

IN BRIEF

States reopen Columbia River to recreational coho and sturgeon fishing

Recreational fishermen will be able to catch white sturgeon and coho salmon on the Columbia River multiple days in October.

Sturgeon fishing can take place on Saturday and Thursday between the Wauna power lines upstream to the fishing deadlines at Bonneville Dam.

People can also fish hatchery coho salmon through Oct. 31. from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to The Dalles Dam.

The bag limit is one legal-sized white sturgeon for the day and up to two for the year. For coho salmon, the daily adult bag limit is two.

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.

Suspicious package causes alarm in Seaside

SEASIDE — A suspicious package scare Thursday afternoon closed Broadway between Roosevelt and Wahanna in Seaside for more than two hours.

Officials said an individual came to Seaside Fire and Rescue with what they believed was an explosive device. The device, wrapped in blanket, was placed in front of the fire house.

Technicians from the Oregon State Police Explosive Unit examined the objects and determined they were commercial fuses.

Parent-teacher conferences planned for nearby Broadway Middle School were canceled.

“The initial report was that someone believed this to (be) an explosive device,” Police Chief Dave Ham said. “The exposed portions gave us no reason not to take necessary precaution and keep the public, our firefighters and police officers safe.”

— The Astorian

Civil rights groups seek to bar ICE from courthouse arrests

SALEM — Attorneys for groups working on behalf of immigrants are asking Oregon’s judicial branch to prohibit civil immigration arrests in and around county courthouses without a judicial warrant.

Officers with U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement have been detaining people who appear for court proceedings and are in the United States illegally.

The ACLU of Oregon, Innovation Law Lab and the Portland law firm Stoll Berne planned to ask Oregon’s Uniform Trial Court Rules Committee on Friday to adopt a rule prohibiting such without a judicial warrant.

ICE spokeswoman Tanya Roman said the idea that a state law can bind the hands of a federal law enforcement agency is wrong. She said federal law provides ICE officers the authority to arrest people who are in the country illegally without a judicial warrant.

Small quake strikes off Oregon Coast

A 4.7-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of southern Oregon.

The Oregonian reported it happened shortly before 2 p.m. Thursday.

The U.S. Geological Survey mapped the earthquake about 96 miles off the coast of Port Orford, a small town in Curry County about 25 miles south of Coos Bay.

The quake was about 6 miles deep.

On Thursday morning, schools around the state, including many on the coast, had ducked under their desks for the Great Oregon ShakeOut, an annual statewide earthquake drill.

— Associated Press

DEATH

Oct. 16, 2019

SKIPPER, Violet F., 95, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

BIRTHS

Oct. 8, 2019

HALVERSON, Amanda, and DeLOE, Scott, of Nehalem, a boy, Cooper Scott DeLoe, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Bruce and Dawn Halverson, of Nehalem, and Charlie and Sandy DeLoe, of Bay City.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

<b>MONDAY</b> <b>Astoria City Council,</b> 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.	<b>of Directors,</b> 5:15 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.
<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board</b>	<b>Astoria Planning Commission,</b> 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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Knappa woman sentenced for arson and attempted murder

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

A Knappa woman was found guilty except for insanity on Thursday on charges of attempted murder and guilty of arson.

Mona Lisa Heilmann, 57, pleaded no contest to two counts of attempted murder in the first degree and one count of arson in the first degree.

She was sentenced to up to 20 years in the supervision of the Oregon Psychiatric Security Review Board

for the attempted murder charges and seven years in prison for arson.

If she is released from the Oregon Psychiatric Security Review Board before seven years, she will finish her arson sentence in prison.

Last July, Heilmann was living with her sister in Chinook, Washington, when she drove to her family’s home in Knappa in the middle of the night and set the house on fire while her husband



Mona Lisa Heilmann

and two adult children were sleeping inside.

Her husband woke up to the noise and called 911. He was able to extinguish the fire before emergency personnel arrived.

Heilmann’s family was in Circuit Court during the sentencing.

Afterward, Heilmann’s sister, Lori Wirkkala, said Heilmann has long suffered from mental illness.

She said there were lit-

tle to no resources to help her sister. Wirkkala said she is committed to finding and working with local groups to create more mental health resources in the community.

In court, Heilmann tearfully thanked her husband for taking care of their children.

“Mrs. Heilmann, I’m so sorry that you’re here,” Judge Cindee Matyas said.

“There’s been so much suffering. You do have such a strong and supportive family. I hope that will continue to give you the strength and support you need.”

