

IN BRIEF

Nehalem woman killed in crash on Highway 26

A Nehalem woman was killed Friday morning in a two-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 26.

Leah Brown, 30, was driving a 1998 Ford Explorer westbound near milepost 11 at about 7:20 a.m. when the vehicle crossed the centerline and struck a semitruck, according to Oregon State Police.

Brown was pronounced dead at the scene, police said. The highway was closed for four hours after the crash.

Public invited to review tsunami evacuation plan

An online open house and survey allows people to suggest changes to Clatsop County's Tsunami Evacuation Facilities Improvement Plan.

The plan will consider existing routes — for walking and biking trails, for example — and look to improve tsunami evacuation facilities along them while dovetailing with the county's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

To view online, go to: storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/90bd871c0b984496902d0339247565e2

Coast Guard rescues hiker at Olympic National Park

A 26-year-old hiker who had gone missing for several days was rescued in Olympic National Park on Sunday.

The hiker had become stranded in a steep ravine in the park's southeast region, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

After a park search-and-rescue team found the hiker on Sunday afternoon, the Coast Guard Air Station Port Angeles sent a rescue helicopter. As backup, Air Station Astoria sent an additional aircrew that eventually lifted the hiker out of the chasm.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

Sept. 18, 2021
DOWTY, Joan D., 84, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

GODDARD, Susan Colleen, 62, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

Sept. 17, 2021
BROWN, Leah Marie, 30, of Nehalem, died near Seaside. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Sept. 13, 2021
DEMPSEY, Douglas, 56, of Seaside, died in

Tualatin. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

KOCH, James, 75, of Seaside, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

SMITH, Elizabeth, 94, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Sept. 12, 2021
NIELSEN, Emma, 99, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

HARRISON, Billy, 73, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault
• Johnnie Rae Cotton, 45, of Warrenton, was arrested Friday on N.W. Warrenton Drive for assault in the fourth degree constituting domestic abuse.

Theft
• Phillip Arthur Schulte, 45, of Warrenton, was arrested Sunday at Walmart for theft in the second degree, giving

false information to a police officer and criminal mischief in the third degree.

DUI
• Vincent Ole Rulien, Jr., 59, of Redmond, was arrested Sunday on U.S. Highway 26 near milepost 21 for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and driving without a valid license.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

WEDNESDAY

Astoria Parks Board, 6:45 a.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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

Knappa School District Board, 6:30 p.m., (electronic meeting).

THURSDAY

Sunset Empire Transportation District Board, 9 a.m., (electronic meeting).

Cannon Beach Planning Commission, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

the Astorian

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:
800-781-3214

Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP

All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Astorian become the property of The Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©

Entire contents © Copyright, 2021 by The Astorian.



Printed on recycled paper

Subscription rates
Effective January 12, 2021

MAIL

EZpay (per month).....\$10.75
13 weeks in advance.....\$37.00
26 weeks in advance.....\$71.00
52 weeks in advance.....\$135.00

DIGITAL

EZpay (per month).....\$8.25



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Veterans gathered Saturday to dedicate a Vietnam War memorial in Seaside.

Memorial: 'The percentage of kids that went over there was huge'

Continued from Page A1

Many of us are close friends 70 years later.

"When the war in Vietnam got really intense the guys were being drafted or they enlisted in various branches of the service. Out of 54 boys in my class, 17 of them were sent to Vietnam. The war was very unpopular, but they did their duty and came back to a hostile country where they were blamed and shamed. They've come through it and they deserve the respect and gratitude they needed. This is what we've given them through the memorial."

Kent Pollock, who came from Phoenix, Arizona, for the dedication, said he was amazed at how many of his classmates are remembered on the wall, including his brother, Craig Pollock, Class of 1965.

In 2016, Hansen teamed with Jennings, Crayton Morris, John Alto and others to launch a fundraising effort and make sure each of Seaside's

Vietnam veterans received recognition. They painstakingly sought out all those who had attended the high school who had served in the war.

Seltzer Park, on the east side of Sunset Boulevard in the Cove, was chosen as the memorial site for its historical connection to the community, view of the beach and accessibility to visitors. The City Council gave its blessing to the project.

The city's Public Works Department cleared, excavated and installed the monument in March 2020. They later added sidewalks, landscaping and wheelchair accessibility.

Designer Tony Goiburn, of OM Stone, created the monument using laser sketching and weather-coated the granite before installation.

"I've done big giant ones and really tiny tree memorials," Goiburn said at the dedication. "And they all mean something to me. This was a very wonderful project because not only those names

— and we went through the list of names a million times — but their stories came out."

Karl Marlantes, the Seaside High School grad who went on to write about his decorated war service in "Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War," described the city in the '60s.

"When we grew up, everybody talked about their fathers and their uncles being in the service," Marlantes said. "We call it the military today, but we saw it as the service. You felt like you were part of the republic. And just like you have to pay taxes to make the roads work, sometimes you have to serve to keep the republic safe. And that's what we felt."

Seaside's high participation in the war was "unique to this little town," he said. "The percentage of kids that went over there was huge. There's five or six dead from this tiny little city, which is really unusual."

