

IN BRIEF

Task force, think tank aim to address homelessness in Seaside

SEASIDE — At a listening session in July, city councilors vowed action on homelessness.

At last week's City Council meeting, they took the first steps, with the announcement of a homelessness task force to be led by City Councilor Steve Wright and a homelessness think tank overseen by City Councilor Tita Montero.

Wright anticipated meeting with the task force once a month, "with a lot of study and hard work involved."

"One of the things I talked about towards the end, is we've gathered the information," Montero said. "Now we need to start formulating what we can do and a way to do that is through possibly brainstorming."

"I'm calling mine a think tank, so that we can pull together a variety of ideas and strategies coming from things that we've learned and looking at how can we do things, what can we do and how can we fund them."

— *The Astorian*

Ill-fated tuna boat sinks offshore

Two years after a protracted ocean rescue, the tuna boat Ruby Lily went down about 132 miles off Grays Harbor, Washington, over the weekend, leading to another complex rescue.

The owner of the boat, who was in a life raft, reportedly refused assistance from a good Samaritan vessel and later insisted to the U.S. Coast Guard that he be rescued by a vessel rather than hoisted into a helicopter.

The man was reportedly in stable condition after being recovered.

In July 2019, Coast Guard crew aboard three separate vessels towed the 50-foot Ruby Lily for 116 miles over four days into Yaquina Bay after it reported a stuck rudder.

— *Chinook Observer*

PG&E will face criminal charges over deadly California fire

Pacific Gas & Electric will face criminal charges because its equipment sparked a wildfire last year that killed four people and destroyed hundreds of homes, a Northern California prosecutor announced.

It would be the latest action against the nation's largest utility, which was forced into bankruptcy over devastating wildfires ignited by its long-neglected electrical grid.

Shasta County District Attorney Stephanie Bridgett announced on Facebook on Thursday that her office had determined that PG&E was criminally liable for the Zogg fire.

PG&E said the loss of life and devastation from the fire was "heartbreaking" but that the utility does not agree with the district attorney's conclusion.

— *Associated Press*

DEATHS

July 30, 2021

HOWELL, Morgan Nicholas, 44, of Seaside, died in Portland. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the

arrangements.

SHOOP, Allen Carl, 73, of Warrenton, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIALS

Saturday, Aug. 7

CAMERON, Charles "Chuck" — Celebration of life from 1 to 3 p.m. for friends and family, Ocean Beach Christian Fellowship, 1311 37th Place in Seaview, Washington.

RHOADS, David

Allen — Service at 1 p.m., Cranberry Museum & Gift Shop, 2907 Pioneer Road in Long Beach, Washington. Lunch will be served after the service.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

Bradley Scott Minder, 42, of Astoria, was arrested Sunday afternoon at Ninth Street and the Astoria Riverwalk for assault in the fourth degree and crim-

inal mischief in second degree.

Theft

Samuelu Tuimato, 22, of Astoria, was arrested Friday morning at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the third degree.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

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

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

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.

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

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

Astoria Library Board, 5:30 p.m., Flag Room, 450 10th St.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

the Astorian

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DIAPER DERBY



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Anthony Allen got a quick start in the Diaper Derby at the Clatsop County Fair on Friday, leaving all his competitors in the dust and winning the contest.

State dollars roll in for Ilwaco projects

By BRANDON CLINE

Chinook Observer

ILWACO, Wash. — The state dollars just keep on rolling in for the city and port of Ilwaco.

July saw a pair of projects for both the port and city receive state funds via grants and low-interest loans, including a port project that officials say is key for the community's economic interests.

The state Department of Commerce announced that the Port of Ilwaco was awarded a \$112,500 grant and \$637,500 loan from the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board for the port's bulkhead replacement project.

The project is a public-private partnership between the port and Safe Coast Seafoods.

Guy Glenn Jr., the port manager, said these state dollars will be used to provide matching funds for a federal port infrastructure development grant the port is applying for through the U.S. Maritime Administration.

The port's timber pile bulkhead has been in place for more than 50 years and is considered to be in serious condition by engineers, Glenn Jr. said. Bulkheads are used to retain fill and prevent the sliding of land at the transition between land and sea. The port has been pursuing funding to replace the bulkhead through the Federal Emergency Management Agency since 2017, he said, to no avail.



Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

New funding and private investment by Safe Coast Seafoods will permit replacement of the aging bulkhead that protects vital working areas at the Port of Ilwaco.

Safe Coast Seafoods is investing \$2.4 million in the project, and the company expects to create and retain up to 90 jobs at their facility. Along with directly benefiting Safe Coast Seafoods, Glenn Jr. said the project will drive private-sector investment in the community and bolster efforts to retain private-sector jobs, "all related to seafood processing, commercial fishing and their support industries."

The project has indirect benefits to the port and businesses located at the port, Glenn Jr. said, including charter fishing businesses. The tonnage and ex-vessel value of commercial seafood landed at the port's commercial seafood businesses are required metrics when competing for federal funding to maintain the port's entrance channels. The port has received about \$11.8 million in federal dollars for annual dredging operations since 2014.

"It is imperative for us

to support commercial fishing and seafood processing businesses operating in the port for continued federal investment in maintaining our entrance channel, directly benefiting all of our recreational users and charter fishing businesses," Glenn Jr. said. "This project comprehensively supports all of our port businesses, in addition to maintaining our popular working waterfront and coastal heritage enjoyed by thousands of visitors traveling to the peninsula annually."

Glenn Jr. said the port will pursue other funding options if the quest for the MARAD grant is unsuccessful.

The city also secured state dollars in July, receiving \$190,933 in grant funds from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to help with the continued renovation and improvements at the Ilwaco City Park.

The project covers phase II of improvements at the

park, and focuses on renovating the baseball field and basketball court. Phase I of the project was completed via a 2014 local parks grant, and improvements included a new restroom, picnic shelter and playground.

Baseball field improvements will include new dugouts, bleachers, infield surfacing, the addition of a batting cage, new fencing for safety and the installation of a storage structure. The basketball court will be resurfaced, receive new hoops and new lighting, which the city said will enhance the safety of the facility.

"The overall goal of this project is to provide an underserved community with additional competitive youth recreational opportunities," the city said in its funding application. "This project is important to the community because the City Park is the only park of its type on the south end of the Long Beach Peninsula. The park provides accessible recreation opportunities to youth pursuing competitive sports."

The city is also providing \$49,305 in matching funds, including \$26,305 in donated labor, \$11,000 in donated materials, \$10,000 in cash and a \$2,000 donation from The Chapman Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

The project is not expected to go out for bids until 2022, and construction may not be completed until later that year or 2023, but no firm timeline has been established yet.

Hundreds of lightning bolts start new fires

By ANDREW SELSKY

Associated Press

Lightning bolts struck the parched forests of southern Oregon hundreds of times in 24 hours, igniting some 50 new wildfires even as the nation's largest wildfire continued to burn less than 100 miles away, officials said on Monday.

State, federal and contracted firefighters, augmented by helicopters and planes dropping fire retardant, pounced on the new wildfires in national forests in southwest Oregon before they could spread out of control. The largest one was estimated at up to 5 acres.

Thunderstorms unleashed some 700 lightning bolts that hit the ground and also brought rain to some places, but left others dry while triggering multiple fires, said Marguerite Hickman, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Forest Service.



U.S. Forest Service

Critically dry conditions make forest fuels, like large logs, available to be consumed by fire.

Firefighters and support personnel worked through the night to locate and extinguish fires.

"After a storm like this, it's important to quickly and efficiently suppress these fires when they're small, not only to protect our communities, but to free up firefighting resources to provide aggressive initial attack on the next fire," said Dan Qui-

nonnes, fire staff officer for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

The Oregon Department of Forestry estimated the number of new fires at 50. No towns or homes were immediately threatened.

The Bootleg fire, at 647 square miles the nation's largest, was 84% contained Monday, though it isn't expected to be fully contained until October. Such megafires don't usually burn out until late fall or early winter when moisture increases and temperature decreases.

Firefighters driving bulldozers straightened the rag-

ged edge of a fire line that had been gouged out by firefighters to keep the Bootleg fire from spreading further east, the firefighting command center said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Monday that Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will travel to Oregon and attend a briefing Tuesday with Gov. Kate Brown on wildfire response, prevention and preparedness efforts.

Vilsack is co-chair of the Biden Administration's Wildfire Resilience Interagency Working Group and Interagency Drought Relief Working Group.

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