

CAMPUS UPDATE

Crews address hillside crack, dormant mold

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

A crack on a hillside above The Heights parking lot caused some quick architectural redesign. Project Manager Jim Henry said at the meeting of the Seaside School District Building Oversight Committee on Tuesday, July 9.

“We reacted pretty quickly, as it was a surprise and site work at the Heights was beginning soon,” Henry said. “It took several weeks from beginning to end to come to a solution.”

First noticed by a dog-walker, geotechnical engineers conducted tests to reveal on the discovered crevices of between 2 inches and 8 inches, indicating there was some earth movement. The crack is attributable to water seepage after tree-cutting, Henry said.

The crack was not attributable to work at the middle and high school, or at the elementary school.



Work on athletic field at the new middle and high school campus.

R.J. Marx

Weyerhaeuser, which logged the area prior to construction, has reforested the area, Seaside School District Superintendent Sheila Roley said.

Rather than build a retaining wall with drilled piers to address the earth

movement northeast of The Heights at a cost of between \$500,000 and \$700,000, architects redesigned the layout for modular classrooms and realigned the fire lane away from the slippage area around the schools. Some proposed utilities —

including transformers and a gas meter — were moved, as well as a location to store dumpsters and trash.

With the new layout engineers didn't have to cut into the hill. “We're leaving that lower part,” Roley said. “That seemed to be a critical

piece. If you don't touch it, it's fine. We kind of avoided that problem.”

Another concern came from dry rot and dormant mold discovered in several areas when performing seismic upgrade work at, Henry said.

The Heights' roof slopes predominantly to the south and likely some time ago several roof drains were clogged, causing overflow internally at the overhang. Crews are replacing damaged studs and Sheetrock in the areas abated by an abatement company, Henry said. “We just wanted to be safe with what we were doing.”

The Heights gym will be completed by the end of the year, he said, with school renovation beginning in 2020, with completion projected by fall for the opening of classes.

Roley estimated that 115 workers were on site this week, grading the athletic field, working on the middle and high school, and beginning construction on the gym at The Heights.

“We are on schedule,” Roley added. “I'd be disingenuous if I didn't say every day feels like a nail biter — it's a tight schedule and we're pleased with our team.”

Third osprey chick dies in Seaside nest

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

The last of three osprey chicks in a Seaside nest that is the subject of a popular online livestream died sometime Wednesday night, July 10.

The chicks lived in a nest above Broadway Park that has been monitored by camera since 2013, providing online viewers with around-the-clock opportunities to see ospreys in the wild. An osprey pair — nicknamed “Bob and Betty” by viewers — were raising three chicks this year.

But the first two chicks died soon after the disappearance of the adult male osprey at the end of June. Despite some hope that the third chick would survive, the female osprey struggled to bring sufficient food back and appeared to be absent from the nest entirely for at least 24 hours earlier this week.

Some viewers reported that she showed up Wednesday afternoon with a fish, but after hours alone in the nest, exposed to rain and chilly weather, the chick was not in any shape to eat.

Wildlife rescue groups and the Necanicum Watershed Council, which main-



Seaside Osprey Nestcam/The Daily Astorian

An osprey chick, center, in a nest in Seaside's Broadway Park rests near its mother on Monday. The chick died on Wednesday. Two other siblings had died earlier in the month, soon after the disappearance of the adult male osprey in late June.

tains the nest camera, could not intervene after the male osprey disappeared. Federal regulations protect migratory bird nests and forbid anyone from disturbing a nest while chicks are present.

“We are heartbroken of the passing of all three chicks in the osprey nest and the disappearance of the male this year,” the Necanicum Watershed Council wrote in a Facebook post Thursday morning, and explained they were shut-

ting down the livestream for the season.

Angie Reseland, executive director for the watershed council, first shut down the camera at 3 a.m. Thursday. The night before, she heard from the Wildlife Center of the North Coast that the last chick appeared to be dying.

“I woke up thinking about it,” she said. She thought: “If I shut the camera down now early in the morning, nobody will have to wake up and see this.”

The feed came back on a couple of more times, but was completely shut down by midmorning.

“Thank you for providing the camera,” one woman wrote in response to the watershed council's announcement. “It's interesting to watch nature, the good, bad and ugly.”

Osprey begin breeding activities in the spring and can lay up to four eggs. Male osprey typically take on the role of provider and bring food to the female while she sits on the eggs, according to information provided by the watershed council.

Chicks begin to fly about 52 days after they hatch, often in late July or early August, but continue to return to their nest for food and rest between practice flights. Mature osprey head south for the winter and return to the North Coast to breed in the spring.

Osprey live on a diet of fish and it is believed the chicks in the Broadway Park nest starved to death.

Last year, Bob and Betty successfully reared three chicks to maturity.

“So now it's like the opposite, the swinging pendulum,” Reseland said. She sighed, paused and added, “Next year, it's going to go great.”

Commission hires new Clatsop County manager

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County commissioners have hired a new county manager.

Don Bohn, the assistant county administrator for Washington County, will start on Sept. 16.

Monica Steele, the county's budget director, has served as interim county manager since Cameron Moore retired last year. She will remain in the role until Bohn takes over.

Bohn and the other finalist — Dan Chandler, the assistant county administrator for Clackamas County — attended public meet-and-greet events Monday and rotated between three panels made up of residents, county staff and county commissioners.

Commissioners met privately in executive session on Tuesday to discuss the hire.

“We took into account everyone's input and I don't think there was one deciding factor, but the fact that he already has homes here, one in Astoria and one in Naselle, and that he wants to stay here for a long time, that was a big plus,” Sarah Nebeker, the commission's chairwoman, said.

Bohn moved to Oregon from Colorado and earned



‘I’M EXCITED TO JOIN THE CLATSOP COUNTY TEAM, AND EXCITED ABOUT THE WORK WE’RE GOING TO DO TOGETHER.’

Don Bohn

a bachelor's degree in psychology from Pacific University in Forest Grove and a master's degree in public administration from Lewis & Clark College in Portland.

Bohn has worked for Washington County for 28 years. He started as a management intern and eventually became the assistant county administrator, overseeing human resources for a workforce of 2,200 in finance, information technology, emergency management and other departments.

Some of his accomplishments include winning voter approval of a \$77 million bond measure for emergency communications infrastructure. He also developed employee work groups to focus on capital improvements, and equity, inclusion and diversity teams.

“I'm excited to join the Clatsop County team, and excited about the work we're going to do together,” Bohn said in a statement. “The beautiful thing with

Washington County is that it's a very dynamic organization with a lot of changes and challenges, and Clatsop County is the same way.”

Bohn's wife, Stacey Larson, was born and raised in the region and still has family in Naselle, Washington. They also have a second home in Astoria they visit often.

Bohn is the county's 10th manager over the past two decades. Moore, hired in 2016, retired after clashes with some on the county commission.

“We are hopeful that

this will create more stability, that he will stay longer because of his ties to the area ... and commitment to the area,” Nebeker said.

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