

IN BRIEF

Astoria man faces attempted abuse charges

An Astoria man is facing criminal charges related to attempted child sexual abuse.

Nicholas Allen Tucker, 33, was arraigned Wednesday and charged with four counts of attempting to use a child in display of sexually explicit conduct, online sexual corruption of a child in the first degree, luring a minor, solicitation of incest and solicitation of sexual abuse in the third degree.

Tucker was arrested Friday outside of the Clatsop County Courthouse.



Nicholas Allen Tucker

States approve one-day sturgeon season above Wauna

Recreational fishermen will be able to catch and retain white sturgeon on the Columbia River on Saturday.

The one-day fishery will take place from the Wauna power lines upstream to the fishing deadlines at Bonneville Dam. The bag limit is one legal-sized white sturgeon for the day and up to two for the year.

A legal-sized sturgeon is defined as measuring 44 to 50 inches from the tip of the nose to the fork in the tail fin with the fish laying on its side on a flat surface and the ruler positioned flat under the fish.

— The Astorian

Flavored vaping ban could start this week

The two Oregon agencies charged with setting up rules to ban flavored vaping products said they'll be ready by the end of the week.

Oregon Liquor Control Commission spokesman Mark Pettinger said his agency hopes to schedule an emergency meeting for the end of the week so staff can outline plans to implement Gov. Kate Brown's executive order banning the vaping products.

"If the commission approves a ban, because of the emergency temporary rule, it goes into effect immediately. So, our compliance staff is preparing to make compliance checks at retailers that weekend," Pettinger said.

Last week, Brown used executive power to declare a six-month ban on flavored products as a response to mysterious vaping illnesses that have left more than 1,000 sick across the country and two dead in Oregon.

Inspectors will also be trying to ensure retailers don't sell flavored vapes off the books. Pettinger said businesses that sell to the black market could lose their licenses and face criminal charges.

The commission regulates vaping products that contain THC, while the Oregon Health Authority is responsible for how the flavored vape ban affects products containing nicotine.

Jonathan Modie, a health authority spokesman, said its ban should also be ready by the end of the week.

— Oregon Public Broadcasting

DEATH

Oct. 4, 2019

MATHRE, Steven Ray, 72, of Boring, formerly of Astoria, died in Gresham. Gresham Memorial Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

MEMORIAL

Saturday, Oct. 12

CHILSON, Betty Lucille — Celebration of life at 1 p.m., Clatsop Post 12 American Legion, 1132 Exchange St.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Tito Christopher Williams, 40, was arrested Saturday at the Port of Astoria's Pier 2 for assault in the fourth degree. Police said Williams punched the victim in the face. The victim refused medical treatment and went back to work. After being released from jail on Saturday, police said Williams destroyed the victim's vehicle in the

Columbia River Maritime Museum parking lot and made threats to the victim. Williams was arrested for criminal mischief in the first degree, menacing and disorderly conduct in the second degree.

DUII

• Taylor Ray Whitney, 43, was arrested Tuesday in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Warrenton City Commission, 3:30 p.m., special meeting, City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Clatsop County, Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside, Cannon Beach joint work session, 5 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington

Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.

Seaside Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., Seaside Civic and Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.

ROOM WITH A VIEW



Vickie Johnson

Vickie Johnson, of Bend, shared this view from her room on Tuesday at the Astoria Riverwalk Inn.

Liberty Theatre moves closer to fundraising goal

Target is \$3.3M

By LUCY KLEINER
The Astorian

The Liberty Theatre is on its way toward reaching a capital campaign goal of \$3.3 million, thanks largely to the \$1 million the state Legislature dedicated this summer.

The theater has now raised about \$1.3 million, bringing the campaign to 40% of its overall goal, according to a report presented at the theater Tuesday evening.

"We're far from finished," Michael Wilson, a senior associate from the consulting firm Westby Associates, said, "but we've had a lot of good news."

The funding will go toward renovating both the exterior and interior of the theater. Adding dressing rooms, replacing the curtain and optimizing the concession and box office areas are just a handful of the improvements the theater's board has planned.

"The whole intent of the program that we're doing



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Dancers perform a ballet for a packed house of young students at the Liberty Theatre.

now," Ted Osborn, the board's vice president, said, "is to convert it into a theater that can do dance, music, theatrical performances, with the best."

Currently, the facilities limit the type of performances the Liberty is able to host, Wilson said. The board is hopeful that enhancing and expanding those facilities will make it possible for larger and more intricate shows.

Jennifer Crockett, the

theater's executive director, has already discussed the renovation plans with technical directors from Portland Opera, Oregon Ballet Theatre and BodyVox, who are excited the Liberty will be able to support their full-sized crews after the renovation.

