

Charges brought against teen in Columbia Gorge fire

Boy was not publicly named

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

A 15-year-old boy who allegedly started a wildfire by tossing fireworks along a hiking trail in the scenic Columbia River Gorge, with the blaze causing evacuations, the closing of an interstate highway and causing ash to rain down on Portland, has been charged with several offenses, authorities said Thursday.

He's charged with reckless burning, depositing burning materials on forest lands, criminal mischief and recklessly endangering other persons, Hood River County District Attorney John Sewell said in a statement. The boy, from Vancouver, Washington, was not named.

The fire that started Sept. 2, and which continues to smolder, burned 76 square miles of forestland, devastating beloved day trails around dozens of crystalline waterfalls in Portland's backyard.



Incweb

A teenager has been charged in the devastating Eagle Creek Fire in the Columbia Gorge.

Witnesses had seen the boy, who was with other youths, tossing fireworks off the trail. A fire quickly started, stranding dozens of hikers who had to retreat into a safe area and wait out the night before being evacuated the next day.

Flames leapt from the trees on the gorge's steep slopes, and winds carried sparks across the broad Columbia River, starting another fire on the Washington state side.

Interstate 84, a major east-west corridor that runs along

the Gorge, was shut down, and communities like nearby Cascade Locks, which depend on visitors to inject money into the local economy, suffered a severe setback.

The fire removed vegetation, underbrush and tree

roots that support the Columbia Gorge, and now authorities expect landslides and rockslides with additional rain. The Historic Columbia River Highway and State Trail was damaged by fire and rockfall and remains closed. The uncontained portion of the fire is in steep terrain and fire managers do not expect it to spread further, authorities said.

The charges came after a criminal investigation by the Oregon State Police assisted by U.S. Forest Service investigators.

As the fire took such a toll, many enraged commentators on news media web sites called for charges to be filed, and for the boy's family to pay some of the millions of dollars in costs to fight the fire.

"What happens next is for the courts to decide," said Michael Lang, conservation director for Friends of the Columbia Gorge, a group dedicated to protecting the area. "Friends of the Columbia Gorge is focused on efforts to heal the land, trails, and communities affected by the fire."

The boy was caught due to

the efforts of a hiker, Liz Fitzgerald of Portland, who said she saw a boy toss a smoke bomb into a ravine as girls with him giggled and another boy took video with his cellphone. Fitzgerald continued up the trail and then looked back, saw smoke was growing, and decided to run back to the parking lot and warn others.

"I passed the teenagers at that point," Fitzgerald told Willamette Week newspaper. "It was a smaller group of maybe seven or nine. Just as I was passing them I said 'Do you realize you just started a forest fire?' and the kid said, 'Well, what are we supposed to do about it now?' And I yelled over my shoulder 'Call the freaking fire department!'"

After she got to the parking lot by the Eagle Creek Trailhead, she told a law enforcement officer what she had seen. He stopped a van carrying some of the group of youths as they attempted to leave.

The fire was one of the worst to hit the U.S. West during a particularly intense fire season.

Backers of oil terminal pour money into Vancouver port race

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

Developers of a proposed oil-by-rail terminal in Vancouver, Washington, that would be the largest in the nation have poured big money into a port commissioner race that may shape the project's future.

Backers of the Vancouver Energy project have given \$370,000 in cash to support Kris Greene, who has expressed support for the terminal proposed at the Port of Vancouver, according to filings with the Washington Public Disclosure Commission.

That represents the bulk of the cash he has raised in the Vancouver port commissioner's race.

His opponent Don Orange is against the proposed \$210 million terminal that would handle about 360,000 barrels of crude oil a day. Orange said he would work to end

the project's lease at the port.

The terminal has been the subject of heated debate in the Northwest. Project developers see it as an opportunity to link domestic crude oil from the Midwest to a West Coast port and bring jobs and money to the region.

Critics say it poses too great a risk to people and the environment, and the dangers extend well beyond the facility to include communities along rail lines.

