

IN BRIEF

RV catches fire in Seaside

Authorities are investigating a fire that destroyed an RV and garage Thursday afternoon in Seaside.

Officials say the RV was parked in front of a vacant home on S. Columbia Street. Firefighters were able to keep the fire contained to the RV and garage of the home.

Officials say people who may have been occupying the home at the time of the fire impeded firefighters by going back into the garage while firefighters were working to put the fire out.

Crash closed one lane of Highway 101

One lane of U.S. Highway 101 closed for about an hour Thursday evening due to a crash near Glenwood Village.

Police say a driver traveling in the southbound lane turned left into another vehicle.

Both vehicles were towed from the scene and injuries were reported.

Nursing assistant loses license over medications

The state Board of Nursing revoked the license of a Clatsop County nursing assistant found to be stealing pain medication meant for patients.

The state alleged that Sarah Merrill, formerly a resident care coordinator at Avamere by the Sea in Seaside, was taking narcotics home from her workplace. She received her certification in 2009 and was reported to the board late last year.

Merrill, who did not request a hearing, can apply in three years to have her certification reinstated.

Highway 30 lane closure could begin Monday

Contractors could begin nighttime closures of one lane of U.S. Highway 30 at 30th Street in Astoria as early as Monday.

Construction will likely begin next week on a stormwater treatment vault for city maintenance shops that will encroach onto one lane of traffic. The contractor is allowed to close one lane of the highway between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Construction is anticipated to last two weeks. Businesses within the project area will remain open during construction.

Peace tree coming to Cartwright Park

SEASIDE — A symbol of peace.

That's how Seaside's landscaper Pam Fleming and members of the city's Tree Board see a small ginkgo tree headed to Cartwright Park.

The city was one of 24 Oregon communities to successfully apply to participate in the state peace tree planting, marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

"It's very symbolic," Vineeta Lower, a Tree Board member who is running for state House, said on a tour of the park.

Space and irrigation were the qualifiers that brought the tree to Cartwright Park, with fields, play equipment and a boat ramp, Fleming said.

The seedling ginkgo and Asian persimmon trees were grown from seed collected from trees that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and brought to Oregon by Medford resident Hideko Tamura-Snyder, who survived the 1945 bombing.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

Feb. 19, 2020

ASHLEY, Charles Edward, 71, of Seaside, died in Portland. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council, 4 to 5:30 p.m., 800 Exchange St., Room 430.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Astoria Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

the Astorian

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian
From left, Molly, Logan and Leah Dugan climb the 13-ton propeller outside the Columbia River Maritime Museum at sunset Thursday.

PROPELLED



Andrew Selsky/AP Photo

Demonstrators against a proposed liquid-natural gas pipeline and export terminal in Oregon filled the governor's office in Salem last year.

Jordan Cove decision delayed

Energy commission raised concerns

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — A U.S. regulatory agency on Thursday delayed a vote on a proposed natural gas pipeline and marine export terminal in Oregon, with one member saying greenhouse gas emissions and endangered species should be considered and blasting the decision-making process as "rotten."

The issues bluntly raised at the meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission came on top of objections to the mega-project by Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development. In a letter released late Wednesday, the department said the Jordan Cove Energy Project would harm the environment and had failed to obtain necessary permits and to provide information requested by the department.

"Coastal effects analyses show that the project will negatively impact Oregon's coastal scenic and aesthetic resources, a variety of endangered and threatened species, critical habitat and ecosystem services, fisheries resources, commercial and recreational fishing and boating, and commercial shipping and transportation, among other sectors," the department said in the letter to a Jordan Cove official.

The proposed natural gas terminal and 230-mile pipeline would permit shipment of natural gas from the United States and Canada to

Asia and would be the West Coast's first liquefied natural gas export terminal. The Trump administration supports energy export projects and in particular Jordan Cove, a project of Pembina, a Canadian company. It has proposed streamlining approval of gas pipelines and other energy projects by limiting states' certification authorities under the U.S. Clean Water Act.

The three members of the federal commission were all appointed by President Donald Trump. U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, urged Trump

saying it ignores environmental impacts.

"We really don't consider or include those environmental impacts in our decision-making process," Glick said at the meeting. "Something's really rotten with that."

Glick also said Oregon's goal to limit greenhouse gas emission should be considered because a pipeline across southern Oregon and an export terminal on Coos Bay would produce around 15% of the 14 million metric ton limit Oregon wants to reach by the year 2050.

utation for being a rubber stamp for these types of pipeline and LNG projects," Glick said.

After Glick and McNamée spoke, commission chairman Neil Chatterjee said he was disappointed there was no final vote on the project, but he respected the other commissioners' need for more time. He said the application remains pending.

Jordan Cove spokesman Paul Vogel said company officials are reviewing the letter from the state land conservation department and look forward to a final decision by the federal regulatory commission.

Opponents of the project, including the group Rogue Climate, applauded the actions by McNamée and Glick.

"Tens of thousands of people across the region have spoken out against this Jordan Cove LNG for over a decade," said Allie Rosenbluth of Rogue Climate. "It's time to put an end to Jordan Cove LNG for good this time so our communities can focus on creating local jobs in clean energy instead."

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has already denied a water quality certification for the proposed project. Pembina withdrew its application for another state permit, saying it would await a decision by the commission.

State Sen. Jeff Golden, a Democrat, recently told demonstrators opposed to Jordan Cove that he expects the battle to go to the courts if the Trump administration tries to ram the project through despite a lack of state permits.

'WE REALLY DON'T CONSIDER OR INCLUDE THOSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IN OUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. SOMETHING'S REALLY ROTTEN WITH THAT.'

Richard Glick | commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

last month to appoint a full and bipartisan five-member commission before a ruling is made on Jordan Cove. Otherwise, a decision could be interpreted as politically motivated, he said.

While the commission delayed the issue Thursday, member Bernard McNamée said he was giving it an initial "nay" until he could study Wednesday's decision by the Oregon agency. Commissioner Richard Glick had harsh words for the way the panel operates,

"This is going to really make it difficult for Oregon to reach its standards," Glick said. He pointed out that the project is expected to have significant impacts on 20 threatened or endangered species, among other negative effects.

The Natural Gas Act requires public-interest benefits to be weighed against adverse impacts, Glick said. "We're not doing that in this particular case, and that's why I think this commission has earned its rep-