

IN BRIEF

Gearhart woman dies in crash on Highway 101 south of Warrenton

A Gearhart woman died Thursday afternoon in a two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 101 between Warrenton and Gearhart.

Police say Sandra Harrington, 68, was heading southbound when she crossed into the northbound lane and collided into another vehicle.

Harrington sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead. The driver of the other vehicle had minor injuries.

The highway closed while law enforcement investigated and reconstructed the crash.

Lifeguards rescue girl from sea off Cannon Beach

A girl was taken to the hospital Sunday evening after she was unable to swim back to shore between The Needles and Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach.

Officials say two men had entered the water to try and rescue the girl, but both also ended up needing help getting back to shore.

Cannon Beach lifeguards and the Seaside water rescue team brought all three back to shore.

The girl was treated for hypothermia and taken to the hospital.

Man sentenced to prison for sex crimes

A man was sentenced in April to more than three years in prison for sex crimes against a child.

Nicholas Henry Chavera, 52, pleaded guilty to attempted sexual abuse in the first degree, attempted sodomy in the first degree and attempted rape in the first degree.

The crimes were committed between 2003 and 2009, according to court filings. Chavera was arraigned on the charges in July 2020.

Rainier teenager sentenced to youth correctional facility for manslaughter

A Rainier teenager who drove his vehicle through a crowd of people during a gathering near Nicolai Mountain last July that left one person dead was sentenced to MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Woodburn.

Kyle Snook, 18, was sentenced in May on charges of manslaughter in the first degree, assault in the second degree, four counts of assault in the third degree and driving under the influence of intoxicants. He will be lodged at MacLaren until he is 25 years old.

Three people were seriously injured during the hit-and-run at the Hunt Creek rock pit off of U.S. Highway 30. Robert Betschart, of Rainier, died.

Transit district seeking candidates for board vacancy

The Sunset Empire Transportation District is accepting applications to fill a vacancy on its board.

The position, with a term ending in June 2023, is one of seven seats on the board. Members are elected by voters to serve four-year terms.

Visit the transportation district's website for more information and to apply. Application packets can also be picked up at the Astoria Transit Center on Marine Drive or the Seaside Transit Office on N. Holladay Drive.

Applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. on July 14.

State imposes fishing regulations due to drought

Emergency fishing regulations are in effect across Oregon because of severe drought and the Nehalem River upstream of the Miami-Foley Bridge is now closed to all angling through September.

Elsewhere, fishing for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and trout is closed during the hotter parts of the day, from 2 p.m. until one hour before sunrise, in some streams across the state.

— The Astorian

ON THE RECORD

DUII

• Ricky Clarence Barendse, 49, of Portland, was arrested Wednesday on W. Marine Drive in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

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

Warrenton Marinas Advisory Committee, 2 p.m., 501 N.E. Harbor Place.

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

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

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

SKIMMING ALONG

Brigham Davis leaps on his skimboard at Short Sand Beach on Tuesday.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian



Seaside considers wastewater investment

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — A new, \$3.1 million press and drying system for the city's wastewater treatment plant could increase capacity and lower costs.

The proposal was presented by Dale McDowell, the city's public works director, and Tony Biamont, the treatment plant operator, at Monday's City Council meeting.

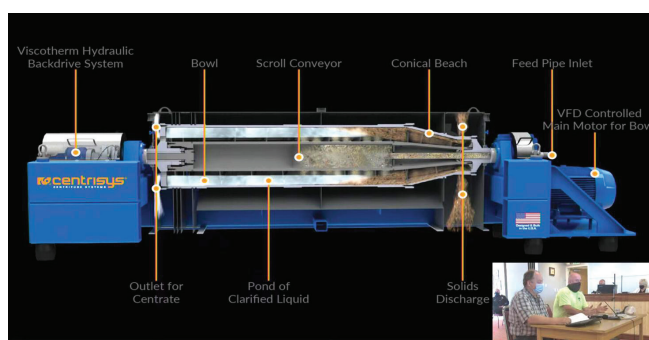
Public works is seeking a better solution for the treatment plant as the drying and processing plant has seen better days, McDowell said.

The proposal he and Biamont presented could also provide U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Class A biosolid product suitable for agriculture purposes, which the city could turn a profit from.

Class A designates dewatered and heated sewage sludge that meets the federal agency's guidelines for land application with no restrictions.

"This stuff is super absorbent of water," Biamont said. "It pulls the water out of the ground. It's far better than we could have ever imagined."

