

Appointments made to various city committees

The Columbia Press

Eleven people have been chosen to help city leaders make decisions about city business and facilities.

The appointees will fill vacant seats on committees that deal with development, the library and parks.

For the past month, the city has issued a call to fill the vacant seats and expiring terms and Mayor Henry Balensifer has been interviewing prospective appointees. He made the following nominations, which were approved by the City Commission at its last meeting in November:

PLANNING COMMISSION

Christine Bridgens was reappointed to the Position 2 seat; Kevin Swanson, who recently moved to Warrenton, was appointed to the Position 1 seat. He previously had been chairman of the city of Dundee Planning Commission.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Flint Carlson, owner of Carlson Contracting, was reappointed to the Position 4 seat; Tommy Smith, Main

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Port officials beef up airport security

By CINDY YINGST

The Columbia Press



Above: A security gate leading onto the tarmac stands in the open position Wednesday morning.



Left: A discarded aircraft part blocks access by vehicles at one opening in the airport fence.

Cindy Yingst
The Columbia Press

A very drunk man drove onto the tarmac at Astoria Regional Airport one night in January 2017, spinning his Jeep in circles and nearly striking Life Flight employees refueling a helicopter.

When Michael William Long, 33, of Vancouver, Wash., was booked at Clatsop County Jail, his blood-alcohol content was 0.18 percent, more than twice the legal limit.

Long had driven in through an unsecured access gate.

More recently, deer have become a flight safety hazard on the runways and it's unknown whether they've wandered in through a compromised fence.

This week, Port of Astoria commissioners approved a \$57,628 package to improve security at the airport.

It's good news for the airport, which has, at times, been a target of those wanting to trim the Port of Astoria budget.

"Safety has to rise to the top of the list," said Will Isom, the port's executive director. "Right now, *See 'Airport' on Page 4*

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