Tesoro Corp. and Savage Cos., operating as Vancouver Energy, have a 10-year lease at the deep-water port about 100 river miles from the Pacific Ocean. The proposed terminal would receive an average of four 1½-mile long crude oil trains a day. Oil would be stored on site then loaded onto tankers and ships bound for West Coast refineries.

Vancouver Energy said it supports Greene as the candidate with the right experience

to lead the port.

Company spokesman Jeff Hymas wrote in an email that Greene understands the importance of creating jobs and economic growth in the region.

A state energy panel is currently reviewing the project. It will make a recommendation to Gov. Jay Inslee, who will have the final say.

The lease between Vancouver Energy and the port allows for changes by either party every 90 days, port spokeswoman Abbi Russell said.

People on both sides of the issue see the port commissioner's race as a way to cement support or opposition involving the project.

"This race is fundamentally about the terminal," said Mark Stephan, a political science professor at Washington State University Vancouver. "There are a lot of people watching."

School board needs new member

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria School Board is looking to replace nine-year member Shawn Helligso, who tendered his resignation earlier this month.

"This has been a difficult decision to reach, but I feel that it is time for me to step down," Helligso wrote in an email to the school district. "I do not have the time or energy to devote my full attention and commitment to this important role."

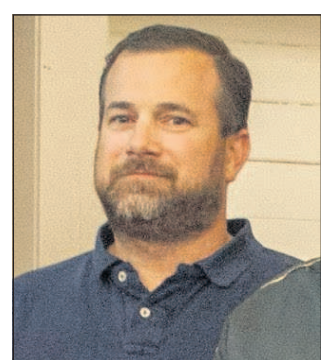
Helligso, a construction superintendent with Helligso Construction, was appointed to the school board in 2008 and re-elected several times

thereafter. He most recently ran unopposed in 2015.

His resignation comes less than a year after Martin Dursse, who was appointed to the school board the same year, stepped down. Dursse was eventually replaced by Craft3 Chief Financial Officer David Oser.

The deadline to apply for the vacant position is Thursday. Applications for the position are available on the district's website, www.astoria.k12.or.us, or in the main office on the third floor of Capt. Robert Gray School at 785 Alameda Ave.

Candidates must have been residents of the Astoria School



Shawn Helligso

District for at least one year. Applicant interviews will be held during a special school board meeting Oct. 30. The first meeting for the winning candidate would be Nov. 8.

Increased slash burning expected this week

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County residents will notice more slash burning activity than usual this week.

Forest operators will be using a short window between the end of fire season and the beginning of the rainy season

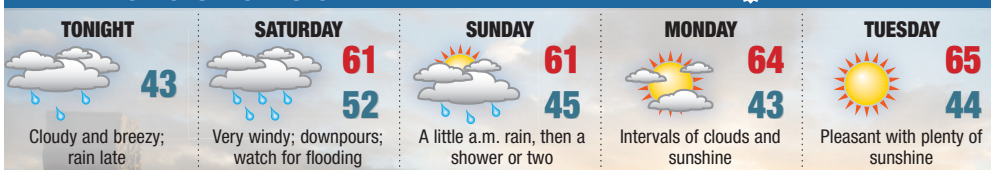
to pile tree tops and limbs and burn them. This action reduces the potential for wildfire and prepares sites for replanting this winter.

Local 911 dispatch centers received a number of calls Wednesday to report burnings, but the state Department of

Forestry alerts dispatchers and fire departments daily about permitted fires.

The ODF Astoria District monitors more than 450,000 acres for fire safety. Those seeking more information can contact the district's office at 503-325-5451.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

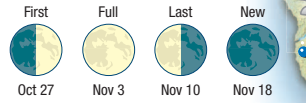


ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.
Temperatures
 High/low 55°/48°
 Normal high/low 60°/44°
 Record high 77° in 1938
 Record low 31° in 1949
Precipitation
 Thursday 1.18"
 Month to date 3.88"
 Normal month to date 3.01"
 Year to date 57.09"
 Normal year to date 43.25"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 6:20 p.m.
 Sunrise Saturday 7:41 a.m.
 Moonrise today 8:23 a.m.
 Moonset today 7:17 p.m.



