

IN BRIEF

Fire damages Seaside bagel shop

SEASIDE — A fire caused by bark dust damaged Bagels by the Sea on Thursday evening.

Firefighters said bark dust on the ground by the drive-thru smoldered and ignited part of the building's siding.

About \$2,000 in damage was done to the exterior of the building on Holladay Drive. Owners are determining the extent of the damage inside.

There were no injuries, Seaside Fire Division Chief Chris Dugan said.

— *The Astorian*

Seaside gets new wayfinding signs

SEASIDE — Look down for the signs. They'll tell you where to head in a tsunami.

New wayfinding signs, inspired by Seaside High School students in a presentation last fall, will guide residents and visitors to safer ground in a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami.

The 62 thermal plastic street signs along the five established evacuation routes will increase public awareness, Anne McBride, Seaside's emergency preparedness coordinator, said at the City Council meeting on Monday.

Funding for the project will come from grants from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

— *The Astorian*

Gov. Brown reverses state's position on wolf delisting

Gov. Kate Brown is urging the federal government not to lift Endangered Species Act protections for wolves, contradicting an earlier position taken by state wildlife regulators.

Gray wolves are classified as threatened or endangered across most of the country, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed delisting the species because it is thriving.

The decision initially won the support of Curt Melcher, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's director, who wrote in a May letter that Oregon's wolf population is projected to continue expanding.

Brown has now sent a letter to Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, who oversees the Fish and Wildlife Service, to "clarify and correct" the department's position by opposing the delisting proposal.

— *Capital Press*

DEATHS

May 16, 2019

STEVENS, Milford Blaine, 85, of Astoria, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

May 15, 2019

HILL, Ronald J., 82, of Astoria, died in Astoria.

Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

WOLFORD, John Leroy, 94, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

DUII

• Around 1:37 a.m. on Friday, William A. Smith, 47, of Plainview, Arkansas, was arrested by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office near Duane Street and Eighth Street for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Ecola Creek Watershed Council, 4:30 p.m., Cannon Beach City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Knappa School Board, 5:30 p.m., Knappa High School library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.

Jewell School Board, 6 p.m., Jewell School library, 83874 Oregon Highway 103.

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

TUESDAY

Cannon Beach Public Works Committee, 9 a.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning Advisory Committee,

1 p.m., 800 Exchange, 4th Floor, Astoria.

Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:15 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

Seaside School District Board of Directors, 6 p.m., 1801 S. Franklin.

Shoreline Sanitary District Board, 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertig Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Two arrested on drug charges in Warrenton

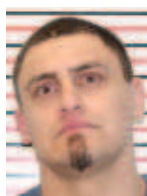
By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Two Warrenton residents could face multiple charges after a yearlong investigation into possible drug-related activities at their house ended with arrests Thursday.

Warrenton police served a search warrant at 526 N.W. Date Ave. Thursday afternoon and found heroin, methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and cash inside the house.

They arrested Melissa A. Roberts, 40, on charges that include frequenting a place where controlled substances are used and possession of meth. Michael Konecny, 31, was arrested on an outstanding felony parole board warrant for being out of compliance on his sex offender registration.

Both could face additional charges tied to drug activity.



Michael Konecny

Investigators believe Roberts and Konecny were selling drugs from the house, Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman said.

The suspicious activity they were seeing "falls in line with some kind of distribution," Workman said.

Roberts has been cited and released from county jail. Konecny remains in custody.

Since Warrenton does not have a tactical team, the sheriff's office took the lead on entering the house, using a flash-bang explosive to distract and disorient the people inside.

"Anytime you serve a warrant on a suspected drug house, you don't know the risks that are involved," Workman explained.

However, officers reported that Roberts and Konecny did not resist arrest and no weapons were found inside the house.



Colin Murphy/The Astorian

The site of the new Seaside campus.

Oregon could shake up rules in tsunami zones

A potential change to state law

By TOM BANSE
Northwest News Network

Sooner or later, the offshore Cascadia fault zone is going to unleash a monster earthquake and tsunami. When that day comes, you hope that coastal schools, fire stations and hospitals are located high enough so that they don't get washed away just when you really need them.

In Oregon, it's state law that new schools and public safety buildings be built outside the tsunami zone. But that rule has a bullseye on it.

Unlike Washington state and California, the Oregon Legislature made it a rule in the mid-1990s that certain essential facilities cannot be built inside the tsunami inundation zone — namely new hospitals, fire and police stations, schools, colleges and jails.

