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ONE DOLLAR

Log exports on hold due to trade war

Impending tariffs causing layoffs and slowdowns

By EDWARD STRATTON

The Daily Astorian

Longshoremen are loading the bulk carrier Tunsin at the Port of Astoria's Pier 1 with at least 5.5 million board feet of timber from Astoria Forest Products leaving Friday for China.

The Tunsin, the last ship scheduled for this year, could be the last log export indefinitely for the Port until the deepening trade war between the U.S. and China is resolved.

Chad Niedermeyer, the yard manager for Astoria Forest Products, said log ship contracts for next year have been put on hold because of impending tariffs.

President Trump recently announced 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion worth

of Chinese goods, with an increase to 25 percent next year.

The Chinese currently charge 5 percent tariffs on Douglas fir and hemlock, along with 10 percent on white woods such as spruce and grand fir, Niedermeyer said. But if Trump's tariff increases take effect, Chinese customers are indicating there will be 25 percent tariffs on all U.S. imports, he added.

The slowdown in log exports, the Port's largest single source of revenue, has caused the agency to consider budget cutbacks and look for alternate sources of revenue.

Astoria Forest Products recently began a partnership barging logs from Pier 1 to Southport Lumber Co., a mill near Coos Bay. Southport has a contract with the state of Oregon for about 3 million board feet of timber over the next year, and with private buyers will likely acquire a total of 5 to 8 million board feet, Niedermeyer said.

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Oregon pot tax revenue grows as consumption booms

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE

Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregonians are buying more legal pot than expected.

That means they are also poised to pay more taxes on it — about \$12.5 million more in the current budget than state economists projected several months ago.

The average price of a gram of cannabis on the retail market has dropped from about \$10 in late 2016 to just above \$4 in mid-2018, according to state figures.

But tax collections continue to grow.

Altogether, Oregon consumers are projected to pay \$176 million in state marijuana taxes during the current budget cycle, which ends in mid-2019.

"Since Oregon lev-

ies its recreational marijuana tax based on the price of the product, the fact that actual tax collections have exceeded expectations is all the more impressive given the ongoing drop in prices," state economists said in a revenue forecast report last week. "For every ounce sold, or every edible purchased, Oregon is receiving less tax revenue per item due to the price decline."

Wholesale prices have also decreased in that period, but less dramatically.

Consumers are turning away from other sources, like the black market and medical marijuana, and toward recreational retail, state economists say.

And more Oregonians are using cannabis, according to the forecast.

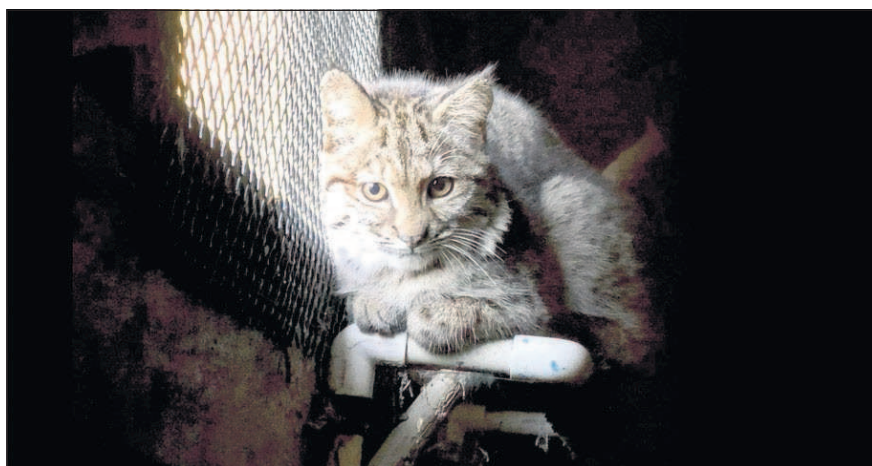
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Ginger Nealon

A juvenile bobcat is examined at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast.

FROM BACKYARD TO BACK HOME



Photos by Beth Wise

ABOVE: The bobcat was rescued by after it was found in a backyard off Highway 202. BELOW: Experts determined the young animal to be in good health.



Young bobcat returned to the wild

By BRENNA VISSER

The Daily Astorian

A young male bobcat was released back into the wild Sunday after being found in a family's fenced-in backyard off Highway 202.

The family, after seeing their dogs corner the bobcat under an oil tank about a week ago, decided to call the Wildlife Center of the North Coast about a possible rescue.

Receiving a bobcat is rare, said Joshua Saranpaa, executive director of the wildlife center. This is only the fourth report in 10 years.

"We don't get a lot of calls about them. They're pretty reclusive, so they generally stay away from people," Saranpaa said. "They're also nocturnal, so they are just not out and about when we're out about."

As a precaution, Saranpaa and rehabilitation coordinator Pauline Baker decided to capture the cat and bring him in to a veterinarian for a thorough exam to make sure there were no injuries or illnesses. After giving him a series of vaccinations and running him through a test to make sure he could catch live prey, staff confirmed that he was a "healthy little bobcat," and decided to release him on the wildlife center grounds.

A small group of community members gave him a proper goodbye as he bounded out of his kennel and into the brush surrounding the center.

Seaside School District to sell old elementary



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The gymnasium at the Cannon Beach Elementary School.

Former school building has sat vacant since 2013

By BRENNA VISSER

The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The Seaside School District is seriously considering selling the former Cannon Beach Elementary School property to the Cannon Beach Museum and Historical Society.

Though other offers have been made in the past, this is the first time the district has publicly expressed intention to commit to a sale. Superintendent Sheila Roley said the board has shown inter-

est in supporting the sale, and will likely vote to approve it in the next month or so.

"It's a good offer," Roley said. "We look forward to working out the details of the sale with the historical society."

The building, which has sat vacant at the north end of town since the school was closed in 2013, has long been an object of desire for the city, which has discussed buying it as some form of event or community center on and off for years.

The Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes and other nonprofits have also shown interest in preserving the unique building as a cultural landmark. It is one of four buildings the district is

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