Cascades, it's a place where fire benignly skunks along the ground, but

rarely jumps into the trees.

Until exactly the right conditions prevail. That's when Oregon's westside forests can burn with savage ferocity and speed, as they did during Labor Day's windstorm.

Now these basins are a tableau of blackened sticks and scorched hillsides. Trees that didn't burn in wind-fed crown fires were roasted from below, leaving smoldering roots, charred bark and brown needles. Patches of green still sit amid the sea of snags, generally along drainages or on the lee side of ridges the fires hopped across. But

this is not the kind of mosaic large wildfires typically leave behind.

"That is an amazing event, absolutely an amazing event," Chris Dunn, a former fire-

fighter who now studies fire at Oregon State University, said from his seat in the Cessna. "Looking around Blue River

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