

IN BRIEF

Fire destroys utility shed at Seaside Golf Course

SEASIDE — A fire Tuesday afternoon at the Seaside Golf Course destroyed a utility shed and vehicle.

No one was hurt in the blaze, Seaside Fire Chief Joey Daniels said. The fire likely started in the shed, where fuel for the golf course is stored.

A GMC pickup truck and equipment inside and outside the shed suffered extensive damage. A house next to the shed sustained minor damage.

"Immediately there was a huge puff of black smoke," Mayor Jay Barber said.

The mayor, who lives across from the golf course, described a series of booms coming from the golf storage area. "I thought, man, somebody has set off a bomb," he said. "It was loud and you could almost feel the compression of it."

Firefighters from around Clatsop County responded to the scene.

"It could have been a lot worse because we had a lot of fuel and pesticides here when we first got here," Daniels said.

Astoria man arrested after chase

An Astoria man led law enforcement on a chase Tuesday night on U.S. Highway 101 through Seaside and Gearhart.

Oregon State Police arrested James Robert Neikes, 29, after the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office threw down spike strips.

Neikes was charged with driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, reckless endangerment and attempting to elude law enforcement.

Vancouver man arrested after Warrenton burglary

WARRENTON — Police on Wednesday arrested a Vancouver, Washington, man, who, with another suspect, was seen burglarizing L&D Race Tech on Marlin Avenue.

Witnesses saw the suspects hauling items into a white van, later discovered to be stolen from Ilwaco, Washington. Police arrived and followed the vehicle, which went into a drainage ditch near Fast Lube & Oil. The driver, Denis Yurencov, 31, was apprehended.

Yurencov, who also had felony warrants in Washington state and Montana, was charged with multiple counts of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, burglary, theft, possession of stolen property and eluding law enforcement.

After the crash, another suspect took off on a stolen motorcycle, which was later recovered and returned to L&D Race Tech. Police returned three other motorcycles stolen from L&D Race Tech. Police describe the missing suspect as a white adult male with a dark hoodie, black shorts, gray shoes, red gloves, blue face mask and black ball cap.

Vehicle break-ins reported in Warrenton

WARRENTON — A series of vehicle break-ins took place on Tuesday morning.

According to police, one occurred at about 4:45 a.m. at Pacific Rim Apartments on Snowberry Lane. Surveillance footage captured a Honda CR-V roll into the parking lot. Suspects then broke into vehicles. In addition, a Toyota pickup in the lot — stolen that morning from Rod's Auto & Marine — was found damaged and burgled.

Around the same time the Toyota was stolen, another vehicle break-in occurred at TJ's Auto Repair, police believe.

A male suspect used a stolen debit card at Fred Meyer. He was wearing a mask and could not be identified.

— *The Astorian*

MEMORIALS

Friday, July 23

KOSKELA, Lempi Katri — Celebration of life at 3 p.m., Peace First Lutheran Church social room, downtown campus, 564 12th St. All are welcome.

Sunday, July 25

HERNANDEZ, Linda Marie — Celebration of life and potluck at 1 p.m., Cullaby Lake north shelter, at the end of Hawkins Road, off Cullaby Lake Lane, in Warrenton. Those attending should not feel obligated to bring anything but memories.

ON THE RECORD

Criminal trespassing

• Sheena Dawn Pitcher, 37, of Dayton, was arrested at Alameda Park on Sunday for criminal trespassing.

DUII

• Todd Michael-Kee Schooler, 47, of Astoria, was arrested Friday on Marine Drive and Franklin Avenue for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce Council, noon, (electronic meeting).

Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower Ave.

the Astorian

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ALBACORE LAND

Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Ilwaco Landing's Jake Martin offloaded tuna from the F/V Lady Sheya on Saturday. The commercial albacore tuna season has opened off the coast.

A vision for the Sunset Recreation Center

Advisory group hears from stakeholders

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — The team that will help set the Sunset Recreation Center's course convened last week with the goal to establish a clear vision and key objectives for the project.

Evan Eleff, a partner at Sports Facilities Advisory, a Clearwater, Florida-based company, came to Seaside with Suzanne Fisher Reeder, a financial consultant, and architect Scott Edwards.

"This is really one of the most important meetings that will happen," Eleff said in a planning session at the recreation center. "Our goal for this planning session is to really define the parameters of the project, make sure that we're all moving in the same direction, understanding your roles."

