

IN BRIEF

Peninsula razor clam digs to open Sunday

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Razor clam diggers can return to ocean beaches on the peninsula for a seven-day opening beginning Sunday.

State shellfish managers with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife approved the dig on evening low tides after marine toxin tests showed the clams are safe to eat.

“It’s great to find time for digs over the Thanksgiving holiday,” said Dan Ayres, state coastal shellfish manager. “Razor clams are a great addition to your feast, and it’s fun to bring guests from out of state along for a distinctive Washington experience.”

— *Chinook Observer*

Seaside names new school and mascot

SEASIDE — The deafening cheers of more than 700 students permeated the gymnasium at The Heights Elementary School on Wednesday during a joint assembly with Gearhart Elementary School at which the school’s new name, mascot and colors were revealed.

Effective July 1, the Seaside School District’s elementary school at the new campus will be called Pacific Ridge Elementary School, while Broadway Middle School is being renamed Seaside Middle School to reflect the relocation.

The new elementary school’s colors will be turquoise, black and silver, while the middle school will transition to white, black and Columbia blue.

During the joint assembly, it was also revealed that the new mascot of Pacific Ridge Elementary School will be the puffin, an iconic bird species of the North Coast. The middle school will remain the sharks.

Cannon Beach police officer to graduate from academy

Christian Salinas of the Cannon Beach Police Department will graduate Dec. 6 at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem.

The basic police class is 16-week training in areas including survival skills, firearms, emergency vehicle operations, ethics, cultural diversity, problem solving, community policing, elder abuse, drug recognition and other subjects.

— *The Astorian*

Carcass of giant blue whale brought to surface for study

NEWPORT — The carcass of a giant blue whale that’s been submerged off the Oregon Coast for more than three years is being hauled to the surface so it can be reassembled, studied and put on public display.

Oregon State University said Friday that the dead whale washed ashore near Gold Beach in 2015.

It’s extremely rare for a blue whale to wash ashore intact, as the creatures can be the length of two school buses.

Scientists removed 58 tons of its flesh and then placed the bones in the water off Newport so scavengers could pick them clean.

The university says the 365 bones were brought back to land Thursday, including 18-foot-long mandibles and a skull weighing 6,500 pounds.

The skeleton’s reassembly will take a year.

— *Associated Press*

MEMORIALS

Sunday, Nov. 24
RODRIGUEZ-MARTINEZ, Ruben — Visitation from 3 to 6 p.m., rosary at 5 p.m., Hughes-Ransom Mortuary, 576 12th St. Rodriguez-Martinez, 77, of Astoria, died Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, in Seaside.

Monday, Nov. 25
RODRIGUEZ-MARTINEZ, Ruben — Visitation from 10 to 11 a.m., funeral Mass at 11 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 120 Oceanway in Seaside. Committal service follows at Evergreen Cemetery in Seaside.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Sivai Folausau Bennett, 59, of Seaside, pleaded no contest Wednesday to assault in the second degree and two counts of recklessly endangering another person.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY
Astoria Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

LNG protesters arrested in Brown’s office

Project near Coos Bay

By SAM STITES
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — State police ended a protest and occupation of Gov. Kate Brown’s office Thursday night over the Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas project by arresting 21 people for criminal trespass.

They were the remaining demonstrators who filled the governor’s ceremonial office Thursday afternoon to show their opposition to the project in Coos Bay.

The protest started with hundreds on the Capitol steps before moving inside to the rotunda midday and then to Brown’s office on the second floor.

Brown wasn’t in the office at the time but did talk to protesters by phone. Later in the evening, she returned and talked with those occupying her office.

“I believe that Oregonians are best served by knowing



Jake Thomas/Oregon Capital Bureau

Demonstrators protesting the proposed Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas facility staged a sit-in Thursday at Gov. Kate Brown’s ceremonial office in the Capitol in Salem.

that there is a fair process and that I’m not putting my finger on the scale one way or another,” the governor told the occupiers, according to Oregon Public Broadcasting. “Because as you know, your community is quite divided on this issue. Your community is extremely divided on this issue.”

Thomas Joseph, a leader of the sit-in, said that around

9:30 p.m., the Oregon State Police ordered about 65 protesters to disperse.

At that time, many of those remaining packed up and left the Capitol, but 21 individuals stayed and were arrested by state troopers.

The Jordan Cove project includes a gas pipeline running across 229 miles of Oregon landscape, from the border town of Malin east of

Klamath Falls to Coos Bay.

Proponents say the project would be an economic boon for Coos County, while environmentalists say the risks to Oregon’s environment are significant.

According to a press release from Southern Oregon Rising Tide, one of those arrested was 72-year-old Sandy Lyons, a landowner in Days Creek who would be impacted by the pipeline.

Lyons said Thursday that her family has lived and worked on their Douglas County ranch for nearly 30 years and have been fighting the pipeline for the past 15 years.

“I am here today because we have tried every possible way to be heard and want somehow to gain the governor’s attention to how wrong this is, and the negative ways in which it will permanently scar us and our land,” Lyons said.

