

Rescued Gearhart turtle dies

Despite medical treatment, turtle dies during rehab

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — A rescued olive ridley sea turtle, found comatose and hypothermic near Gearhart in December, died while completing her final rehabilitation stage before summer release into the wild, the Oregon Coast Aquarium reported Wednesday.

Marine life experts at SeaWorld's Animal Rescue Center discovered the turtle in her rehabilitation pool Tuesday morning.

The turtle, named "Thunder" and known for being particularly large and strong, was rescued after washing ashore on Del Rey Beach after severe storms.

Thunder and another rehabilitated sea turtle named "Lightning," found in Pacific City, were flown to SeaWorld in March from the Oregon Coast Aquarium, which initially cared for the turtles after their December strandings and rescues.

"Thunder didn't appear to be in that bad of shape, but you never know what causes them to strand until they've been treated," said Laura Todd, a U.S. Fish & Wildlife field supervisor in Newport, adding that several olive ridley turtles have been successfully returned to the wild after treatment in Newport. "In this case, we thought she was going to make it."

However, Thunder's problems became more apparent after the move to SeaWorld.

An initial necropsy showed that Thunder may have had internal organ injuries, including in the liver and heart, that contributed to her death. She



Submitted Photo

Thunder, an olive ridley turtle, died despite rehabilitation efforts.

also had stopped eating for some time, which may have been a symptom of a larger issue, Todd said. An official necropsy report is not yet complete.

Oregon Coast Aquarium, where Thunder was cared for and rehabilitated, is "very upset" about the turtle's death, Todd said.

"They care for these animals because they want to help our native species," she said. "This goes above and beyond, and really does help animals they wouldn't otherwise be able to help."

Olive ridley sea turtles are considered endangered along Mexico's coast and are vulnerable in other areas, which is why their rescues are important.

"The success rate of rehabbing these stranded turtles is pretty much 50-50," said Peter Pearsall, of the Oregon Coast Aquarium.



Submitted Photo

Despite intensive care, Thunder failed to survive her ordeal.

"Either the turtle will wash up dead, or if it's recovered alive, it's a toss-up."

It can be a "guessing game" to get the best care for the animal, Todd said. Thunder's death is "a learning opportunity, not only to help this particular turtle, but other turtles in the

future. If we have any oil spills or another catastrophe, we'll be able to manage those animals a lot better."

Park workers are optimistic that Lightning, who is in stable condition and continuing to receive care, will be released into the ocean this summer as planned.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A view of one of the storefronts in the M&N Building.

Price reduced for decaying Flavel building

Auction offers came up short

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The M&N Building, one of Mary Louise Flavel's two vacant commercial properties in downtown Astoria, has been listed by Pete Anderson Realty for a marked-down \$149,900.

The building, at the corner of Ninth and Commercial streets, had been up for sealed-bid auction with Realty Marketing/Northwest, but none of the offers met the minimum reserve price of \$180,000. The property had previously been advertised at \$324,400.

The structure — named for Mary and Nellie Flavel — was built in 1924 and includes more than 8,000 square feet spread out between five storefronts and an equally sized basement.

During a walkthrough in 2002, historic buildings consultant John Goodenberger said the building would need new steel I-beams, pilings with a wider footing to

buttress the sinking foundation and work to reattach the cracked brick facade. He estimated back then at least \$75,000 was needed to make the fixes.

Caroline Evans, Flavel's conservator, did not respond to a request for comment.

Last year, Flavel, the granddaughter of Capt. George C. Flavel, sold her family's mansion on 15th Street to Greg Newenhof, the co-owner of City Lumber, for \$221,901. She has an agreement with the city on a timeline to sell the M&N Building and either sell or improve property on the south side of Commercial Street. In exchange, the city agreed not to enforce fines on the derelict properties.

"We continue to work with Caroline," said Kevin Cronin, Astoria's community development director. "We are both rowing in the same direction."

Cronin would not publicly give a deadline for Flavel to sell the M&N Building, but he said she intends to invest the proceeds from the sale into the other Commercial Street property.

Woltjer finances his campaign for judge

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Municipal Court judge Ronald Woltjer has raised more than \$10,500 for his campaign for Clatsop County Circuit Court judge, with most of the money coming from his own finances.

State campaign-finance records show Woltjer directly

contributed more than \$9,900 to his campaign. Woltjer's donations put his fundraising total close to Dawn

McIntosh, a Gearhart lawyer who has raised more than \$11,800, including more than \$7,200 in cash contributions.

Some of McIntosh's largest contributors include Blair Henningsgaard, the Astoria city attorney, who gave more than \$1,000;

the law office of Kristopher Kaino, a defense attorney and Astoria Municipal Court judge, which contributed \$1,000; the law office of Joe DiBartolomeo, which donated \$1,000; and Mary Ann Murk, a defense attorney who gave \$500.

Deputy District Attorney David Goldthorpe has collected more than \$4,200,

campaign-finance reports show, with more than \$3,000 coming from cash contributions.

The election is to replace Judge

Philip Nelson, who is retiring. For voters, the last day to register is April 26. Ballots are mailed out April 27. Election day is May 17.



Ronald Woltjer

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The best way to help 9-1-1 dispatchers help you is by remembering to:

REMAIN CALM, BE PREPARED

- Try to stay calm, give information and follow all instructions.
- Professional call-takers are trained to get information from you. Listen very carefully and answer as concisely as possible.
- Remember that even if the dispatcher is still asking questions or giving instructions, help is on the way.
- You can save a life! Do not hang up until the call-taker does.

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The family of **John (Poops) Lampa** would like to thank everyone for their kind words, donations, flowers, texts, phone calls and cards.

Thank you to all who came to the graveside service.

Special Thanks To

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Ocean View (Brian and Pam)
Vicki Forney ♥
Melissa Smith ♥

A very special thank you to all the staff at Clatsop Care Center, he thought you were all wonderful there and you used to wait on him with a big smile and kind words. He loved you all-

Sincerely,
Kim Lampa
Julie Lampa Hemeoh, and Family
Brad Lampa and Family
Jeff and Cindi Lampa and Family