

IN BRIEF

Seaside man killed in fire that destroyed home

A Seaside man was killed in a fire that destroyed his home early Monday morning. Authorities said Stephen Scott Penwarden, 69, was the sole occupant. 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.

Downtown parking changes get nod in Seaside

SEASIDE — The city took a step Monday to eliminate the parking requirement for certain types of residential uses above ground-floor commercial uses in the downtown core. Acting on a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the City Council considered the measure to make workforce housing more economical for developers and provide more affordable housing for tenants. “There’s been a push to look at creating opportunities to allow the second story of the downtown core areas to allow for residential uses,” Community Development Director Kevin Cupples said. Mayor Jay Barber said the ordinance was in response to the council goal to provide more workforce housing, particularly in the downtown area. “This is a step toward that as well,” he said.

— The Astorian

Chinook salmon returns could be among lowest on record

Spring Chinook salmon could return on the Columbia River in the second lowest numbers in 21 years, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This year’s forecasted return of 81,700 upriver spring Chinook is up 12% from last year’s return of 73,100, which was the lowest since 1999, the News Tribune in Tacoma reported. The record low return was just 12,000 fish in 1995. The projected return this year is just 43% of the 10-year average for Chinook returning to hatcheries and spawning areas upriver from the Bonneville Dam. Poor ocean conditions continue to play a significant role in lower projected returns, said Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River policy coordinator for the Department of Fish and Wildlife. New fishing regulations for the Columbia River — from about 6 miles below the The Dalles Dam upstream to the Oregon and Washington state line above McNary Dam — set the season at April 1 through May 5.

— Associated Press

DEATHS

Feb. 24, 2020
MOREHOUSE, Ansell “Morrie,” 99, of Forest Grove, formerly of Seaside, died in Forest Grove. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Feb. 21, 2020
PROCTER, Everett, 88, of Florence, formerly of Astoria, died in Florence. Musgrove Family Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Kidnapping
• William Franklin Satterwhite, 37, of Astoria, was arrested Monday on state Highway 202 for kidnapping in the second degree, reckless endangerment, assault in the fourth degree and menacing.

Strangulation
• Vivian Marie Potter, 55, of Westport, was arrested Monday on Caleb Road in Westport for strangulation and assault in the fourth degree.

Arson
• Kelley A. Brownlie, 46, of Marana, Arizona, was indicted Monday for arson in the first degree, burglary in the first degree, criminal mischief in the first degree, unlawful use of a weapon and menacing.

Theft
• Iddo Dechter, 28, was arrested Tuesday near Fred Meyer in Warrenton for theft in the second degree.

• Sarah Margaret Karns, 25, was indicted Monday for theft in the first degree.

Weapons charges
• Dorothea Harrington, 37, was arrested Tuesday near Fred Meyer in Warrenton for felon in possession of a weapon and carrying a concealed weapon.

DUII
• Randy Kay Altig, 58, of Astoria, was arrested Tuesday on U.S. Highway 101 Business and Willow Road for driving under the influence of intoxicants. His blood alcohol content was 0.14%.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

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., Astoria.

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CULTURE OF DANCE

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Eben Pobee, the president and art director of Just Humanitarian Project Legacy, performs with the Blembaii Dance Ensemble at Clatsop Community College on Friday afternoon. The college’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council sponsored the Ghanaian drum and dance troupe to share a part of African and African American culture. Watch a video at [dailyastorian.com](#)

Republicans in Salem bolt over cap and trade

House legislators follow senators

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE, JAKE THOMAS and SAM STITES**
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — The Capitol became a place without Republicans on Tuesday, an extraordinary act of defiance of the control by Democrats. Their absence is grinding to a halt votes in the state House and the Senate, plugging the political pipeline meant to cure immediate needs of Oregonians. House Republicans mimicked their colleagues in the Senate, disappearing as state House Speaker Tina Kotek gaveled into a standard floor session Tuesday morning. She proceeded with opening rituals — the presentation of the colors by youth from the Civil Air Patrol, the reading of “courtesies” by legislators who welcome constituents to the Capitol, and then a song by a high school student. But when it was time to go to work, Kotek adjourned when all but one of 22 Republican legislators failed to respond to the electronic roll call. Without comment, Kotek gaveled the 16-minute session to a close. Across the Capitol, in the Senate, Democrats gathered in what was a futile convening in the wood-paneled chamber, where even routine tasks were lost to the absence of all 11 Republican senators. Sen. Sara Gelser, D-Corvallis, clutched a religious text. Without enough members, she said, they couldn’t even conduct an opening prayer. After about 10 minutes, the Senate adjourned. Across the Capitol, no one was talking about what comes next. Republican legislators are focused on just one of the hundreds of bills before the Legislature: A plan to reduce Oregon’s greenhouse emissions in a system they say will wreck Oregon’s economy, particularly in rural areas. The legislation — Senate Bill 1530 — was headed for the Senate floor Monday when senators in the minority declared they wanted no part of a vote. Senate Republicans on Tuesday were mum about their intentions, and Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, offered no public clue how he would bring his chamber back together. Twice before, Democrats have conceded to Republican demands to end previous walkouts. In the House, the path forward was no clearer. Leaders of both the Democrats and

Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press
Protesters opposed cap and trade at the state Capitol in early February.