The city's wastewater drying system faces frequent



The City Council has discussed a sludge press and dryer unit designed by Centrisys.

downtime, McDowell said. "The used dryer has worked great for a few years. But we're spending more time working on it, repairing it," he said. "Parts are no longer available and staff are struggling to keep it clean. Now it's time to look beyond this dryer."

The city's Fenton Fenix dryer, purchased in 2012 when it was already 10 years old, could be sold for \$50,000 to \$60,000, because it's very sought after, McDowell added. The dryer may have some parts that are of value to someone that has the same unit.

The system processes 365,000 gallons a week. The proposed Centrisys system does that in three days, Biamont said.

According to product specifications, the unit works

using centrifugal force to push heavier particles through the liquid collected on the inner wall of the bowl. The high-speed rotation of the bowl separates the solid and liquid materials to create biosolids.

Low-temperature drying reduces potential injuries and fire hazards, McDowell said. Parts are readily available from the company, based in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The \$3.1 million cost includes the dryer and centrifuge, Biamont said, with an additional \$300,000 to \$400,000 for construction.

After processing, the sludge can be sold for agricultural purposes. Seaside's biosolids are so rich in nutrients that it would not require watering or nitrogen pellets to produce higher yields.

While the city doesn't

charge for biosolids now, the sewer plant has the potential to create a revenue stream, Biamont said, with customers throughout the region bringing their own sewage to Seaside for processing at a price lower than alternatives for disposal.

The city has not evaluated how the equipment might be paid for, City Manager Mark Winstanley said. Monday's presentation was a prelude to possible action later this year.

"One of the reasons why it's a little bit fluid is because we're in a period where our ability to access funds that we normally would not be able to get is a little bit greater than it has been in the past," Winstanley said. "Certainly, one of the things that we're looking at is the federal government's interest in an infrastructure bill and whether that is a source of funding we would be able to use. I hate to get in front of that bill, but I'd like to be able to see what that looks like."

"Clearly, from my opinion, this is a no-brainer," Mayor Jay Barber said. "It's got to be done. And we want our workers to remain safe on the job and we want to furnish a good product for the agricultural community. ... I think it's got to be done."

Offices close for Independence Day

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In observance of the Fourth of July on Monday, all federal, state, county and city offices and services, including Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach city halls, are closed. All U.S. post offices are closed, and there is no mail delivery.

Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Warrenton/Hammond and Seaside (including Cannon Beach and Gearhart) school district schools are closed. Clatsop Community College is open.

The Astoria Library, Seaside Library and Warrenton Library are closed.

The Port of Astoria offices and services are closed.

Garbage collection through Recology Western Oregon and the city of

Warrenton garbage collection are not affected by the holiday. Recology Western Oregon's transfer station is open until 2 p.m.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Astoria Aquatic Center is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum, Oregon Film Museum and Flavel House are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Carriage House is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Uppertown Firefighters' Museum is closed.

Lil' Sprouts is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fort Clatsop is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Columbia River Maritime Museum is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Seaside Museum is closed.

Sunset Empire Transportation ("The Bus") is running.

Events mark the Fourth of July

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Great Puffin Watch (part of Cannon Beach's Fireworks-Free Fourth of July): 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at Haystack Rock.

Ocean Park Fourth of July photos: Saturday and Sunday throughout Ocean Park, Washington.

Firecracker 5K Walk/Run: 9 a.m. Saturday at the Port of Ilwaco (race-day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and costs \$35 per person ages 15 and older).

Port of Ilwaco "Feel the Thunder" fireworks show: Starts at dusk on Saturday at the Port of Ilwaco.

Gearhart Fourth of July parade: 11 a.m. Sunday along Marion Way to Pacific Way.

F-15 Eagle flyover: 11:15 a.m. Sunday over Warrenton.

Live music and food trucks at The SEA Crab House:

Noon to 10 p.m. Sunday at Pier 12 in Astoria.

Live music, ax throwing and games at the Seaside Outlets: Noon to 6 p.m. Sunday in the outlets parking lot.

Warrenton Fourth of July parade: 3 p.m. Sunday along Main Avenue to the U.S. Post Office off Ninth Street.

Fort George Brewery party featuring live music by The Hackles, Bart Budwig and The Sam Stoners: 5 to 10 p.m. Sunday at the Astoria Riverwalk.

Fourth of July Astoria fireworks: 10 p.m. Sunday at the Astoria Riverwalk.

Grassroots Garbage Gang cleanup: 9:30 a.m. Monday at Long Beach, Washington, beach approaches.

15th annual Treasure the Beach Seaside Cleanup: 8 to 11 a.m. Monday at the Seaside turnarounds off the Promenade at 12th Avenue and Avenue U.

the Astorian

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