

College seeks designation as maritime center

Bill likely filed in Congress

By EDWARD STRATTON

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College is hoping a new piece of federal legislation will designate the school as one of the country's few maritime centers of excellence.

College President Christopher Breitmeyer said the legislation — the Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act of 2017 — is being planned by 18 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 16 members of the U.S. Senate.

The U.S. Secretary of Transportation can designate community and technical colleges as centers of excellence for workforce training. The designation grants those schools technical assistance, surplus federal equipment and funding from the federal government.

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Oregon, previously sponsored the Maritime and Energy Workforce Technical Training Enhancement Act in 2015. The legislation would have created the first-ever community and technical college Centers of Excellence program and directed the U.S. Department of Energy to award grants to expand maritime training programs and partnerships. The bill was introduced but never passed either chamber of Congress.

Ali Mayeda, a spokeswoman for Bonamici, confirmed the congresswoman is working on a similar piece of legislation with other congressional representatives.

"Congresswoman Bonamici strongly supports workforce training programs that help people gain high-demand skills and succeed in the workplace," Mayeda said in an email. "Clatsop Community College is uniquely situated to continue to meet the needs

of the maritime workforce with high-quality, hands-on education. In the previous legislative session she was proud to advocate for more resources to support workforce training like" the college's Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station.

Breitmeyer said he has not been told when the legislation might be introduced.

Quest for excellence

The college has been trying for some time to become a federally designated maritime center of excellence, which can provide additional financial and other supports.

A year ago, the college board approved applying for capital construction bonds from the state to add a second story to the training station's main administrative and classroom building, at a cost of more than \$8 million. Breitmeyer said the project has fallen to the bottom of a funding priority list for this biennium, likely because of similar bonds the college recently received for the Patriot Hall redevelopment. "If not funded now, we'll go for it in the next biennium," Breitmeyer said.

The training station includes U.S. Coast Guard-approved classroom instruction and at-sea experience aboard the college's training vessel, the Forerunner. The maritime sciences program offers everything from an associate degree in vessel operations to one-week classes for experienced mariners seeking additional certifications.

In 2013, the college was named the only community college with a Coast Guard-approved Training Ship Program, which bolsters the credentials of graduating students trying to become able-bodied seamen and operators of uninspected vessels in near-coastal and inland waters. In 2014, the college was named Oregon's Maritime Training College by a state resolution.

Hundreds attend rally in Salem for immigrant rights

National drive counters Trump

Associated Press

SALEM — Hundreds of people demonstrated Sunday in front of the Oregon State Capitol to support immigration rights.

Yesica Navarro braved the cold weather and spoke in the Capitol Mall about growing up as an immigrant. She said she came to the U.S. as a child with her family, and they managed to succeed despite the odds.

"We love this country, and we want to be accepted. This is our home," Navarro told the Statesman Journal.

The crowd, which organizers said approached 1,000, cheered and clapped as cars driving along State Street honked, the newspaper reported. The rally was part of a national effort called Immigrants' March Presidents Day 2017.

The people drawn to the event were a mix of immigrants and nonimmigrants.

Donna and Mark Maynard of Salem, along with their dog Maiah, held a sign that said: "We the people are greater than fear."

The couple, who come from a family of immigrants, said they had previously stayed away from political activism.

Now, however, they feel the need to speak up for immigrants' and women's rights.



Molly J. Smith/Statesman Journal

Hundreds gather at an immigration rights rally in front of the Capitol on Sunday in Salem.



Molly J. Smith/Statesman Journal

Maya Lopez, one of the event's organizers, claps as DACA recipient Leo Reyes speaks about his experience as an immigrant.



Molly J. Smith/Statesman Journal

Moayad Adham speaks about his journey as a Syrian immigrant at an immigration rights rally.



Molly J. Smith/Statesman Journal

Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capua speaks at an immigration rights rally.

ton and his three children held posters depicting a Lego figurine saying: "Immigrants are awesome!"

Maya Lopez of Portland said a small group started organizing the gathering about three weeks ago.

Timber companies sue over expansion of Oregon monument

Associated Press

MEDFORD — Two Oregon lumber companies are challenging the legality of former President Barack Obama's expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Murphy Co. and Murphy Timber Investments LLC sued

in federal court in Medford Friday naming President Donald Trump and federal agencies.

The Mail-Tribune says the Trump administration could choose not to defend the lawsuit.

Before leaving office, Obama added about 48,000 acres to the monument in

southwestern Oregon days to protect its biodiversity.

Murphy Co. President John Murphy says more than 80 percent of the federal land in the expansion area is dedicated to timber production under the O&C Lands Act.

He says removing those acres from the timberland base

managed by BLM will reduce the supply of timber sold and jeopardizes the company's log supply.

Murphy Timber Investments argues the expansion will reduce the value of about 2,100 acres of timberland it owns within the boundary as well as land outside it.

Tribes lay remains of Kennewick Man to rest

Associated Press

KENNEWICK, Wash. — The ancient bones of the Kennewick Man have been returned to the ground.

The Tri-City Herald reported that early Saturday, more than 200 members of five Columbia Plateau tribes and bands gathered at an undisclosed location to lay the remains of the man they call the Ancient One to rest. That's according to an announcement Sunday by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian

Reservation.

Umatilla board member Aaron Ashley says they always knew the Ancient One was Indian. But tribes waited more than 20 years to rebury the bones.

Tribal representatives met at the University of Washington's Burke Museum in Seattle on Friday to claim the remains.

Former President Barack Obama signed legislation in December requiring the 8,400-year-old skeleton to be given to the tribes within 90 days.

Bill advances in Washington that would exempt some info about wolf attacks

By PHUONG LE

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A bill that would exempt from public disclosure personal information about people who report or respond to wolf attacks in Washington state has cleared a House committee.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and other supporters cite death threats received by state employees, ranchers and others and say the measure is needed to protect those who deal with wolves.

Opponents say the bill would make it impossible for the public to know who, including state employees and contractors, is involved in the state's wolf management programs.

The bill would exempt from disclosure personal information of people who report wolf attacks as well as those who participate in state programs aimed at preventative measures such as range riders.

House Bill 1465 was amended and passed out of the committee on state government, elections and information technology. It now

awaits a House vote.

State Rep. Zack Hudgins, D-Tukwila, who chairs that committee, said a state wildlife employee presented compelling testimony earlier this month about the threats workers face from carrying out the state's wolf policies. Department of Fish and Wildlife wolf policy lead Donny Martorello

told lawmakers that he put his family in a hotel last year over such concerns.

"It creates exemptions and it does remove information from the public domain, and I think the reason we did that was to protect the (state's wolf) policy and the people that are involved," Hudgins said in an interview Friday.

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Homeownership and Financial Education Workshops

Community Action Team

will be holding two (2) free education workshops during the month of February in Clatsop County. The classes are held on Saturdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm in our Astoria office as follows:

Homeownership Workshop: Feb. 18th
Financial Education Workshop: Feb. 25th

The Homeownership Workshop teaches shopping for a home, financial readiness, understanding mortgages, the closing process and how to protect your investment. The Financial Education Workshop teaches budgeting, saving, goal setting, credit management, and improving overall financial health. Community Action Team is your local HUD Approved Agency. Pre-registration is required.

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