Study says climate change threatens 389 bird species

By MONICA SAMAYOA  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

A national study says two-thirds of North American birds are at risk of extinction due to climate change.

The National Audubon Society released a new report showing 389 out of 604 birds are at risk if greenhouse gas emissions are not lowered by 45% by 2030.

According to the study, across the state of Oregon, without substantial climate change mitigation, average temperatures during the warmest months are expected to increase approximately 11 degrees Fahrenheit, affecting 136 bird species by the end of the century.



Associated Press  
The greater sage grouse.

we’re talking about species that we take for common,” said Bob Sallinger, conservation director for Portland Audubon.

In addition to changes in climate across North America, the study assessed the potential impacts of other forecasted threats related to climate change, including sea-level rise, land use and extreme weather events.

“We have massive, massive amounts of data to look at — looking at different models and in the end they’re all telling us the same thing, which is birds are very imperiled. Huge numbers of species are at risk of extinction,” Salinger said. “It’s time to take action, we’re overdue. The time is now.”

If greenhouse gas emissions are lowered by the end of the century, the number of vulnerable species falls to 92.

States, tribes call for Superfund listing at Bradford Island

By CASSANDRA PROFITA  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

The Yakama Nation and the states of Oregon and Washington are asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to declare a new Superfund site on the Columbia River at Bradford Island alongside Bonneville Dam.

The federal government used Bradford Island as a dump site for decades. It hosted a landfill as well as discarded hydroelectric equipment containing the toxic pollutant polychlorinated biphenyl, or PCB.

Now the site is so contaminated with pollutants that many of the fish living in the area are too toxic to eat. Fish advisories warn people not to eat the fish because of health risks, but the area is still used for tribal and recreational fishing.

Tribal leaders say cleanup plans have been delayed because the Trump administration decided to cut the funding.

“A delay in the cleanup of the Bradford Island site is unacceptable,” Yakama Nation Fisheries Superfund Section Manager Rose Longoria said. “Current site conditions pose a serious

threat to human health and the environment requiring an expedited cleanup.”

Lauren Goldberg, with the environmental nonprofit Columbia Riverkeeper, said the area hasn’t seen any active cleanup work since 2007, and testing of fish tissue since then has shown contamination levels have gone up.

“There is an urgent need for the government to get its act together and clean up that site,” Goldberg said. “The resident fish there — not salmon but fish like bass and sturgeon — contain the highest levels of cancer-causing PCBs of any fish in the Northwest. They’re higher than the Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup area.”

In a letter sent to Oregon and Washington earlier this month, Goldberg’s group and eight others urged the states to seek Superfund status for Bradford Island in response to years of stalled and ineffective cleanup efforts by the federal government.

An EPA spokesman said the agency is considering the request. Under the agency’s Superfund process, a determination on the site’s priority status would likely be made by 2021 after a rulemaking process that would include public input.

Activists block rail line at Port of Vancouver



Monica Samayoa/Oregon Public Broadcasting  
Environmental activists from Portland Rising Tide built a tripod in the middle of a rail line to block access to Terminal 5 at the Port of Vancouver on Thursday.

Protest against a pipeline

By MONICA SAMAYOA  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

VANCOUVER, Wash. — More than a dozen environmental activists blocked a rail line at the Port of Vancouver on Thursday, as they were trying to stop the transportation of pipes that would be used for the construction of a Canadian oil pipeline.

The group, Portland Rising Tide, is calling on government leaders to terminate the construction of Canada’s Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project.

The pipeline carries crude and refined oil from Alberta to the coast of British Columbia.

If the expansion is completed, it will triple the pipeline’s capacity to nearly 3 million gallons a day and add more than 600 miles of new pipeline.

“There is a lot of awareness and knowledge now about the climate crisis that we’re facing,” Kelsey Baker, an organizer with Portland Rising Tide, said. “Extract-

ing more tar sands and dirty energy from the ground and burning it is not the answer or the solution.”

Baker said the proposed pipeline route would also go through indigenous peoples’ land.

“We’ve seen a lot of public support, I think especially in the Pacific Northwest and along the West Coast. Folks are on the same page about not building any more fossil fuel, dirty energy projects,” Baker said.

Activist Nick Haas said he wants Washington Gov. Jay Inslee to act now and switch to 100% renewable energy, including solar and wind.

“He ran for president under the guise of being very climate friendly, that was his entire platform, he needs to act like it,” Haas said.

Inslee’s office did not respond for a request for comment.

Port of Vancouver director of communications Heather Stebbings said her organization was aware of the protesters and was closely monitoring the situation. No operations or shipments were affected by the protests.

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