

IN BRIEF

Convicted child abuser dies in prison

Carl Axel Hagnas, who was sentenced in January to six years in prison for sexually abusing three young girls in Clatsop County, died Thursday morning at Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario, according to the Oregon Department of Corrections.

The cause of death has not been released.

Hagnas, 70, was known as the “candy man” for passing out treats to children. He was a community volunteer and cleaned the Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton, which is where some of the abuse took place.

Log truck rolls over on Highway 202

A log truck headed westbound on state Highway 202 rolled over Friday morning near Olney Avenue.

Police said the crash happened after the driver drove around a tight curve.

For unknown reasons, the logs shifted to the left and rolled the semi onto the driver’s side. The highway was closed for several hours.

The driver had minor injuries.

Ransom scam phone calls reported

Two incidents of ransom scam calls were recently reported to the Warrenton Police Department.

The scams involved the caller saying they have kidnapped the victim’s child or loved one and will release them for money. The caller was reportedly yelling and someone was screaming in the background, creating a tense atmosphere.

Police urge people who receive this call to try to slow the situation down, try to figure out where the loved one is located and contact police.

Construction work extended until January at North Jetty

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will extend construction on the mouth of the Columbia River’s North Jetty to Jan. 1.

The original plan was to reopen the area and road on Nov. 1, but the project has taken longer than previously anticipated.

The jetty, North Jetty Road and nearby parking lots will remain closed to the public until January. Benson and Waikiki beaches will remain open.

Ecola State Park will close for tree removal

Ecola State Park will close Monday through Friday while crews remove trees that could pose a hazard along the entrance road.

Park rangers will be working with crews from the Oregon Department of Corrections to remove dead, diseased and unstable trees.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

Oct. 30, 2019

JENSEN, Romaine, 90, of Astoria, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 29, 2019

McMACKEN, David, 75, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

BIRTH

Sept. 12, 2019

SUITS, Sarah and Chris, of Astoria, a boy, Ezekiel Christopher Suits, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

Seaside Community Center Commission meeting, 10:30 a.m., Bob Chisholm Center, 1225 Avenue A.
Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., Port offices, 10 Pier 1 Suite 209.

Seaside Library Board,

4:30 p.m., Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway.

Sunset Empire Park

and Recreation District,

5:15 p.m., workshop, Bob Chisholm Center, 1225 Avenue A.

Miles Crossing Sanitary

Sewer District Board,

6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Sons of Beaches 4x4 club rescues stranded semi-truck from ocean

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
The Oregonian

The Clatsop County Sons of Beaches 4x4 club is used to getting called out to the shore to help pull things out of the water. But on Wednesday, the group of all-terrain enthusiasts got a surprise: a semi truck was stranded in the ocean, and the driver needed their help to pull the truck out.

Ben Doney, a member of the club, said the driver had driven his semi-truck cab onto Sunset Beach and been surprised by a quickly rising tide.

“Apparently he had driven it out to get a couple pictures of the truck on the beach,” Doney said. Though there are warning signs along the beach, Doney said, vehicles can drive on that portion.

“There’s no sign that says not to bring a semi onto



Ben Doney

A semi-truck was stranded on Sunset Beach on Wednesday.

the beach,” he said.

With the tide coming in, the 4x4 club quickly hooked two winch lines to the truck

and used a Jeep and a super-duty truck to pull the semi to safety.

Doney said the driver

stayed inside the cab to steer and help them get the semi out.

Getting the truck out of the water quickly was crucial not only for the driver’s safety, Doney said, but also to keep contaminants, such as fuel, from getting into the water.

Though a 20,000-pound vehicle was new territory for the 4x4 club, members often help rescue stranded vehicles from the beach. Doney said the club does a lot of recreational activities, but some of the members comprise the “shore patrol,” and have gone through training similar to tow truck drivers.

“None of the tow trucks go out onto the sand, because they’re not equipped for it,” Doney said. “So that’s when law enforcement will call us.”

The group is all-volunteer and doesn’t charge for rescues, Doney said.



The Dungeness crab season pumps millions of dollars into the Pacific Northwest’s coastal economy.

Dungeness crab ‘meating up’ at their slowest rate in years

Troubling signs off Washington coast

Chinook Observer

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Dungeness crab in Long Beach Peninsula waters have the lowest percentage of meat in at least five years of late-October testing. More than 85% of local crab also are too soft to commercially harvest.

This is bad news for the traditional Dec. 1 opening date, which has often proved illusory in the past two decades.

Samples gathered Oct. 23 in the Long Beach test area had a meat-recovery rate of 19.1%. This compares to 20.9% in 2018, 19.9% in 2017, 23% in 2016 and 23.8% in 2015.

Samples from the Westport area collected on Oct. 24 had a recovery rate of 21%, compared to 19.7% in 2018, 20.2% in 2017, 22.9% in 2016 and 24% in 2015.

All areas must be at least 23% before a commercial

crabbing season can commence under terms of the tri-state protocol that governs crabbing in the waters of Washington state, Oregon and California.

In another potential problem for a timely season start, Washington coast crab are especially slow to harden this autumn.

In Long Beach waters on Oct. 23, only 2.4% of sampled crab were in the highest 1A shell grade and 11% in the less desirable but still acceptable grade 1B. In late October last year, 15.3% were either grade 1A or 1B, and 34.7% were good grades in 2017.

Grade II crab — with some flex in both body and legs — are unmarketable. The Oct. 23 testing found 86.6% of Long Beach crab to be grade II, slightly worse than last year’s 84.8%. Tests in October 2017 found 65.3% were grade II. These past three rounds of October tests are lousy when stacked up against only 25.7% grade II in 2016 and 38.9% in 2015.

Shell conditions were slightly better off Westport as of Oct. 24, with 2.4% grade 1A and 17.4% grade 1B. This means more than 80% of Westport crab are currently unmarketable.

Harvesting crab before they are at their best results in a lower price. This has a major impact on profits for the entire season, since around three-quarters of crab are caught in the season’s opening weeks.

Dungeness crab typically are the most valuable fishery in Washington state and Oregon.

Local crabbers and their families always hope for a hefty paycheck or two before the Christmas holidays. Season-start delays are more common than not, however.

Besides not reaching the 23% meat requirement, season starts also are sometimes delayed due to price negotiations with processors. Some recent seasons have faced delays due to the presence in crab of the marine toxin

domoic acid, which crab ingest from clams and other things they eat. No domoic testing will be conducted on crab until November. Tests on Washington razor clams this autumn have found little cause for concern.

Washington’s most lucrative commercial Dungeness crab area from Klipsan Beach south to the Columbia River has opened on its traditional Dec. 1 date in only seven of the past 19 years, most recently for the 2014-15 season.

Before that, there was a run of five Dec. 1 start dates from the 2006-2007 season through the 2010-2011 season. The season also started Dec. 1 for the 2003-2004 season. The 2017-18 season had the latest start ever: Jan. 15, 2018. Last season got underway on Jan. 4, 2019.

Only Washington exercised the option per the tri-state agreement with Oregon and California to conduct an October test. Oregon and California plan tests in November.

the Astorian

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Volunteer Pick of the Week

Nova

3 year old Yellow Lab/Shepherd Blend

Blissfully robust and outgoing, Nova will be perfect for giggling games in a heap of leaves.

Read about Nova on Petfinder.com

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Bethany Free Lutheran Church

Fall Festival

Sunday, November 3rd, 5 p.m.

Program of music and sharing about Alaska, followed by food and fellowship.

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