Marlantes was awarded a

Bronze Star, two Navy Commendation Medals for valor, two Purple Hearts and 10 air medals. He also writes candidly about his struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"You heard people say, 'Oh, gosh, you're a Vietnam veteran, welcome home,'" Marlantes said. "And quite frankly, it sounded a little hollow to me sometimes. It's a little bit lame, you know. I came home, as all of you did, and it wasn't a very good welcome."

In Seaside, it was different.

"There was this feeling that we were always part of this community and always welcome," Marlantes said. "The girls and the women were always there for us and our friends were always there for us. And that's what this is all about. Our friends, our neighbors, our classmates who we went to school with. They were always there for us. And now this is a monument to that solidarity and that love and that friendship."

Hotels: Visitor numbers remain strong

Continued from Page A1

City staff will review plans, but the plans do not need to be vetted by city boards in public hearings.

Bensel is courting the global hotel and hostel company Selina to manage the property once the medical building is remodeled. Selina took over management of the Commodore Hotel on 14th Street after developer Joe Barnes purchased the building that houses the hotel and Street 14 Cafe in 2019.

The biggest challenges the 15th street hotel project faces is finding enough parking spaces to meet city requirements and fitting in a trash enclosure. All surmountable, Bensel said.

Home2 Suites

Meanwhile, plans for a much larger hotel on the South Slope are still progressing despite no physical changes at the building site itself yet.

Astoria Hotel Investors, a Kansas City, Missouri-based development group, plans to build a four-story, 90-room Hilton-brand hotel at the site of the former Bayside Sentry Market. Discussions about building a hotel on the property have been ongoing since 2018, but developer John Ferguson, a partner with Astoria Hotel Investors, has given several different hoped-for starting dates over the years.

One cause for the delay is that developers are considering shifting from a wooden framework to steel. They are concerned about both the cost of timber and ongoing supply chain issues tied to the pandemic, Ferguson said.

The city is also requiring Astoria Hotel Invest-

BUSINESS HAS BEEN BRISK FOR MANY CONTRACTORS, AS WELL. WHEN THOSE CONTRACTORS COME FROM OUT OF THE AREA FOR A JOB, THEY OFTEN NEED HOTEL ROOMS. BENSEL RECENTLY HAD A CREW OUT FOR PAINTING WORK. THERE WERE NO HOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR THEM.

tors to upgrade a waterline to the site to meet fire code requirements for lodging businesses, negotiations that have slowed progress on the project.

There have been several waterline upgrade requirements put on other hotels in Astoria recently, including the Bowline, a boutique hotel in a repurposed seafood processing plant along the Columbia River, according to city engineer Nathan Crater. That hotel, which opened this summer, was one of the few hotel proposals in Astoria in recent years not to experience major pushback from residents who feel the city has enough hotels.

"We would definitely like to get started ASAP," Ferguson said. "It's in our best interest to get started. ... Please be assured we are definitely moving forward on this thing."

As it is designed now, the Home2 Suites hotel will be built on the land, but the developers also own acreage that extends out into Youngs Bay. At the start of the project, they said they did not have an interest in building over the water.

"If the market were to get better, we obviously have

that 11 acres out in the bay," Ferguson told The Astorian. "That's always something we could look at for sure, but it would be later on."

Fairfield Inn

Next to the Astoria Riverwalk on the other side of the hill, the former Ship Inn restaurant still stands and the Fairfield Inn and Suites remains an architectural rendering rather than a reality.

Hollander Hospitality had oral arguments in front of the state Land Use Board of Appeals earlier this month after the city denied a one-year permit extension.

When it was first proposed, the Fairfield project prompted fierce public backlash and renewed interest in developing stricter city code amendments to guide how waterfront properties are developed.

After numerous contentious public hearings throughout 2018, a major plan revision and an appeal to the City Council, developer Mark Hollander received approval for the project at the end of 2018. Then the property sat.

In 2020, Hollander applied for a one-year permit extension. He argued that the

pandemic made it impossible to get necessary financing to begin work on the hotel. His appeal was shot down. He appealed to the state, which sent the matter back the city. When Hollander applied for an extension again this year, he was denied again.

The City Council said Hollander was using the coronavirus pandemic as an excuse and had simply dragged his feet on the project. Hollander appealed the matter to the state. The hotelier has argued the city is not able to pass judgment on any motives for asking for the extension.

Hollander declined to comment on the appeal or any plans he might have for land near the Astoria Bridge that he leases from the Port of Astoria, land where he could build another large hotel.

The Home2 Suites and 15th Street hotel projects are in motion as visitor numbers remain strong despite the pandemic and, in many cases, because of it.

Hotels, which suffered early in 2020 amid local shutdowns and statewide restrictions, have seen visitors return. On posts to rental groups on Facebook, people reported trouble finding a room for the night as they passed through Astoria. State campsites were booked and beaches were busy.

It hasn't just been tourists in need of a place to stay, Bensel said.

Business has been brisk for many contractors, as well. When those contractors come from out of the area for a job, they often need hotel rooms. Bensel recently had a crew out for painting work. There were no hotel rooms available for them.