

IN BRIEF

New Youngs Bay Bridge to close for nightly repair work

The New Youngs Bay Bridge will be closed to traffic nightly for about three weeks for a rehabilitation project beginning on Sunday.

From about 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., drivers will be rerouted to U.S. Highway 101 Business using the Old Youngs Bay Bridge. The old bridge has a 25-ton weight limit, according to the state Department of Transportation.

The project area will extend to the intersection of S.E. Neptune Drive in Warrenton.

Bridge replacement project to reroute traffic on Youngs River Road

A replacement of the 66-year-old Klaskanine River bridge on Youngs River Road will reroute traffic starting on Monday, the Clatsop County Public Works Department said.

As an alternate route, drivers can use Olney Cutoff Road to get from Youngs River Road to Oregon Route 202, the county said.

The \$2.5 million upgrade may not be completed until next spring or summer, the county said.

New county planning commissioners appointed

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners appointed three new planning commissioners on Wednesday.

Michael Magyar, of Lewis and Clark/Olney Wall-ooskee, is a surveyor who previously served on the commission. Katy Pritchard, of Astoria, serves as state Rep. Suzanne Weber's constituent services director. And Jeremy Linder, of Lewis and Clark/Olney Wall-ooskee, works for Ag-Bag Forage Solutions.

The new commissioners were chosen from an applicant pool of eight. Their terms expire at the end of June 2026.

County Commissioner Pamela Wev voted against Pritchard's appointment.

The terms of Commissioner Nadia Gardner, the commission's chairwoman, Commissioner John Orr and Commissioner Lam Quang, end on June 30.

Gardner and Orr did not apply for reappointment. Quang applied to retain his seat, but county commissioners chose not to reappoint him.

County commissioners approve child care grants

A Clatsop County grant program to secure funding for existing North Coast child care providers and encourage new ones will go forward.

The county Board of Commissioners on Wednesday approved a set of program recommendations from the county's child care advisory group, a task force composed of local specialists, stakeholders and community leaders.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

June 23, 2022

BACKER, William C., 74, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 22, 2022

BOWLBY, Robert Simpson, 86, of Tolovana Park, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

arrangements.

DYER, Gladys Jean, 88, of Warrenton, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

June 19, 2022

LENTZ, Cheyenne Marie, 47, of Astoria, died in Centralia, Washington. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Alisa Lee Bowers, 23, of Beaverton, was arrested on Wednesday at Fred Meyer in Warrenton for fourth-degree assault, third-degree criminal mischief, second-degree disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Theft

• Kenneth Leslie Yoho, 58, of Portland, was arrested on Wednesday for second-degree theft and third-degree

criminal mischief. The alleged crimes took place at Walmart in Warrenton.

DUI

• Arielle Mae Corrigan, 21, of Astoria, was arrested on June 15 for driving under the influence of intoxicants and following too close. She was allegedly involved in a two-vehicle crash near the intersection of U.S. Highway 101 and S.E. Ensign Lane in Warrenton.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Planning Commission, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting).

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

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

City Council, Port raise concerns about offshore wind development

Letters directed to federal and state agencies

By **ALEXIS WEISEND**
The Astorian

The Astoria City Council and the Port of Astoria Commission want to slow down the process of developing offshore wind energy to understand the impact on fisheries, marine life and the economies of coastal communities.

In letters to the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Oregon Department of Energy, the city and the Port recommended a small demonstration to test offshore wind technology. The letters also urged the bureau to conduct environmental impact statements before leases are granted.

The letters are a reaction to federal and state interest in offshore wind energy development on the Oregon Coast.

Under legislation approved in 2021, the state Department of Energy will develop a report identifying the benefits and challenges of integrating 3 gigawatts of floating offshore wind by 2030.



Michael Dwyer/AP Photo

Offshore wind turbines are shown near Block Island, Rhode Island.

In April, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management announced that it identified two call areas — places that could potentially be leased for wind energy development — on the Oregon Coast as part of the Biden administration's goal to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030.

The call areas, identified as Coos Bay and Brookings, total over a million acres.

Offshore wind energy development in those areas could coincide with fishing activities, sparking concerns that fisheries could face displacement, increased competition and financial impacts.

Lori Steele, the executive director of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association, said off-

shore wind energy development in southern Oregon would affect Astoria's fishing activities.

"Most fishermen, when they head out to go fishing, love to take a left turn and head south," she said. "Some of those fishing grounds that are in those two call areas are our prime fishing grounds for a number of fisheries."

The Port Commission voted unanimously on Tuesday to send the letter.

Commissioner Robert Stevens said offshore wind energy development could impact the navigation of ships. "If you catch fish, deliver fish, sell fish, buy fish, buy it or eat it, you should be concerned," he said.

Steele said the goal is

not to oppose offshore wind development, but to support a deliberative process that evaluates environmental and economic impacts.

The city recommended moving all Oregon call areas outside of a 1,300-meter depth to avoid displacing fishery activities.

At the Astoria City Council on Monday, the resolution triggered a debate over the value of offshore wind energy.

City Councilor Tom Hilton questioned whether offshore wind energy is an important component of Oregon's transition to cleaner fuel.

"I don't think we should have one of those off our coast at all," he said. "The privatization of the ocean is what we're looking at. It will definitely devastate commercial fishing."

