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Land trust transfers land to college

An outdoor classroom for students to study

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

After several years of project development, Columbia Land Trust acquired and transferred most of the land on South Tongue Point to Clatsop Community College.

The 82 acres is adjacent to the college's Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station campus and will serve the dual purpose of preserving habitat for salmon and other wildlife while also being an outdoor classroom for students.

"We are very excited that Clatsop Community College students will have the opportunity to get real-world experience in environmental science and we look forward to being good stewards of this critical habitat," Chris Breitmeyer, the college president, said in a statement. "Students will be able to use the space to collect data, do hands-on research projects, and gain knowledge and skills necessary to work in a variety of fields."

The land trust is partnering with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce to oversee the restoration of habitat, much of which has historically been a spot for dredge spoil deposits.

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Judge denies Gearhart firehouse ballot challenge

Bond measure could return in the spring

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

A Circuit Court judge has denied a challenge by Gearhart residents to the ballot title for a \$13 million firehouse bond.

Jack Zimmerman and Harold Gable had claimed the ballot title and text were insufficient and vague and did not reflect the final costs for a new firehouse off Highlands Lane.

"I cannot find that the ballot title as written is insufficient, not concise or unfair," Judge Beau Peterson ruled on Thursday. "The petitioner's request to have the court edit the ballot title is denied."

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Photos by Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Brenda Hoxsey shows a picture of one of the houses Spruce Up Warrenton wants to fix up while Norm Hoxsey looks on.

Spruce Up Warrenton helps clean up nuisance properties

Couple formed the nonprofit to help improve the city

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

WARRENTON — Norm and Brenda Hoxsey went before the City Commission several years ago to complain about some rough looking and potentially unsafe properties near their home.

The city encouraged the couple to see if they could solve some of the cleanup on their own.

The challenge was accepted and Spruce Up Warrenton — a nonprofit started by the Hoxseys that seeks to beautify the city — was born.

The city, with the nonprofit's help, has repaired and cleaned up a number of nuisance properties since that first exchange. After taking a break due to the coronavirus pandemic and several changes within the city's planning department, nuisance properties are once again becoming a focus.

"Since (that meeting), we've cleaned up a lot of properties with the assistance of the city, or the city has cleaned up a lot of properties with our assistance, however you want to put it," Norm Hoxsey said. "But what our mission is, is to get a cleaned-up town ... and we've gone to meetings trying to generate these types of cleanups."

'This is a danger'

The Hoxseys returned before the City Commission in late September



Plants are seen growing inside a house on S. Main Avenue.

with several properties they would like to see cleaned up.

Among the properties Hoxsey mentioned was a structure on S. Main Avenue and Ninth Street. While vacant, it is filled with old collectibles and has a failing roof.

"This is a danger. This is a disaster," Hoxsey told commissioners. "This needs to be knocked down, and not just the one portion of it, the whole works. If there is anything of value in it, which I doubt there is, I think it should be cleaned up, taken out and let's get rid of it. Driving through town, it's a mess, just a total mess."

Also high on the list were a worn-down warehouse on S. Main Avenue and a trifacta in Hammond: the old post office, a house and a shop formerly known as Rosalie's, which is surrounded by large, metal storage containers.

"Like (Norm) said, the properties have been like this for quite a while," Commissioner Gerald Poe said. "They do stand out."

During the meeting, several commissioners mentioned other properties — both commercial and residential — that needed work. Between commissioners, opinions varied on which properties were salvageable and which needed more extensive repair, but they all agreed it has become a serious issue for the city.

"There isn't a crime in being poor, but there is a crime in being lazy, especially if you are on Main Street, in my opinion," Commissioner Mark Baldwin said. "I am busy, busy, busy — but I still do the best I can with my property."

City Manager Linda Engbretson

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R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Fred Causer, a Seaside resident, is an administrator for the Clatsop County Scanner Group Uncensored Facebook page.

On a scanner page, a close watch over crime

Causer helps monitor emergency dispatches

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — If someone calls 911, chances are Fred Causer knows about it.

Causer is one of the administrators of Clatsop County Scanner Group Uncensored, a Facebook page that shares raw information broadcast by emergency dispatchers.

The group, which has more than 13,000 members, posts items on everything from car crashes and missing persons to noise complaints and cows in the road.

Growing up, Causer remembers his grandmother monitoring a police scanner in the house.



"I said, 'Grandma, why are you listening to that? What is it? What do you get out of that?' And she said, 'Information. I get to know who the characters are and what's going on around me.'"

Causer grew up and has lived in Seaside most of his life. He and his wife, Jennifer, who also serves as a scanner page administrator, have known each other from childhood. The couple returned to Seaside to take care of his ailing mother, Carol Ann, who died in 2016.

Jennifer Causer is program man-

ager at a group home that takes care of disabled people. They both volunteer for the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, doing bird transports with occasional rescues and recoveries. They have three children. Fred Causer also has twins from a previous marriage.

Causer connected with the Clatsop County Scanner Group Uncensored page on Facebook. He saw it as a way to bring scanner listeners together. "We could share it around and get the same information to everybody in hopes of trying to make a better community," he said.

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