Exotic sea creatures can be found in Seaside

By R.J. MARX The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The Seaside Aquarium made some unusual finds over the past several days, including a triple-sail Velella velella and a red-eyed medusa jellyfish.

Velella velella can create a "blue tide" when beaches are strewn with an aquamarine layer of jelly-like organisms. While associated with spring and summer, if close to shore they can come in anytime the wind blows out of the West, Tiffany Boothe of the Seaside Aquarium said.

'In the fall and winter when the Velella come in, it is usually in smaller quantities and they are usually smaller in size," she said.

The Velella washing in now are small, some barely larger than a grain of sand, Boothe

Their common name by-the-wind sailor — refers to the clear, triangular sail at the top of the animal's body which catches the wind and propels it across the surface.

The triple-sail Velella is a Velella with a deformed sail.



Tiffany Boothe/Seaside Aquarium

Red-eyed medusa

deformity."

Red-eyed medusas are a small species of local jellyfish that wash ashore from time to time, she added. The animals are now under the care of the aquarium, and "doing quite



'FALL AND WINTER ARE ONE OF THE BEST TIMES TO BEACHCOMB.'

Tiffany Boothe, Seaside Aquarium

As far as future finds? Keep scanning the beach.

Triple-sail Velella

"Fall and winter are one of the best times to beachcomb," Boothe said. "Large surf combined with west wind brings in a lot of interesting things. Keep an eye out for salps, pyrosomes, bull kelp and various types of jellyfish."

Highway committee begins work on regional tolling system

By PARIS ACHEN Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — The first meeting of a policy committee charged with recommending tolls for Portland-area interstates may have been most notable for defining what a regional tolling system will not be.

The tolls that the Portland Area Value Pricing Policy Advisory Committee are considering will not involve stopping at booths to pay a cashier, or slowing down to toss coins into a kiosk.

They may be optional for commuters who want to save time to reach a destination, or priced dynamically to encourage travel during slower times of the day.

"When we are talking about (value) pricing we are not talking about putting toll booths," said Trey Baker, a consultant with New Yorkbased transportation engiand management firm WSP USA. "That is just not the way it is done anymore."

The Oregon Department of Transportation hired WSP USA to serve as a resource for the tolling committee.

The committee's meeting Monday, Nov. 20, at ODOT's Portland office was the first of six meetings aimed at developing proposals to establish a regional tolling system on Interstates 5 and 205 in the Portland metropolitan area.

The committee is charged with voting on a proposal



"Instead of having just the

one sail they essentially have

three," Boothe said. "I found

two on Seaside beach with this

A 25-member committee is charged with recommending tolling options for Interstate 5 and Interstate 205 to reduce congestion in the Portland metropolitan area.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

are accepted at each of the committee's meetings and by email at ValuePricingPAC@odot.state.or.us.

to recommend to the Oregon Transportation Commission by the end of June. The commission, the policy-setting body for ODOT, will ultimately decide on whether to pursue tolls and any specific tolling structure.

The transportation commission also needs authorization from the Federal Highway Administration to enforce the tolls. The commission would need to submit its application for that authority by Dec. 31, 2018.

"As we look at this, we are looking at the feasibility or viability," said Oregon Transportation Commissioner Sean O'Hollaren, a member of the tolling committee. "We may come up and say this doesn't work here, but we have to look

"The one thing we do know is when we invest in infrastructure to expand and to address these issues, it's not free, and we have to figure out how to pay for it."

The commission is under increasing pressure to act on ways to reduce congestion in the Portland area.

Transportation-funding legislation, passed earlier this year, required the commission to come up with the congestion-based pricing plan.

Traffic in the Portland area burgeoned by 13 percent between 2013 and 2015, while delays increased by 22 percent, according to an ODOT analysis.

parts of 'As a result many the system are gridlocked for hours per day," said Mandy Putney, ODOT major projects

manager. Three examples of states that have developed congestion-based tolling are Washington, Texas, and Maryland, Baker said.

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The concept of "value pricing" or "congestion pricing" is to use toll charges and incentives to change commuters' choices about when and where to drive.

Used along with other traffic-mitigating methods, the congestion-priced tolls can help relieve congestion and save billions of dollars in time and other costs associated with congestion, Baker said.

Washington, for example, used tolls to pay for an eight-mile replacement of the SR-520 floating bridge. The tolls for the bridge are priced based on supply and demand. The fewer drivers on the route, the lower the tolls. The prices range from \$1.25 to \$4.30, Baker said.

Washington also has boosted transit use by allowing buses to use HOV lanes, which increases the reliability of transit travel times. The state also converted

an HOV lane to a congestion-priced express lane on I-405 along 17 miles in the Seattle area. Taking the express lane can save 11 to 15 minutes of travel time, he said.

Public comments are accepted at each of the committee's meetings and by email at ValuePricingPAC@ odot.state.or.us.

Lost but not for-got-ten Sara Joy M

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Your loving husband, Kevin

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THE DAILY **ASTORIAN**

Evening listings TUESDAY

TUESDA	ΥE	VENING	6	A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach							No	VEMBER 21	
Α	L	6 рм	6:30	7 рм	7:30	8 рм	8:30	9 рм	9:30	10 рм	10:30	11 PM	11:30
(2) KATU	(2)	KATU News at 6 (N)			Wheel Fortune (N)	The Middle (N)	Fresh Off-Boat (N)	Dancing With the S	tars The winner is an	nounced. (SF) Pt. 2 of	f 2 (N)	KATU News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
KOMO	(4)	KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!		Fresh Off-Boat (N)					KOMO 4 News (N)	
KING	(5)	NBC News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	KING 5 News (N)	Evening	The Voice "Live Top	12 Eliminations" (N)	This Is Us "Number	Two" (N)	Chicago Med "Spea	ak Your Truth" (N)	KING 5 News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show
6 KOIN	<u>-</u>	KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Ready or Not'	' (N)	Bull "Thanksgiving"	(N)	NCIS:NewOrleans	"Hard Knock Life" (N)	KOIN 6 News (N)	(:35) Colbert
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8 KGW	<u>-</u>	KGW News at 6:00	p.m. (N)	Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	The Voice "Live Top	12 Eliminations" (N)	This Is Us "Number	Two" (N)	Chicago Med "Spea	ak Your Truth" (N)	KGW News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show
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(10) KOPB				PBS NewsHour (N)		Finding Your Roots (N)		The Vietnam War "A Disrespectful Loyal				Independent Lens "Shadow World" (N)	
(12) KPTV		6 O'Clock News (N)				Lethal Weapon "Bir				10 O'Clock News (News (N)	Page Six TV
(E) KPDX						FOX 12's News (N)		9 O'Clock News (N)			American Dad!	The Game	The Game
						Lethal Weapon "Bir				Q13 News at 10 (N		Q13 News (N)	The Simpsons
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29 ESPN		(5:00) MLS Soccer Pla			NCAA Basketball M		/		SportsCenter The d			SportsCenter (N)	
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(35) FMC		(4:00) Prisoners ('13) Hugh Jackman. (:10) ★★★ Prisoners (2013, Thriller) Jake Gyllenhaal, Viola Davis, H Holiday Switch (2007, Drama) Maya Ritter, Kristen Harris, Nicole Eggert. The Flight Before Chris											
36 LIFE							i hristmas ('15) Ryan I			Christmas in the C	ity (2013, Family) Bev		
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49 NGEO				Fury (2014, War) Log									
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