

## IN BRIEF

## Astoria man killed in crash in Knappa

An Astoria man was killed Saturday morning in a crash on U.S. Highway 30 in Knappa.

Police say a driver of a Buick Regal had stopped at the Knappa intersection to proceed across Highway 30 onto Hillcrest Loop. The driver turned into the path of a Ford Mustang heading eastbound and was struck on the passenger side.

Enrique Sutphin, 24, was a passenger in the Buick Regal and was killed in the crash.

The drivers of both vehicles sustained minor injuries.

The crash closed one lane of the highway for several hours.

## Fire destroys home in Seaside

Officials are investigating whether someone was inside a home destroyed by fire in Seaside early Monday morning.

Crews were called at 1:04 a.m. to a two-story home fully engulfed in flames on S. Columbia Street. The blaze threatened nearby properties and four occupied homes surrounding the fire were evacuated.

Officials say because of the danger the fire presented, firefighters were unable to enter the home.

— *The Astorian*

## DEATHS

Feb. 23, 2020

**GUSTAFSON, Donna** Maureen, 92, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 22, 2020

**SUTPHIN, Enrique**, 24, of Astoria, died in Knappa. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 21, 2020

**STINSON, Fredrick** Andrew, 99, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 20, 2020

**VANOSDOL, Betty** Ann, 88, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## CORRECTION

**Project name misspelled** — Regulators are reviewing the Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas project in Coos Bay. The name was misspelled Jordon Cove in a headline on A2 on Saturday.

## ON THE RECORD

## Assault

• Jeramie Burmeister, 39, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on U.S. Highway 30 for assault on the fourth degree.

## Menacing

• Michael Meeuwesen, 29, of Warrenton, was arrested Sunday on N.W. Gardenia Avenue in Warrenton for menacing, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

## Harassment

• Griffin Jay John, 40, of Astoria, was arrested Sunday on Marine Drive in Astoria for domestic harassment.

## Criminal trespass

• Kevin Turner, 30, was arrested Monday at Goodwill in Warrenton for criminal trespass in the first degree.

• Jacob Martin Kitzman, 28, was arrested Sunday at Costco Wholesale in Warrenton for criminal trespass in the first degree.

## Reckless driving

• Douglas Byrd, 26, of Hammond, was arrested Thursday in Warrenton for reckless driving and chasing and harassing wildlife.

• Trevir Mayfield, 23, of Astoria, was arrested on Saturday on S.E. Airport Road in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants. His blood alcohol content was 0.16%.

• William Eugene Warner, 47, of Gearhart, was arrested Saturday on Franklin Avenue and Marine Drive in Astoria for DUII. His blood alcohol content was 0.14%.

• Bjorn Dieter Vaughn, 53, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on U.S. Highway 101 and Marlin Avenue for DUII.

• Raymond Sachse, 53, of Deer Island, was arrested Friday on 43rd Street and Lief Erikson Drive in Astoria for DUII.

• Allen Babikoff, 55, of Vancouver, Washington, was arrested Friday on S. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside for DUII.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## 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.

## WEDNESDAY

**Clatsop County Board of Commissioners**, 5 p.m., work session, 6 p.m., regular meeting, Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria

## THURSDAY

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

**Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning and Advisory Committee**, 1 to 3 p.m., fourth floor, 800 Exchange St.

## the Astorian

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

**Jordan Admire, a junior at Astoria High School, cuts the ribbon and officially opens the new home of the Lower Columbia Q Center in Uniontown on Friday night. The Q Center first opened in 2014 as a hub for the LGBTQ community and initially operated out of the Astoria Armory.**

## Astoria man's plea concludes long-running sex abuse case

By **NICOLE BALES**  
*The Astorian*

A long-running legal case involving an Astoria man accused of sexually abusing his granddaughter has come to a close.

Thomas Michael Kelly, 69, was sentenced Friday to five years of probation for two counts of sodomy in the first degree and one count of sexual abuse in the first degree. He will also have to undergo sex offender counseling.

Kelly was convicted by a jury in 2008 and again in 2013 for sexually abusing his granddaughter over the course of several years.

He was sentenced both times to more than 33 years in prison for 12 counts of sodomy in the first degree and 12 counts of sexual abuse in the first degree.

However, both times the convictions were challenged.

The first conviction was overturned by the Oregon Court of Appeals because the trial court allowed a medical expert to testify to a diagnosis of child sex abuse

without there being physical evidence of sex abuse. The appeal was based on an Oregon Supreme Court ruling that required physical evidence, a decision that led to several child sex abuse cases across the state being reversed.

The second conviction was challenged over a line of questioning used by the prosecution that was deemed invalid and unfair to the defense.

Instead of trying the case for a third time, the parties decided to settle. Kelly has spent almost nine years in prison.