She also connected with Broadway booking agents from shows like "Rent," "Hairspray" and "Fiddler on the Roof," who expressed interest in performing at the

Liberty. "Those are shows that are touring in 2020 that, if everything goes well and we're renovated, we could have," Crockett said.

Offering the stage to larger performances will not only stimulate the local economy, but will also enable the theater to support more community groups.

"Just because we will be doing bigger shows doesn't mean that we want to lose the community shows," Crockett said. "In fact, it makes us more flexible with what we can offer community organizations."

Before the Liberty can book Broadway shows, however, more funding must be secured. The campaign is now looking to raise money at the upcoming Liberty Gala event in November. After that, they'll focus on updating the Murdock Trust grant proposal for another \$350,000 early next year.

"It's exciting," Mayor Bruce Jones said after hearing the report. "There's such a huge potential ... it will be a real jewel in the crown of Astoria."

Ballot measures could open new front in greenhouse gas war

By DIRK VANDERHART
Oregon Public Broadcasting

If lawmakers once again fail to pass a law regulating Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions next year, voters could be called on to do it for them.

Three initiative petitions filed with the Oregon Secretary of State's Office on Monday would require the state to phase out electricity sources that contribute to global warming, and transition to a carbon-free economy by 2050.

If they proceed to the November 2020 ballot, the measures are likely to usher in a bruising ballot fight. But the clean energy coalition Renew Oregon, one of the organizations spearheading the efforts, doesn't necessarily want it to come to that.

Instead, Renew Oregon is hoping the measures add urgency to the legislative session that convenes in February, where Democratic leaders have vowed once again to take up a bill that would cap greenhouse emissions in the state, and charge large polluters for their emissions.

"Our priority will continue to be the cap-and-invest bill," said Brad Reed, a spokesman for Renew Oregon. "We will put all of our energy to that. But we cannot afford for the state and for the

people to not have bold climate action next year."

The carbon cap bill has been in the works for more than a decade, and was front and center earlier this year, when the Legislature tussled over House Bill 2020. The proposal wound up flammily out spectacularly, amid a walkout by Senate Republicans and disunity in the Democratic ranks.

Gov. Kate Brown and legislative leaders have vowed to keep trying to pass a similar proposal. If that doesn't work, Brown has threatened to use an executive order to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

The three potential ballot measures open up another front in the battle, asking voters to enact strict timetables for reducing overall emissions and to require power companies to use only carbon-free sources of power. The petitions were filed by a coalition calling itself 100% Ready For Clean Air, which includes Renew Oregon, the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Climate Solutions, the Oregon Environmental Council and other groups.

Oregon has had targets for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions since 2007, but has had difficulty complying. The state is not expected to meet its 2020 goal of reduc-

ing emissions to 10% below 1990 levels. While Oregon's emissions decreased from 2000 to 2014, they have since risen, largely driven by increased use of cars and trucks.

One ballot measure the 100% Ready For Clean Air coalition is pushing would set ambitious goals. Under the plan, the state would be required under law to reduce emissions to 50% below 1990 levels by 2035, and to eliminate emissions entirely by 2050. Those goals would be tied to emissions from "fossil fuel and industrial sources," wording that captures pollution from power plants, manufacturers and automobiles.

The proposal includes no specifics as to how the state would reduce those emissions — a fact that is likely to be highlighted by opponents if a ballot fight does emerge. Instead, it tasks the state's Environmental Quality Commission with adopting rules to "ensure compliance." Rulemaking authority would allow the commission to levy fines, set rules for sources of emissions and create market-based regulatory mechanisms, among other things. Those rules would be enforced by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

While there's not currently any teeth in the state's

emissions reductions targets, Reed noted the measure would require the DEQ to enforce any new laws. The state's failure to do so could lead to legal action, he said.

The second ballot concept would ensure Oregon follows a growing movement among states to transition to 100% carbon-free and renewable energy sources by 2045. In 2015, Hawaii became the first state to set a goal to transition entirely to clean energy. At least six states have since followed suit, including California and Washington.

The coalition filed two proposals that include the essential requirement that Oregon transition to carbon-free electricity within 25 years. Both proposals also require power companies to specifically consider geographic areas that include high concentrations of low-income households, high unemployment, high rent burdens and other factors when implementing the policy.

However, one of the proposals goes further, creating an expectation that power companies will invest in projects that reduce emissions in their communities — electric vehicle charging stations, for instance. In exchange, utilities would get to set rates that reflect those investments.

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