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Low above the eastern horizon before midnight is the Pleiades globular star cluster (M45).

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

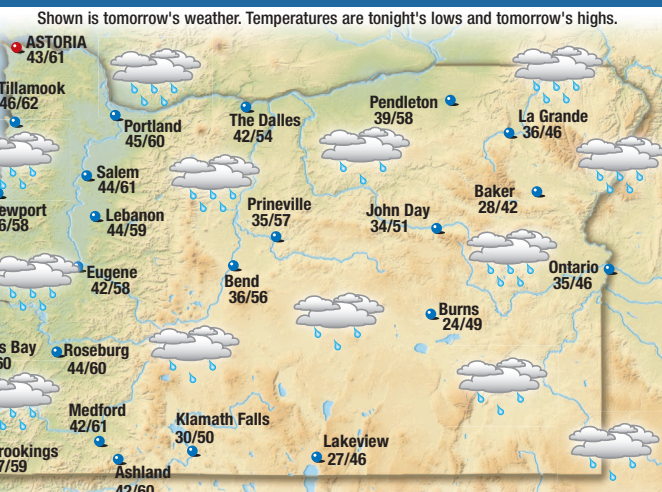
TOMORROW'S TIDES

| Astoria / Port Docks | Time | High | Low |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|----------|
| 3:06 a.m. | 7.8 ft. | 8:54 a.m. | 1.5 ft. |
| 2:49 p.m. | 8.8 ft. | 9:33 p.m. | -0.4 ft. |

NATIONAL CITIES

| City | Today | Hi | Lo | W | Sat. | Hi | Lo | W |
|----------------|-------|----|----|----|------|----|----|---|
| Atlanta | 79 | 55 | pc | 78 | 60 | pc | | |
| Boston | 69 | 52 | s | 73 | 55 | s | | |
| Chicago | 77 | 58 | s | 77 | 63 | pc | | |
| Denver | 79 | 40 | s | 56 | 35 | pc | | |
| Des Moines | 76 | 62 | s | 74 | 49 | t | | |
| Detroit | 73 | 53 | s | 75 | 56 | pc | | |
| El Paso | 87 | 64 | s | 80 | 50 | s | | |
| Fairbanks | 21 | 5 | c | 22 | 10 | pc | | |
| Honolulu | 86 | 74 | pc | 87 | 73 | pc | | |
| Indianapolis | 76 | 53 | s | 75 | 60 | pc | | |
| Kansas City | 76 | 63 | s | 74 | 49 | t | | |
| Las Vegas | 79 | 54 | s | 74 | 55 | s | | |
| Los Angeles | 76 | 60 | pc | 81 | 63 | s | | |
| Memphis | 79 | 61 | pc | 80 | 68 | pc | | |
| Miami | 88 | 79 | pc | 87 | 79 | t | | |
| Nashville | 79 | 51 | pc | 81 | 60 | pc | | |
| New Orleans | 83 | 73 | pc | 84 | 73 | c | | |
| New York | 72 | 56 | s | 75 | 58 | s | | |
| Oklahoma City | 78 | 65 | s | 79 | 49 | t | | |
| Philadelphia | 74 | 54 | s | 78 | 56 | s | | |
| St. Louis | 78 | 60 | s | 79 | 63 | pc | | |
| Salt Lake City | 62 | 38 | c | 57 | 43 | s | | |
| San Francisco | 65 | 51 | pc | 68 | 52 | s | | |
| Seattle | 54 | 44 | r | 55 | 51 | r | | |
| Washington, DC | 76 | 54 | s | 77 | 56 | s | | |