"We've been here on and off for almost 14 years now. And I think I can probably say for everybody that it's been a long and painful haul," Clatsop County District Attorney Ron Brown said at the sentencing.

"It's kind of a bittersweet ending. I submit, because I submit that a grandfather who sexually abused his granddaughter over a period of time deserves every bit of the prison time that we can

give him," he said.

Brown described the process of the victim having to testify during two trials as "cruel and unusual punishment."

"She's had no contact hardly at all with anybody on that side of the family for 14 years. She's had to be on the stand twice, and so I decided, 'Let's see if we can get this case put behind us because she's on a new road,'" he said.

The victim, now 22 years old, was at the sentencing with her husband. Her family sat together at the other side of the aisle behind Kelly.

The victim first told her father's girlfriend about the abuse after she noticed signs and asked her if she was being abused. She then reported it to police.

The rest of the victim's family believes the victim lied. Over the course of two trials, a support group for Kelly was formed and "freetom.info" banners were hung around town.

The victim read a state-

ment in court and addressed her family in the audience. "When I needed you the most and I said what was happening everybody turned their back," she said.

"Back then, I honestly didn't know what was happening was a bad thing," she said. "I couldn't imagine my grandfather ever doing anything to me that was ever going to put me in harm's way ... at the end of the result. But he did. In the end, you hurt me in the most humiliating, horrible, painful, emotional, physical and mental way possibly a human can do to another human."

Prior to sentencing, Kelly's attorney said Kelly and his family did not have anything to say as they just want to move on.

In a written statement afterward, the family said, "Tom has agreed to a contractual plea in lieu of going back to trial for a third time, so he can spend time with his remaining family and friends. The Kelly family is thankful and happy to have him home and for this to be finally put to rest."

## Bill would advance timber deal

## Notification of aerial spraying

By **SAM STITES**  
*Oregon Capital Bureau*

**SALEM** — The fate of the landmark deal signed between a coalition of timber companies and environmental groups depends on lawmakers acting on legislation that would reform certain Oregon logging practices.

The deal brokered by Gov. Kate Brown and announced earlier this month outlines a process for the two warring sides to set aside prospective ballot initiatives and related litigation in favor of working together. One of the provisions in that agreement says the deal hinges on passage of legislation to reform practices around aerial spraying of pesticides.

That legislation — House Bill 4168 — was introduced Thursday by the House Rules Committee, where lawmakers got their first glimpse of what timber interests, conservationists and policy staff from the Brown's office have been working on.

The bill would require timber companies and small-woodland owners to notify nearby residents when they aerially spray pesticides following a harvest. It would spur the creation of new notifica-



Sam Stites/Oregon Capital Bureau

**Greg Miller, right, representative of the coalition of timber companies that signed the deal with conservation groups, presents HB 4168 to the House Rules Committee on Thursday.**

tion technology and establish an opt-in system for nearby residents to receive warnings in real time when spraying takes place. It also adds a 300-foot no spray zone around schools and homes, as well as buffers for streams.

Lastly, the bill directs the state Board of Forestry to adopt rules regarding certain salmon species for the Rogue-Siskiyou region, which were adopted for the rest of the state in 2017.

The goal is to have both sides, which have been fighting in forests and courtrooms for upward of two decades, come together to work on a habitat conservation plan that applies to state and private forestlands. The plan would give some certainty to timber owners moving forward and would meet long-term goals for

protecting ecosystem and wildlife.

Committee members heard from three people during the bill's first public hearing Thursday. That included Gina Zepdlik, the governor's deputy chief of staff; Bob Van Dyk, policy director for the Wild Salmon Center and representative of the environmental groups; and Greg Miller, representative of the coalition of timber companies.

"Over the years, we've been on the opposite side of major timber interests," Van Dyk said. "So today it's my pleasure to be on the same side of the table as Greg and asking you to support this legislation."

According to Miller, those responsible for aerial spraying of pesticides would be required to report to the Forest Activity Elec-

tronic Reporting and Notification System by 7 p.m. the day before. The system would then prompt an email to those who have registered with the program within one mile of the location where spraying is set to take place. They would have to report back on the completion of the spraying mission as well.

A company or landowner failing to provide the necessary notice could be punished with anything from a warning up to a \$1,000 fine for repeated violations.

Anyone who deliberately interferes with a spraying operation could be fined up to \$1,000 for the first incident and \$5,000 for a second incident within a five-month period.

As legislators questioned Miller and Van Dyk, state Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, R-Scio, had potentially the most pointed question of the hearing: With so much bad blood between the two sides, how can she and her colleagues expect the agreement and bill to work out in the long term?

"I believe that it's the right thing to do," Miller replied. "I also believe it's the right time to do it, and I believe that looking at the work we've done since we sat down (in January) ... we figured out there's something worth reaching for. There's a real commitment by these organizations to move forward."