

## IN BRIEF

## Tornado causes minor damage near Manzanita Tuesday

A tornado caused minor damage to two properties along the Kahnle Trail Loop near Manzanita on Tuesday morning.

Weather officials say the tornado traveled about one-quarter mile in length and about 100 yards in width. No injuries were reported.

## Pedestrian injured after being struck by a vehicle on Marine Drive

An 80-year-old Astoria man was struck by a vehicle Tuesday while crossing W. Marine Drive in front of Astoria High School.

Police say the man was going to the high school to see a game and parked in a parking lot across the street. As he was crossing the street from the lot to the high school, he was struck by a vehicle. The driver was not cited.

The man was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria with injuries.

## Seaside rejects low offer on high school

SEASIDE — The school district has rejected a bid for Seaside High School.

“We had an offer at the high school that was considerably less than our asking price, and we declined to accept that,” Jim Henry, the campus project manager, said at a meeting of the district’s school construction oversight committee last week.

The bid was about one-third the asking price of \$5.2 million, he said.

## Scam caller pretending to be police

Astoria police have received reports that a scam caller with a toll-free phone number has called a couple of bars pretending to be a police officer.

Police say if there is any doubt the phone call is genuine, call the Astoria Police Department directly at 503-325-4411.

— The Astorian



## A MINIBOAT SUMMIT

**ABOVE:** Warrenton Grade School student Kaitlyn Gildner christens her school’s Goonies-themed miniboat by breaking a bottle of sparkling cider over it at the Miniboat Summit held by the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria on Tuesday morning. The students from Warrenton built the unmanned boat that will head for Japan as part of a cultural exchange with Japanese students. The GPS-equipped boat will be tracked after it is released by the Columbia River Bar Pilots. **LEFT:** Warrenton Grade School’s miniboat turns quickly with the push of the wind during a test run on the Columbia River. Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

## DEATHS

Jan. 21, 2020

BROWN, Dennis Philip, 75, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Jan. 17, 2020

HORTON, Lynn Alice, 79, of Astoria, died in Portland. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of

Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 16, 2019

OLSON, Brian Herbert, 49, of La Center, Washington, formerly of Astoria, died in La Center. Cascadia Cremation & Burial Services in Vancouver, Washington, was in charge of the arrangements.

## MEMORIAL

Saturday, Jan. 25

HARVEY, Richard “Rick” — Celebration of life service at 5 p.m., Hughes-Ransom Mortuary Chapel, 220 N. Holladay Drive in Seaside. Harvey, 69, of Portland, died in Portland on Jan. 13, 2020.

## ON THE RECORD

## Theft

• Corey Elizabeth Jones, 25, was arrested Monday at Walmart in Warrenton for theft in the second degree and criminal trespass in the first degree.

## Harassment

• Robert L. Parks, 39, of Longview, Washington, was arrested Sunday on E. Pine Lane in Gearhart for harassment.

• Kristian Erik Williamson, 59, of Astoria, was arrested Sunday on Bond Street in Astoria for harassment.

## Menacing

• Elliott Joseph Pernice, 36, of Seaside, was arrested on Bear Road in Seaside for menacing.

## Contraband

• Bryan Thomas Edwards, 32, was indicted Tuesday for supplying contraband tobacco and unlawful manufacture or delivery of Buprenorphine.

## DUII

• Latoya V. Ndir, 35, of Warrenton, was arrested Monday on U.S. Highway 101 in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

• Kelvin Rummell, 56, of Seaside, was arrested Monday on Avenue T in Seaside for DUII.

• Kevin Micheal Clark, 48, of Astoria, was arrested Friday on Svensen Market Road and Simonsen Road for DUII.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## THURSDAY

**Sunset Empire Transportation District Board**, 9 a.m., Astoria Transit Center Conference Room, 900 Marine Drive.

**Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce Council**, noon, 818 Commercial St., Suite 203.

**Astoria City Council**, 2 p.m., work session, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

## the Astorian

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## Wyoming, Montana seek Supreme Court ruling on coal project

## Clash over a Longview terminal

By MEAD GRUVER  
Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Wyoming and Montana asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to rule on Washington state’s denial of a permit for a port facility that could boost coal exports.

The coal-producing Rocky Mountain states argue the denial violates the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits states from impeding trade between one another and with other countries.

Montana and Wyoming officials want South Jordan, Utah-based Lighthouse Resources to be able to open its proposed \$680 million Millennium Bulk Terminals project in Longview, Washington.

At stake could potentially be a good-sized chunk of the coal industry. Domestic coal-fired power generation has declined 40% over the past decade amid competition from cheaper and cleaner-burning natural gas and renewable energy, contributing to a steep decline in coal mining and several bankruptcies among the industry’s biggest players.

The Washington Department of Ecology has imposed a “de facto blockade” on the coal-mining states by denying a key permit for the coal port facility in 2017, Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon said at a news conference.