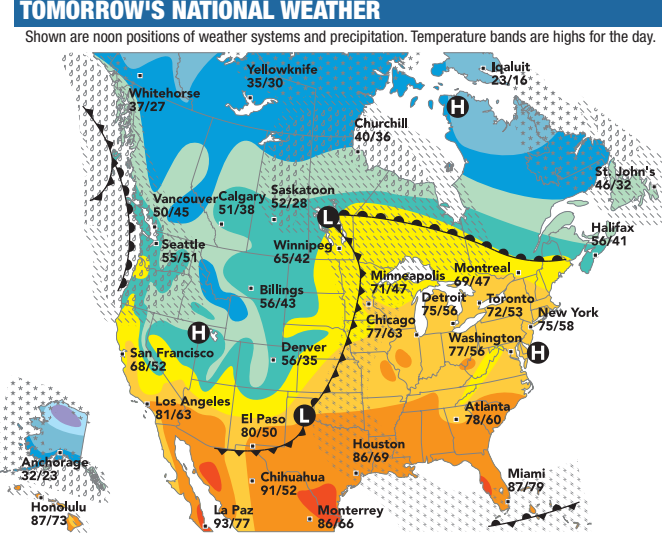
REGIONAL WEATHER



REGIONAL CITIES

| City | Today | Hi | Lo | W | Sat. | Hi | Lo | W |
|---------------|-------|----|----|----|------|----|----|---|
| Baker City | 54 | 28 | sh | 42 | 38 | sn | | |
| Bend | 48 | 36 | c | 56 | 48 | sh | | |
| Brookings | 54 | 47 | r | 56 | 53 | r | | |
| Eugene | 54 | 42 | r | 58 | 52 | r | | |
| Ilwaco | 54 | 46 | r | 59 | 53 | r | | |
| Klamath Falls | 46 | 30 | sn | 50 | 33 | r | | |
| Medford | 54 | 42 | r | 61 | 47 | r | | |
| Newberg | 54 | 45 | r | 60 | 55 | r | | |
| Newport | 54 | 46 | r | 58 | 53 | r | | |
| North Bend | 56 | 48 | r | 61 | 55 | r | | |
| Olympia | 54 | 40 | r | 57 | 50 | r | | |
| Pendleton | 56 | 39 | pc | 58 | 53 | sh | | |
| Portland | 55 | 45 | r | 60 | 55 | r | | |
| Roseburg | 55 | 44 | r | 60 | 54 | r | | |
| Salem | 55 | 44 | r | 61 | 55 | r | | |
| Seaside | 54 | 46 | r | 60 | 53 | r | | |
| Spokane | 54 | 36 | c | 45 | 42 | r | | |
| Springfield | 52 | 44 | r | 58 | 54 | r | | |
| Vancouver | 54 | 45 | r | 60 | 55 | r | | |
| Yakima | 62 | 35 | pc | 54 | 48 | sh | | |

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



BIRTHS

Oct. 15, 2017
 MOORE, Madeline and Jacob, of Chinook, Washington, a girl, Quincy Laurel Moore, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Todd and Johnette Longtain, Billie O'Bryant and Mark Tarabochia.
Oct. 14, 2017
 TARABOCHIA, Haley, and JUMP, Nate, of Astoria, a boy, Merrick James Jump, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Todd and Johnette Longtain, Billie O'Bryant and Mark Tarabochia.

MEMORIAL

Monday, Oct. 23
 OLSON, Carol Marie — Memorial at 2 p.m., Columbia River Maritime Museum, Barbey Maritime Center, 1792 Marine Drive.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Astoria Library Board, 5:30 p.m., Astoria Library Flag Room, 450 10th St.
Astoria Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Thursday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 7-6-9-0
4 p.m.: 6-7-5-2
7 p.m.: 3-4-6-4
10 p.m.: 4-1-9-2
Thursday's Lucky Lines: 04-08-12-14-20-23-28-30
 Estimated jackpot: \$18,000
WASHINGTON
Thursday's Daily Game:
4-4-4
Thursday's Keno: 01-03-04-09-12-13-18-20-23-25-26-28-32-39-51-60-61-72-73-79
Thursday's Match 4: 14-15-16-23

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.
 Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.
 Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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