Sports Facilities Advisory and Scott Edwards Architecture, a Portland-based architectural firm, were chosen based on firm size and structure, project understanding, firm experience, work plan, proposed staff and fee proposal.

"Our goal is to have as



Evan Eleff, of Sports Facility Advisory, leads a session with community leaders at the Sunset Recreation Center.

much interaction as possible," Eleff said. "And the best thing for us would be to have constructive differences of opinion. What we really hope is to get a 360-degree perspective of the opportunities and challenges relating to this project."

The consultants will be working from a 20-week timeline, from the project kickoff to the final report.

The park district purchased the former Broadway Middle School for \$2.15 million in January. The school, along with Gearhart Elementary and Seaside High School, was among Seaside School District properties relocated to the new Spruce Drive location outside of the tsunami inundation zone.

Since the purchase, the park district has hosted the

Pacific Basketball League, child care programs and leased a portion of the space to the Northwest Regional Education Service District, which moves in in early August.

"In a design sense, the flexibility component is more critical than trying to define what could happen in the space," Cannon Beach Mayor Sam Steidel said.

Although Cannon Beach residents are not members of the park district, many use the Sunset Pool, and he envisioned future partnership opportunities.

He asked the planners to "leave themselves as open as possible" to potential building uses using a phased approach to determining community needs.

In talking to community

stakeholders, Monica Steele, the assistant Clatsop County manager, said "the topic that comes up every time is child care."

Steele asked the advisory group to consider the building for child care or a "place to get them out of the house," particularly at the age where children are vulnerable to depression and self-harm.

Eleff said child care was a likely phase one goal. "It would be shocking to me if we don't come back with that as a key component," he said. "It's a primary need. And it's probably the fastest way to use this building effectively."

The recreation center's future is "exactly our mission" of improving the health and economic vitality of communities through sports, recreation and wellness, he said.

"We want to understand first what you want to do, and what the opportunity is," Eleff said. "Second, how that can and should work from an operational perspective on the financial feasibility of covering the cost of operating and whatever else there needs to be."

"It's meant to really lay the groundwork and set the foundation," he added. "We don't want to produce a study — we want to produce a path forward."

New camp director sees opportunity in Seaside

Reding used to lead Lil' Sprouts

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For The Astorian

SEASIDE — Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District's summer camp program is back in session under the direction of new youth programs coordinator Erin Reding.

Reding joined the park district in June, in time to open the nine-week summer camp program that started in late June and runs through late August.

"I didn't have any major overarching goals coming in," she said. "My goals are getting to know staff, getting to know how things have functioned in the past, and exploring how we can improve and make them better."

She was drawn to the position — previously held by Shelly Owen — because of her passion for early childhood education and the community.

Reding was born and raised in Seaside, and she recalls learning to swim at the Sunset Pool and attending middle school in the building that now houses the Sunset Recreation Center. After graduating high school, she went to Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, to get her teaching degree.

A few years later, she moved back to the area, tak-



Katherine Lacaze

Erin Reding is the new youth programs coordinator for the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District.

ing up a position with the Boys & Girls Club of the Long Beach Peninsula and then transitioning to her most recent job running the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department's Lil' Sprouts Academy. When the youth programs coordinator position opened, she saw an opportunity to work closer to home, as her family lives in Seaside.

"I really want to be a part of the community where my kids will be growing up," she said. "It was a good fit in that respect."

Her new job involves running the summer camp, preschool and after-school programs, which is similar to what she's done in the past and the type of labor she finds rewarding.

"Regardless of the age group you're working with, you're doing important work," she said.

While child care is a crit-

week, Reding said.

Each week has a different theme, such as Dinosaurs and Dragons, Under the Sea, Bubbles! and Olympics, that guides the activities and daily routines. Campers also get to use the pool weekly, and lunch and snacks are provided.

"With summer camp, it's fun to make it a little bit different than the normal after-school program or the normal preschool program, and I think our themes help with that," Reding said.

Even though summer camp is more focused on fun, however, doesn't mean there's not an underlying educational component, as well.

"When things are done right, kids are having fun but they're actually learning quite a bit at the same time," Reding said. "It just doesn't feel like school."

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, the park district has additional ability to provide a more laid-back environment. According to Reding, they are still contact tracing and doing daily health screenings. Parents and guardians are dropping off at the door, rather than entering the building. Mask-wearing has become optional.

"It's exciting and scary at the same time, when you think about restrictions being lifted," Reding said. "We just hope we don't have to go through another shutdown kind of thing."