“This case is about the right of states to conduct commerce, a question as old as our Constitution,” said Gordon, a Republican.

The denial of the permit under the federal Clean Water Act provided no way for



Bill Wagner/The Daily News

The site of a proposed coal export facility in Longview.

Lighthouse subsidiary Millennium Bulk Terminals to improve its permit application to win approval, Gordon said.

“The state just didn’t want to export commodities from the interior West and was willing to use any tactic it could find to make sure of it,” Gordon said.

Montana’s access to overseas coal markets “shouldn’t be dictated by the latest political fads on the West Coast,” Montana Attorney General Tim Fox said in a release.

The case would bypass lower courts should the Supreme Court choose to hear it. Washington would continue to defend its decision and “right and obliga-

tion” to enforce clean water laws, Mike Faulk, a spokesman for Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat, said in a statement.

“This project was rightfully denied under state and federal authority because it failed to meet water quality and other environmental standards,” Faulk said.

Washington state officials have said the denial wasn’t an abuse of authority but based on how the project would disturb over 30 acres of wetlands, require dredging of 40 acres of the Columbia River and contaminate stormwater by stockpiling 1.5 million tons of coal on site, Faulk said.

## Chlorpyrifos ban proposed in Washington state

## Restrictions also possible in Oregon

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The pesticide chlorpyrifos would be banned in Washington state except for use on three crops under a bill introduced in the state Senate.

Mint, onion and sweet corn growers would be able to use the chemical. Other farmers could apply for an exemption, too, but they would have to alert neighbors prior to spraying and warn that exposure to chlorpyrifos could harm young and unborn children.

The bill’s prime sponsor, state Sen. Christine Rolfes, D-Bainbridge Island, said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has punted on deciding whether to ban chlorpyrifos nationwide. “It just appears to be a chemical we should be weaning ourselves off of,” she said.

The EPA concluded in 2016 that the current registered uses of chlorpyrifos pose dietary and drinking water risks and says it will complete a review of those uses by October 2022.

California, Hawaii and New York have moved to phase out chlorpyrifos in those states before then.

Washington, Oregon, California are among the eight states seeking to force an immediate national ban by suing the EPA in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In Oregon, the pesticide is mainly used on Christmas trees, leafy greens and alfalfa. The Chlorpyrifos Work Group, an advisory committee, is considering limits on its use. The committee is made up of 12 members, which include experts and leaders from agriculture, environmental justice groups, toxicologist and farmworker health and safety organizations.

“We have a really diverse agricultural industry in Oregon. So many sectors within the industry use the product, we have other land uses that use the product and then we have folks who represent particularly vulnerable populations that can be exposed to the product,” the state Department of Agriculture’s Stephanie Page said.

“One really helpful thing is that many of these folks have worked together in the past on other difficult issues, they’re accustomed to working together.”

Page said the goal for this work group is to look into the critical uses and evaluate science-based restrictions that protect public health, safety and limit exposure.

The committee will also explore ways to reduce bystander exposure to workers, neighbors or people who live near areas where the pesticide has been used.

Farm groups and the U.S. Department of Agriculture defend chlorpyrifos as essential for crop protection and safe if properly applied.

Washington Friends of Farms and Forests executive director Heather Hansen said the state should wait for the EPA to finish its review. “The entire bill is an end-run around the existing process,” she said.

A ban could hurt even growers who rarely spray chlorpyrifos, but use it to supplement or back up other chemicals, she said. “You take a tool out of the toolbox, you make it much more difficult to protect crops,” she said.

The EPA has been considering a ban for several years. In comments submitted to the federal agency, the Washington State Department of Agriculture asked that any ban exempt mint, onions and sweet corn because those crops lack alternative pesticides.

For other crops, Rolfes’ legislation would ban products that have chlorpyrifos as its active ingredient beginning in 2021. Until Dec. 31, 2025, growers could seek

permission from the state Department of Health to use chlorpyrifos, but with limits.

The chemical couldn’t be applied from the air or in winds above 3 mph. Nearby residents would have to be told 48 hours in advance and given a health warning.

The restrictions would remain in place unless state Health and Ecology officials concluded the chemicals’ use was not a health risk.

Washington Tree Fruit Association President Jon DeVaney said that orchards typically use chlorpyrifos once a year while the trees are dormant.

A ban would not take into account how the chemical is used and whether every use poses a health risk, he said.

“These are very complicated, scientific questions that don’t lend themselves to a broad-brush, all-or-nothing approach,” DeVaney said.

Ashley Chesser, communications director of the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides, said the organization can support the bill, even with the exemptions and phase-in period.

“Ideally, we would end use completely, but we’re also sympathetic to growers who have been using it,” she said.

Monica Samayoa of Oregon Public Broadcasting contributed to this report.