

IN BRIEF

Port hires consultant for airport master plan

The Port of Astoria Commission has unanimously approved hiring Mead & Hunt, a planning, design and construction services consultant from Portland, to update the master plan for the Astoria Regional Airport.

The plan will look at a number of aspects concerning the airport, as well as developing a wildlife hazard management plan.

The consultant will cost \$486,717, with the majority of the funding coming from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Oregon Department of Aviation.

Matt McGrath, the Port's deputy director, said he expects the plan to be wrapped up by the end of 2023.

County seeks feedback on comprehensive plan

Clatsop County is asking residents to weigh in on the county's comprehensive plan as the process of updating the document draws to a close.

Public meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on May 19 at the Knappa High School Library and 6 p.m. on June 2 at the Jewell School Library.

A virtual meeting is slated for 6:30 to 8 p.m. on June 14.

In addition, the county said it will offer a survey online and in paper form. A Spanish version will be available.

The feedback will be discussed at the Board of Commissioners' June 22 meeting.

Remains of Svensen woman found

The skeletal remains of a Svensen woman who disappeared more than three years ago were found last month on an island in the Columbia River, the Oregon State Police Medical Examiner's Office has determined.

On March 12, 2019, Maya Sanders went missing. Investigators said the 29-year-old was last seen in the vicinity of North Tongue Point.

Last month, Sanders' body was found on Lois Island, just east of Tongue Point.

Law enforcement had long suspected Sanders went into the water. Video footage showed her walking out onto a pier, leaving the camera's view, and not returning.

No criminal activity is suspected, police said.

— *The Astorian*

CORRECTION

Incorrect day — The 4-H Association is holding a Family Bingo Night fundraiser Saturday on the third floor at the Astoria Elks Lodge. The doors will open at 6 p.m. An item on B8 on Thursday incorrectly said the event would be on Friday.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Dustin Ryan Amansec, 40, of Hoquiam, Washington, was arraigned on Wednesday for fourth-degree assault constituting domestic violence. The crime is alleged to have occurred in Clatsop County in July 2019.

Aggravated harassment

• Michael Wade Hammond, 34, of Portland, was indicted on Tuesday for aggravated harassment. The crime is alleged to have occurred in April.

Robbery

• Gretchen Beth Brooks, 45, of Seaside, was indicted on March 3 for third-degree robbery, harassment and third-degree theft. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in March 2020.

Computer crime

• Jason Allan Carley, 46, of Warrenton, was arraigned on Monday for two counts of computer crime, two counts of

fraudulent use of a credit card and two counts of third-degree theft. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in November 2020.

Theft

• Derrick Ray Maxhimer, 33, of Seaside, was arrested on Wednesday at Walmart in Warrenton for second-degree theft and first-degree criminal trespass.

• Michael Keith Mulvania, 32, of Portland, was indicted on Thursday for first-degree theft, first-degree criminal mischief, first-degree attempted theft and second-degree criminal mischief. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in Clatsop County in April 2021.

• Casandra May McCalip, 39, of Ilwaco, Washington, was indicted on Thursday for first-degree theft. The crime is alleged to have occurred in Clatsop County in August 2021.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Planning Commission, Countywide Advisory Committee, 9 a.m., (virtual meeting).

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

the Astorian

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NORDIC LIGHT

Lloyd Bowler

The first night of lights at the Astoria Nordic Heritage Park, which is under construction off Marine Drive.

Arch Cape: Water district expects to close on the property by June

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Astoria oversees a similar system at its 3,700-acre Bear Creek watershed, which provides the city's drinking water. However, there is no public access or recreation on the site.

Few coastal communities have full control of their watershed. While the concept of community forestry is still somewhat uncommon in the Pacific Northwest, Phil Chick, Arch Cape's water district manager, believes people will start to see more in the future.

"It's a very proactive approach to drinking water protection and our board should be commended for having that sort of foresight," Chick told *The Astorian*. "This is really, at its core, a natural infrastructure

project for water quality and water quantity for the future.

"And that's a big part of how we received our funding for this and received legislative support, because this is more than just a conservation project. This is an investment in natural infrastructure and green infrastructure ... to ensure we have enough water and enough quality water for the future."

The property will tie into an additional 3,500 acres the North Coast Land Conservancy acquired for its Rainforest Reserve project above Arch Cape and adjacent to Oswald West State Park.

Chick expects the water district to close on the property by June.

Dan Seifer, the water district's board president, said the board is grateful to the

project partners and funding agencies.

