



Oly Hickman sits with his mother, Kathryn, at the vigil.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Vigil: Family described as generous people

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She said she called Vestal Elementary School, the school Lola attended in Portland, to tell them about the vigil and learn more about the girl and her family. The school decided to also hold a vigil for the children on Thursday.

Johnson showed a glimpse of what the family is like through descriptions Vestal’s principal, Sabrina Flamoe, shared with her.

“Every morning, the mom and the grandma would bring

coffee and pastries because she owns a bakery. And so they would bring Lola to school and the little 4-year-old, William, would come with, and she said he would come flying, literally, into the room ... that he would just bring such joy and that they were really great kids,” Johnson said.

She described them as generous people.

“We don’t need to know the family, and we don’t,” Johnson said.

Several people who work with Jamie Stiles attended the

vigil.

One of her co-workers, Vineeta Lower, of Seaside, tearfully asked if she could share a few words. Lower and Stiles work at Oregon Virtual Academy, an online charter school, where Stiles is an administrator.

“Jamie is an incredible, incredible woman. She is the sweetest, kindest person you will ever meet. And she loved those children through every fiber in her being,” said Lower, an educator who ran unsuccessfully for state House in 2018. “They were

deeply, deeply, deeply, deeply loved and I just want to make sure you guys know that.”

Jason Isbell, of Clatskanie, has worked with Stiles for over six years.

Isbell and others said when they found out the family they were hearing about on the news was the Stiles’ family, they immediately went to hug their children.

“As a dad, I hurt for Jeremy,” Isbell said, his arm around his daughter. “When I read the news I went and grabbed her and held her for like an hour.”

Grocery Outlet: ‘We can work with the city’

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“We’ve given up our access on Marine Drive and have gone that extra effort to share access with the neighbor,” Dover said of the Mini Mart. “If you don’t have access off of Marine Drive, you’re going to force more traffic down 23rd (Street) and more down Commercial (Street) ... you’re going to make it worse if you don’t relieve some of the congestion by allowing direct access off of Marine.”

Commissioners also took issue with pedestrians on Marine Drive and from the store’s parking lot having to cross a driveway on striped paths to reach the entrance, similar to access at Safeway. Main & Main’s revised application still includes a pedestrian path through the parking lot. But the path connects with Marine Drive farther away from the shared driveway than in the previous layout.

The city has still expressed concern with

the close proximity of the pedestrian walkway to vehicle access.

To appease design standards, Main & Main added windows on the south side of the store and lowered the height of a roadside sign to make it more oriented toward pedestrians than cars.

“We’ve provided a good design, and Grocery Outlet wants to provide value and choice for Astorians ... I believe competition is a good thing and will only help Astorians,” Dover said.

The City Council could approve or deny Main & Main’s revised application, or send it back to the Design Review Commission. If denied again, the developers could appeal to the state Land Use Board of Appeals. Asked about further appeals, Dover said he doesn’t foresee the process going that far.

“I think we can work with the city until we reach their design standards,” he said. “We just need some direction from them.”

Limit: ‘We’re pro local businesses’

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Texas-based Landry’s Inc., which owns chains like Joe’s Crab Shack, but also unique operations like Portland City Grill. Fryer brought up Providence Hotels, a hospitality company that owns unique operations like Hotel Lucia in Portland.

City Councilor Tom Brownson said such chains with unique operations should be allowed. Councilor Jessamyn West argued that such ownership groups are no different than a corporation, with money flowing up to shareholders.

“That’s not that different than the Fairfield or the Marriott,” West said, referencing a controversial hotel proposal in Astoria. “It’s just the buildings look different.”

Fryer reminded West that ownership and where the money goes are not land use decisions. West said it is still a consideration for her.

Sarah Lu Heath, executive director of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, said there are situations in which global chains opening a new outpost in Astoria could be beneficial. Selina, a global chain of unique hotels started in Central America, recently leased the Commodore Hotel, one of its North American locations.

City councilors struggled over how to regulate regional chains such as McMenamins, a Portland-based company with more than 60



Wikimedia Commons

The Astoria City Council is looking at prohibitions on formulaic chain businesses like Olive Garden.

locations around the Pacific Northwest, usually in repurposed, existing buildings; and Burgerville, a fast-food chain based in Vancouver, Washington, with fewer than 50 locations.

Fryer pointed out that despite the unique locations, McMenamins shares similar menus, uniforms and other formulaic characteristics. “You know you’re in a McMenamins when you’re in a McMenamins,” she said. “It does have that standardized feel.”

City Councilor Joan Herman wanted a lower number of allowable locations, worried that chains of even McMenamins’ size could squeeze out smaller competitors. Jones thought the cap on the number of locations, along with requirements of dissimilarity, would solve most issues.