City Councilor Thomas Brownson said the development needs to happen with consideration to fisheries and other stakeholders.

"Climate change — it's not my opinion," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, it's for real, and we need to, as societies, do everything possible to mitigate that."

Brownson abstained on the City Council vote in favor of sending the letter.

Summer intern assigned to The Astorian

Weisend is a student at UO

By **ETHAN MYERS**
The Astorian

With passions for writing and social issues, pursuing journalism became the natural choice for Alexis Weisend.

Now joining The Astorian as a summer intern, she is looking forward to honing her writing skills and making connections within the community.

"I want to explore what issues matter here and learn more about those (issues) so I can take that to other jobs

and stuff like that," Weisend said. "And maybe bring an outside perspective."

Weisend, originally from the Bay Area in California, landed on the North Coast via the Snowden internship program, which is offered through the University of Oregon.

Weisend, also a student at the university, will enter her senior year in the fall.

Double majoring in journalism and political science, Weisend has filled several reporting roles, including covering student and city government, at the univer-



Alexis Weisend

sity's independent student newspaper, The Daily Emerald. She will take over as news editor for her final year.

In taking on a new environment in Astoria, Weisend expects to gain valuable experience from her internship.

"It's a great experience working in an actual newsroom. I haven't gotten that because of the pandemic," she said. "I like that Astoria is a small town. I have never worked in a small town and it's so different from working in a bigger city."

Weisend sees the value

that journalism provides in breaking down complex issues to help the public stay informed and make decisions, especially within smaller communities.

Weisend said she is particularly interested in covering government and business, but is willing to take on any topics while reporting on the North Coast.

With an eye for political reporting, Weisend hopes to eventually explore a number of writing styles and roles in the future, including long-form journalism and investigative reporting.

"I want to dip my toes into everything," she said.

'I could be named the best chugger on Earth'

McKirdy to compete on Coney Island

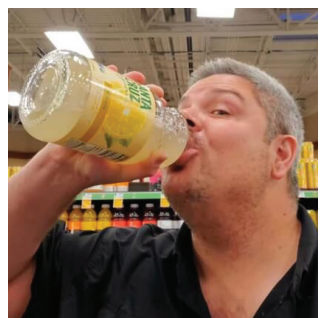
By **R.J. MARX**
The Astorian

SEASIDE — On July Fourth, Cameron McKirdy will join other competitors in New York's Coney Island for Nathan's second annual chugging contest.

The contest accompanies Nathan's Famous Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest. ESPN will air the event, with a live audience of 35,000 fans.

McKirdy, of Seaside, is one of seven chuggers chosen to take on Eric "Badlands" Booker, the "godfather of chugging," a social media star known for chugging gallons of liquid in a small amount of time. Badlands was the champion of last year's chugging contest, drinking a gallon of lemonade in 40 seconds.

McKirdy, a professional eater, hopes to bring the chugging championship trophy back to Oregon, what he



Cameron McKirdy practices his technique.

calls "the true epicenter of gastric-centric sports."

McKirdy has worn a variety of hats in his career — none of them taught in school — DoorDash driver, professional cuddler, van-life aficionado and creator of the YouTube channel Survival Bros.

"I honestly learned about my own eating greatness at Pizza Harbor as a third grader," he said. "I remember eating 18 slices of pizza with cake and ice cream and still being able to play games."

McKirdy first got into competitive eating after watching the movie "Stand

by Me."

"I love the pie-eating scene, and wanted to be just like Lardass," he said, referring to the character known for his legendary indigestion.

McKirdy has competed up and down the West Coast, even challenging against hot dog champion Joey Chestnut in a deep-fried asparagus-eating competition in Stockton, California.

McKirdy's personal best is 26 hot dogs and buns at a competition in Las Vegas, only to be disqualified when he was unable to keep the food down.

"I am done eating franks in competition," he said. "The meat sweats are brutal. I prefer sweets, like pie. I will never get sick of dessert."

On July Fourth, McKirdy will stick to lemonade.

He alternates speed training one day, capacity another. He chugs at supermarkets and convenience stores, posting videos of himself downing lemonade at Fred Meyer and Gatorade at Dollar General.

"Taqueria Pelayos 3 is my

go-to in Seaside for massive burritos and to chug horchata," he said. "They have to make more of the cinnamon beverage after I order."

McKirdy, who at one time worked at Seaside bumper cars, said the Coney Island backdrop reminds him of his hometown.

"Coney Island is and was America's playground," he said. "Seaside took inspiration from Coney Island. Look at the bumper cars, amusement park, and odd-ball attractions. I can't wait to ride the scooters at Coney. I'm gonna smash everyone, no matter the age."

While he has the money to get to New York, he doesn't have enough to get back to Oregon.

But, he added, "I'm fine being stranded there."

McKirdy is confident he can stand belly-to-belly with Booker, who he described as a "6XL beast, a living legend."

"I'm gonna get in his head," McKirdy said. "I could be named the best chugger on Earth."

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

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★ **MONDAY, JULY 4, 2022** ★

**3 P.M. IN WARRENTON
PARADE ON MAIN**

**10 P.M. IN ASTORIA
FIREWORKS OVER THE RIVER**

Details on these events and more at oldoregon.com & at the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce.

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