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group, Pamplin Media Group and Salem Reporter.

Washington state deals setback to massive methanol plant

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Washington state dealt a setback Friday to efforts to build one of the world’s biggest methanol plants on the Columbia River, saying that five years in, its backers had failed to provide enough information about its greenhouse gas emissions and how they would be offset.

The \$2 billion Northwest Innovation Works project would take natural gas from Canada and convert it into methanol, which would be shipped to China to make olefins — compounds used in everything from fabrics and contact lenses to iPhones and medical equipment.

Backers, including Cowlitz County and the Port of Kalama, said the project would reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by displacing China’s use of coal to make methanol. They provided regulators with a third-party analysis suggesting that over the project’s life it would reduce global emissions by at least 10 million metric tons per year.

They called that the single largest initiative in Washington for reducing emissions — equivalent to removing more than 2 million cars from the road.

But environmental groups said there was no evidence to support that statement and that the proj-



Amanda Cowan/The Columbian
Mark Keely, of Kalama, stands with other protesters outside the Washington Department of Ecology’s Vancouver field office in 2017.

ect would create huge emissions of its own. In its decision Friday, the Washington Department of Ecology said further review was necessary “to determine the adequacy of the proposed mitigation for the project.”

The review is expected to take about a year.

“The company continues to rely on this very dubious claim that their methanol is going to replace dirtier methanol made from coal,” said Brett VandenHeuvel, executive director of the conservation group Columbia Riverkeeper. “There’s just no justification for that. The Department of Ecology is doing its job.”

In emailed statements, Northwest Innovation Works said Friday it was disappointed but “prepared for the long haul” and ready to prove its project will reduce global emissions.

The company, which is backed by the Chinese gov-

ernment, has noted that it offered to mitigate for all greenhouse gas emissions it generates in the state, and that it was investing in technology that would eliminate all water discharge from its facility into the Columbia River.

The company says that because producing methanol from natural gas costs about half what it costs to make from coal, it would have a competitive advantage — as well as an environmental one — over Chinese methanol production.

“If this doesn’t get built, the result will not be less material produced in the world,” Kent Caputo, general counsel of Northwest Innovation Works, said earlier this week. “It will be that those materials will be produced in countries that do not adhere to the environmental and regulatory standards that Washington state has.”

Ecology requested additional information about the emissions in its comments on a draft environmental impact statement last year. The backers then filed a supplemental environmental impact statement in August. Ecology again requested more information in October and gave supporters 30 days to produce it.

They responded on Nov. 4, objecting that some of the information sought had already been provided or was beyond what state law

required.

Ecology’s decision Friday came about a week after conservation and public health groups, including Columbia Riverkeeper, the Sierra Club and Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, sued in U.S. District Court in Tacoma to invalidate key federal permits for the project.

The groups said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did not properly consider the huge amount of greenhouse gases the project would emit — more than 1 million tons per year, an amount that would increase Washington’s greenhouse gas emissions by 1%.

They also said federal reviews had failed to properly consider the project’s effects on threatened salmon runs and on endangered orcas.

Local officials have supported the project, noting it would bring about 1,000 construction jobs and 190 longer-term positions to the region.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee used to support it, saying it would help clean up China’s plastics industry. He changed his mind last May amid his short-lived presidential run, which centered on combating climate change. He said that because of the urgency of the threat from global warming, he could no longer support launching massive new fossil-fuel infrastructure in the state.

Offices across region close for Thanksgiving

The Astorian

In observance of Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, all federal and state offices are closed. County and city offices and services, including Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach city halls, are closed Thursday and Friday. All U.S. post offices are closed Thursday, and there

is no mail delivery.

Warrenton/Hammond and Seaside (including Cannon Beach and Gearhart) school district schools are closed Monday through Friday. Astoria, Jewell and Knappa school district schools are closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Clatsop Community College is closed Thursday and Friday.

The Astoria Library, Seaside Library and Warrenton Library are closed Thursday and Friday.

The Port of Astoria offices close early Wednesday and are closed Thursday and Friday.

There is no garbage collection Thursday through Recology Western Oregon. Customers whose regular pickup day is Thursday will have their garbage picked up on Friday. Customers with a Friday pickup date will have their garbage picked up Saturday. The Astoria Transfer Station is closed Thursday.

There is no garbage collection Thursday by the city of Warrenton. Both Thursday’s and Friday’s garbage will be picked up on Friday.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside is closed Thursday.

The Astoria Aquatic Center is open from 5 to 11 a.m. Thursday.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum, Oregon Film Museum and Flavel House and Carriage House are closed Thursday. The Uppertown Firefighters’ Museum is closed for the winter.

Lil’ Sprouts is closed Thursday and Friday. Fort Clatsop is open Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Columbia River Maritime Museum and Seaside Museum are closed Thursday.

Sunset Empire Transportation (“The Bus”) is not running Thursday.

The Astorian offices are closed Thursday. Thursday’s newspaper is being mailed Wednesday.

the Astorian

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