The current set of legislators from the Oregon Coast now wants to junk that rule. State Rep. David Gomberg, D-Lincoln City, voiced concern about a chilling effect on the coastal economy.

"Who wants to build a new house in a neighborhood that is too dangerous for a fire department?" he asked. "Who wants to start a new business in a neighborhood that's not safe enough for a fire department or police department?"

Gomberg told a legislative panel he's seeing "a subtle disinvestment" from the coast.

"Our concern in sum-

mary is that as we prepare for a major natural disaster, we don't at the same time create an economic disaster," Gomberg said.

Some alarm

But disaster preparedness advisers are raising alarms about a wholesale lifting of the moratorium on building new critical facilities in the tsunami zone. The Oregon law in question doesn't restrict private development or home construction.

"I'm very concerned we could arrive at a situation

adopted the latest international building code with an effective date of 2020. The code revisions allow for new public buildings on the coastline if a higher construction standard is met, generally involving stronger foundations and robust steel-reinforced concrete.

"That would be a win-win for everyone involved," Raskin said. "We maintain safety for coastal residents and visitors. We get some sort of control over how buildings are built in the tsunami inundation zone."

'I'M VERY CONCERNED WE COULD ARRIVE AT A SITUATION WHERE WE HAVE VERY WEAK REGULATORY CONTROL OVER WHAT IS BEING BUILT IN THE TSUNAMI INUNDATION ZONE.'

Jay Raskin | outgoing chairman of Oregon's seismic safety advisory panel

where we have very weak regulatory control over what is being built in the tsunami inundation zone," said Jay Raskin, the outgoing chairman of Oregon's seismic safety advisory panel.

Raskin says it's true that there is a scarcity of buildable land on the hillsides behind many coastal towns. He said a good way to untangle what he calls this "Gordian knot" would be for the state to adopt the latest international building code.

California and Washington state have recently

Gomberg said lawmakers would need to learn more about the new code before possibly taking that route.

Coastal legislators long ago organized themselves into the bipartisan Coastal Caucus, comprising the eight Republican and Democratic legislators from districts along the Oregon Coast. In principle, they favor more local control, less state control. They have said they're fine with the state having a consultative role.

State Rep. Caddy McKKeown, D-Coos Bay, insisted the lawmakers are not naïve about the tsunami hazard, nor is it their intention to put lives at risk.

"I don't want you to think we are downplaying or not understanding that," she said. "It's just something that we understand and live with because it's part of the risk we accept as coastal residents."

"We need to invest wisely," McKKeown added in testimony to a joint House-Senate panel. "We need to do it appropriately. We need to make sure our citizens are prepared, but this is a risk we accept because we choose to live there."

The plan of the Coastal

Caucus for now is to proceed with lifting the development restriction on essential services in the tsunami zone. The legislation to do so has passed out of the state House Natural Resources Committee, but needs further committee approvals and votes from the full House and Senate.

Meanwhile, whether there's a law to make them do it or not, a number of Oregon and Washington state school districts and cities are moving critical buildings to higher ground or working on development code enhancements to consider tsunami risk when evaluating building proposals.

Schools moving to higher ground

The Seaside School District is constructing a new campus outside the tsunami zone for all of its students. Nearby, the Gearhart City Council is pushing to move the city's fire station to higher ground. The same is happening with the low-lying Quileute tribal school in La Push on the Washington coast.

Moving schools out of the tsunami zone will save lives, said Oregon's State Resilience Officer Mike Harryman at a seismic safety commission meeting in Salem on Tuesday.

The 1995 tsunami safety law that the Legislature is considering repealing gave the authority over new construction in the tsunami zone to the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

In a letter to the Legislature, the agency said it has not denied a single project in the past 24 years the law has been in place. The law includes a process to apply for an exception if it is impractical or impossible to relocate outside the tsunami zone.

Earlier this year, the agency's board asked Gov. Kate Brown to appoint a task force to recommend the right balance between public safety and present-day community needs for an update to tsunami zone land use regulation.

The task force, which was created shortly before the coastal legislators introduced their bill, is proceeding on a separate track from the Legislature.

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VOLUNTEER
PICK OF THE WEEK

Gizmo
8¹/₂ yr old Boston Terrier/Jack Russell Blend

Walking with a Take-along friend
Lifts weight off the heart.

Sponsored by Bayshore Animal Hospital

CLATSOP COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
1315 SE 19th St., Warrenton • 861- PETS
www.dogsncats.org Noon to 4pm, Tues-Sat