Councilors ultimately moved toward defining formula businesses as those with at least 12 U.S. locations sharing at least two formulaic similarities, or any chain with 75 or more locations. The prohibitions would be limited to restaurants and lodging.

Councilors also reached

a consensus on capping the number of drive-thru formula restaurants such as McDonald’s, Burger King, KFC, Subway and Dairy Queen to the current number. Such restaurants could transfer their licenses to other chains upon closing.

City staff will propose a draft amendment to the Planning Commission, which would send a recommendation to the City Council for approval. Jones stressed that the city wants a thriving local economy that maintains its unique characteristics.

“We’re not anti-business,” Jones said. “We’re pro local businesses and pro those types of businesses that we’ve seen be successful in town that are consistent with the community’s feel and appearance.”

Nonprofit: Helped launch needle exchange

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journey and I know that together we have made a difference. For those who are still struggling please reach out for help and know that you are never alone.”

Jordan’s Hope collaborated with the county’s public health department to launch a needle exchange program in 2017.

The nonprofit distributes naloxone to help save people from overdoses, and the public health department provides needle exchange to help prevent the spread of disease.

Michael McNickle, the county’s public health director, said the harm reduction program has saved lives. They have distributed 586 naloxone kits, which have saved 91

people from overdose.

The county will continue to provide naloxone training and distribution.

“It won’t be easy, but we will continue to serve those suffering from addiction. Because of the shame and stigma associated with drug use, these people often suffer in shadows. Public health will work to improve the health of these people with the same level of compassion and care that Kerry did,” McNickle said in an email.

McNickle said Strickland was able to show that addiction affects everyday people. He believes every time she tells her son’s story, it breaks

down the stereotypes associated with addiction and creates more understanding around the issue.

“We’ve had over 40 people go to recovery and they thank us for that,” he said.

“Those folk were going to use drugs regardless. What we’re trying to do is give them an opportunity, to meet them where they are and give them a way to get out and into recovery. And, in the meantime, try not to get a communicable disease by sharing needles, and saving yourself or one of the people you inject drugs with by doing naloxone distribution.”

Judge’s ruling puts clean energy ballot initiatives back on track

By SAM STITES
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — A Marion County judge has reversed a decision by Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno to reject two proposed ballot initiatives on carbon reduction.

Judge David Leith ruled Thursday that initiatives backed by renewable energy coalition Renew Oregon do not violate Oregon law prohibiting ballot measures from taking on more than a single subject. Overturning Clarno’s rejection, Leith said that the labor and equity provisions included in the measures connect to the subject to guide the transition.

Clarno was not immediately available for comment on the ruling.

The initiatives are two versions of a proposal to require Oregon to produce all of its electricity using renewable energy and carbon-free sources by 2045. They also set labor practice standards ensuring that construction jobs resulting from the policies are high quality with worker and wage protections.

Co-chief petitioner Eric Richardson, executive director of the Eugene/Springfield NAACP, was pleased with the ruling. He was happy to see the initiatives take another step toward the ballot.

“These initiatives provide not only a target for 100% clean electricity but also a blueprint for the transition, so it creates good-paying jobs with benefits and prioritizes communities most in need of investment,” he said.

Fellow co-chief petitioner Lisa Adatto was excited that if passed, the initiatives would provide a cleaner and healthier future for Oregonians. She also was happy that Judge Leith

followed decades of precedent in his decision.

Renew Oregon’s attorney argued the group’s case Thursday in Marion County Circuit Court. Leith’s ruling adopted an injunction allowing the initiatives to proceed without delay. The proposed initiatives are seen as a backstop should lawmakers fail to pass carbon-reduction laws in the short 2020 legislative session that begins Feb. 3.

Clarno announced her rejection of the two initiatives in December. It was the second time in less than a year her office had thrown out proposed ballot measures based on Oregon’s single-subject rule. Early in 2019, Clarno’s office rejected two initiatives aimed at restricting some logging practices in forest watersheds. Proponents of those measures sued to overturn her decision, but lost their case.

Both of Renew Oregon’s petitions will resume the process of earning certified ballot titles from the Oregon attorney general’s office. Backers will then need to collect 112,020 valid voter signatures, each, to qualify for the November ballot.

Renew Oregon Executive Director Tera Hurst said the ruling cleared the way for climate action policy to prevail in 2020, whether through legislation, executive action or the ballot. “Oregonians support these measures by wide margins because we understand a clean energy transition is the only way to protect our health and economy and take responsibility for handing our kids a healthy world,” Hurst said.



Bev Clarno

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