Republicans weren’t saying what their next steps would be. **Political chicken** As the game of political chicken unfolded, Democrats tried to create some image of business as usual. In both the House and the Senate, committees worked away at the grunt work of the Legislature — listening to testimony and advancing bills. But they sent them off to an uncertain fate, since they will sit in the “inbox” of the Senate or House, awaiting floor action. But unless at least a couple of Republican legislators show up for duty, those bills go nowhere. Democrats signaled no interest in giving into Republican demands to refer the cap-and-trade bill to Oregon voters. “The bill is done,” said Senate Democratic Leader Ginny Burdick, of Portland, as she was zipping up a jacket Tuesday afternoon for an outing with Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, a leading author of the bill. “There is nothing more that can be done. You know, they’re holding out for a vote of the people. That’s not going to happen.” In the House, Democratic Leader Barbara Smith Warner, of Portland, said she’s giving Republicans “space” to consider their next move. “You know what? The House, they just walked out today,” Smith Warner said. “The Senate, they’ve been through this all before. It’s old hat for them, perhaps. But over here we are continuing to do outreach, member to member, and hope that our members will respect the office and their voters and their constituents and come back and do their job. And so we’re taking it day by day.” Smith Warner just wants enough representatives on the floor to allow the House to vote, she said. The Legislature must adjourn by 11:59 p.m. March 8. “I would like as many of them to come back as possible,” Smith Warner said. “I would like us to do our work and complete our work. And

if they don’t, then we adjourn ... And the governor can, and I hope will, call a special session and just continue to move forward until folks come and do their job.” Republicans weren’t revealing much about their game plan. Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr., who leads Republicans in the Senate, told reporters by phone on Tuesday that his caucus will stay away until the deadline “if we have to.” Asked where Senate Republicans were holed up, he asked, “Why would I tell you that?” Of his fellow Senate Republicans, he did say he’s “confident that they’ve left the state. They’ve been through this before and it’s just a lot of pressure on them if they don’t leave the state.” In the background is the possibility that a decision on climate change will be taken out of legislators’ hands and taken directly to voters by proponents of an even more stringent climate change proposal. Burdick said Democratic leaders haven’t factored that in as they consider their next steps. “I think we’ve been focusing so hard on trying to get a bill done in the process, which is where a bill like that should be done,” Burdick said. As far as the possibility of outside initiatives goes, “it really is not much of a discussion,” Burdick said. **Better angels** Instead, Democrats have tried to appeal to Republicans’ better angels, making grand and sweeping public pronouncements about how their GOP colleagues have spurned the institution of representative government. Last year, Renew Oregon, a coalition of environmental and other groups, sponsored a series of ballot measures that have more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy goals than the stalled legislation. Brad Reed, spokesman for Renew Oregon, said that the initiatives were filed to spur legislators into action. One initiative would cut climate pollution in half by

2035 and make the state 100% carbon-free by 2050. By contrast, the bill in the Legislature seeks an 80% reduction from 1990 levels by 2050 and makes concessions to businesses, he said. A companion initiative would mandate that by 2045 all of the state’s energy would come from renewable sources. Reed said that lawmakers of both parties have been briefed on both initiatives. “They know they’re out there,” he said. Reed added that a poll commissioned by Renew Oregon showed a majority of Oregon voters supporting the measures. Reed said, though, that Renew Oregon would prefer the Legislature address the issue, but the group is poised to push an effort to get its measures before voters in November if legislators don’t act. Democratic leaders have also said the Legislature, with its ability to broker compromise and concessions, is better-suited to take up the issue — a scalpel, compared to the blunt mallet of the initiative process. They also believe that voters in Republican districts will understand what other issues serving their needs would be lost if the Legislature stalls out. “At some point, their constituents are going to look at all the stuff that has nothing to do with carbon, and isn’t even controversial, that benefits their district that’s sitting there on the table that will die if they don’t show up and do their job,” Burdick said. “I anticipate my Republican colleagues will come back to work,” said Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, walking briskly on his way to a meeting of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. He said that Republicans will realize that being away from the Capitol will end up hurting the people that they represent, and the damage will be worse the longer they’re gone. Several Democrats support sending state money to the flood-swept Umatilla basin, for example, but say they can’t advance that without a quorum only Republicans can provide. Baertschiger told reporters Tuesday that Gov. Kate Brown could provide relief to flood victims without legislative action. “Pure poppycock,” said Prozanski, curtly, before stepping into a committee room. Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, is the lone Senate Republican who has stayed behind. He said he spent Tuesday in committee sessions, other meetings and working on amendments.