"On a personal level, it's kind of heartwarming in this era of political discord to have a collaborative effort actually come together and do something good," he said. "It's been a long and difficult process, but the end result is, as I said, heartwarming."

Katie Voelke, the executive director of the North Coast Land Conservancy, said the nonprofit is excited to see the water district pursue the purchase.

"Arch Cape forest is a great example for all the small communities on the coast," she said. "Showing there is a way to secure a clean, clear abundant water future for our towns."

The water district will begin developing a recreation and access plan for the

forest beginning in May, a public process that will last several months. The district will work with the land conservancy, Lewis and Clark Timberlands and the National Park Service to complete the plan.

Chick said the recreation component has been concerning for some in the community, which resulted in some opposition to the project.

"Just by the way it's set up here and Highway 101 and the access points, this can't be a Yellowstone National Park," Chick said. "I don't think anyone has any worries that anything like that is going to happen."

He said the goal with the process is to maintain the character of the land and its traditional local uses and gather community feedback.

Candidates: Both spoke of how government can fail to take local needs into account

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Parents Organization, a group with culturally conservative views that has challenged the Knappa School District's curriculum and approach to pandemic response.

Javadi and Gaither are competing in the May primary to replace state Rep. Suzanne Weber, a Tillamook Republican who is giving up her state House seat to campaign in Betsy Johnson's former state Senate District 16. Johnson, a former Democratic state senator from Scappoose, is running for governor as an independent.

Logan Laity, a community organizer and small-business owner in Tillamook, is unopposed in the Democratic primary for state House.

Both Javadi and Gaither spoke of how government can fail to take local needs into account.

"I think sometimes government plays an important role," Javadi said, "but we need to, over time, look at the ways that the government maybe has become more of an obstacle than a help."

The state's land use laws contribute to the housing crisis, he said.

In some zones, laws prevent property owners from splitting their lots, where roads and utilities are already on hand, into smaller lots. There are people, he said, who own large lots and wish they could sell off a couple of acres for housing development but are unable.

Javadi said he has spoken with mayors who believe

that, if not for land use laws, they could devise ways to use existing land, or swap land with the state, to have more sites to build housing of varying densities.

He said that, regardless of political party, he wants "just be available for individuals in the district who have a problem they need help solving."

Javadi recalled a time he applied for a permit to connect a commercial property to U.S. Highway 101. After a many-month delay, Javadi reached out to Johnson. "We gave her a call and just asked if there's any way we could work within the system to get that permitting," he said. "Within a couple of days, we had a permit."

Gaither said that the prevalence of substance abuse is among his top concerns. "We have a major epidemic of addiction in this state," he said. "We don't have the resources to treat those individuals."

He pointed to the shortcomings of Measure 110, passed by voters in 2020, which decriminalized hard drugs in Oregon, traded drug arrests for tickets and offered a voluntary path to treatment. But few offenders have availed themselves of services.

"It didn't do what they said it was going to do," he said. "Those people are suffering."

Gaither, who has worked with inmates, believes that people with severe substance use disorders need to be placed where they have to address their addiction.

"We can't continue to just put people on the sidewalk to sleep at night, say that's OK, and not treat their issues," he said. "We have to get them into an area ... where there's going to have to be accountability."

Gaither, who ran unsuccessfully as an independent for the Washington House of Representatives in 2012, has called himself a "Constitutionalist." He aligns himself on social media with right-wing views around guns and mask and vaccination mandates. On Facebook, he has alluded to a "RINO (Republican in Name Only) virus" and does not support "middle of the road" politicians like Weber, Javadi and Johnson.

As of Thursday, Javadi had received more than \$16,000 in campaign contributions, many from business groups.

Intisar Strategies, a Salem-based company that provides political consulting, is helping with Javadi's campaign. The firm, which advocates for the political center-right, worked on Weber's campaign, as well as the campaigns of Clatsop County Commissioner Courtney Bangs and Com-

missioner John Toyooka.

Gaither's campaign committee had so far listed no contributions.

Asked who should be the Republican presidential nominee in 2024, Gaither said he would support U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican, and is aware that former President Donald Trump may run again. "Whoever's going to be ahead and try to get the ideas and the policies to go in the right direction, that's who I'm going to vote for," he said.

Asked the same question, Javadi said, "Since I don't know who's running on the Republican side, I hope it's somebody different than Donald Trump."

He said the Republican Party has "let identity politics and characters that don't necessarily represent some of the more conservative values to kind of run amok a little bit."

Javadi said he doesn't care too much about who occupies the White House. "I care a lot more about what's happening here on the Oregon Coast, and if we can effect a little bit of change in Salem, then that's where I want to go to do it."

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