



INSIDE

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SEASIDE

Frustration builds over homeless campsite

Residents petition the city to remove RVs and cars

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Residents who live near a homeless camp off Necanicum Drive came to the City Council last week with an urgent plea.

“City Council has offered greater protection to the homeless individuals than to the residents, business owners and homeowners that live here in Seaside,” said Roxanne Veazey, who presented a petition from dozens of residents asking the city to remove the camp.

Veazey voiced concerns about the city allowing the homeless on beaches, at restrooms, under bridges, in the woods and panhandling at markets downtown. “Most residents thought that the situation would be resolved,” she said. “But in six months, all we have accomplished is meetings for the sake of meetings.”

Veazey and others want the city to prohibit overnight camping in the lot off Necanicum.

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City water transmission line repaired

Some residents still advised to boil water

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Astoria repaired a broken waterline over the weekend, but several outlying water districts are still under boil water notices.

The Willowdale Water District and the John Day Water District are waiting on test results, but expect to continue under boil water notices through Tuesday afternoon. The Fernhill Water District and the Olney-Walluski Water Association could not be reached for information.

City staff on Friday reported a break at the transmission pipe that delivers water to Astoria and other water districts from the Bear Creek watershed. The break was the result of a minor joint failure and heavily saturated soil following days of heavy rain and stormy weather.

People and businesses were asked to conserve water since it was possible the break could take several days to repair. The city had an estimated five days worth of water stored in reservoirs. Crews ended up fixing the problem in 24 hours, however.

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Photos by Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Stanley and Rebecca Roberts are in a dispute with the city over a beach house off Hemlock Street.

Appeal reveals clash in Cannon Beach over oceanfront development

A proposed beach house has drawn statewide concern

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — City Councilor Mike Benefield had just hit a metaphorical wall.

Why, he wondered aloud at a meeting in early November, was the City Council even looking at an easement request from Stanley and Rebecca Roberts?

The couple wanted to use an undeveloped public right of way to access their property. The private drive they proposed was a far cry from the access they had previously suggested — a raised, curving road that looked

more like a highway overpass than a driveway. But the request arrived as the couple continued to fight the city in front of the Oregon Court of Appeals over a beach house they want to build.

The access, city councilors noted, is for a house that has not met city standards and that doesn't yet exist.

The City Council will have to consider access, but many unanswered and thorny questions about the future of the project remain. Chief among them is what the implications will be for the city's oceanfront development rules if the couple prevails.

The Roberts' property sits where

Hemlock Street, Cannon Beach's main north-south corridor, climbs steeply and takes a few quick, snaking curves. The couple has owned the 5,394-square-foot lot for two decades.

Their property is right above the beach and the view is fantastic. Iconic Haystack Rock rises to the north. But the slope off the property and those curves leading up to it have some concerned about the feasibility and safety of new development.

The Roberts' immediate neighbor to the south is an undeveloped city-owned lot called Inspiration Point, purchased in the early 2000s with the help of the public to preserve green space along the coastal cliff. To the north is land and a replica of a historic cabin once owned by famed former Gov. Oswald West.

The owners and caretakers of the property, Haystack Rock LLC, claim, among other things, that the Roberts' proposal would impact the historical nature of the site and also diminish the intent of Inspiration Point.

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One of the issues in the dispute involves the city's oceanfront setback standard.



Sharon Petersen looks over mementos of the two weeks in 1961 she and her family spent in a bomb shelter to simulate survival after a nuclear war.

Patrick Webb/Chinook Observer

Ilwaco woman recalls Cold War stunt

An adventure or an ordeal?

By PATRICK WEBB
Chinook Observer

ILWACO, Wash. — Ask Sharon Petersen what she was doing 60 years ago, and you'll get a knowing smile. And then the memories flow.

As a young mother of two, she was taking part in an unusual radio station stunt that reflected the tense history of the era.

November 1961 was a key moment in the Cold War, which pitted the world's two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, in standoffs



which could have led to nuclear annihilation.

Earlier that year, Cuban exiles backed by the U.S. government had failed in an armed invasion of the island in a fiasco which became known as the Bay of Pigs. In August, the Soviets had erected the Berlin Wall, a literal version of what British leader Winston Churchill had earlier called an Iron Cur-

tain between Eastern European Communist nations and the free West.

Against this background of international tensions, nations around the globe were considering whether humans could survive a nuclear war. That led to the creation of fallout shelters, marked with distinctive yellow and black triangles, that now mostly exist only in museums.

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