

## IN BRIEF

## Recreational clamming open on the coast

Recreational razor clamming is open on the coast from the Columbia River to the north jetty of the Siu-slaw River in Florence after domoic acid dropped to acceptable levels.

The marine biotoxin remains at elevated levels, and clamming is closed, from Florence to the California border.

## State seeks appointee to fishery management council

The state is looking for a candidate to serve on the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is accepting nominations for an at-large seat held by Brad Pettinger with the Oregon Trawl Commission.

The 14-member council manages roughly 119 species of groundfish, pelagic species such as sardines and anchovies and highly migratory species such as tuna and swordfish off the Oregon, Washington state and California coasts.

All nominations are sent to the governor's office, which then sends the names of at least three candidates to the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Department of Commerce for consideration. Pettinger may be reappointed to the seat.

The deadline to submit an application is March 6 and the three-year council term begins Aug. 10.

Appointees must pass an extensive FBI background check. People interested in being considered or nominating another person should contact Jessica Watson at Jessica.L.Watson@state.or.us or Caren Braby at Caren.E.Braby@state.or.us.

— The Astorian

## DEATHS

Feb. 26, 2020

HEDIGER, Patricia "Pat," 74, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

## BIRTH

Feb. 22, 2020

SNEDEKER, Tiffany, and HORTON, Derrick, of Warrenton, a girl, Khloe Ann Marie Horton, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Malissa Matthews and Curtis Davidson and Craig and Angie Horton.

## ON THE RECORD

## Sodomy

Jonathan David Wyatt, 37, of Warrenton, was indicted Wednesday for sodomy in the first degree and sexual abuse in the first degree.

## Assault

Jeremy Allan Jacques, 48, was arrested Thursday on W. Marine Drive in Astoria for assault in the fourth degree domestic violence felony.

## Burglary

Autumn Grace Brelin, 23, of Astoria, was indicted Wednesday for burglary in the first degree, theft in the first degree, possession of a stolen vehicle, unauthorized use of a vehicle, identity theft and two counts of theft in the second degree.

## Theft

Timothy Dean Yaakola, 48, of Warrenton, was arrested Wednesday at Costco in Warrenton for theft in the first degree and criminal mischief in the third degree.

## Disorderly conduct

Brett Bane Mel-lott, 31, of Astoria, was arrested Thursday on 12th Street and Duane Street in Astoria for disorderly conduct in the second degree.

## DUII

Victoria C. Scarborough, 23, of Ocean Park, Washington, was arrested Wednesday on Marine Drive and 11th Street in Astoria for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## MONDAY

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

## TUESDAY

Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 12 p.m., work session, 800 Exchange St., Suite 430, Astoria.

Clatsop Care Health District Board, 5 p.m., Clatsop Care Health and Rehabilitation, 646 16th St., Astoria.

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, 5:15 p.m., workshop, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

Port of Astoria Commission, 5:30 p.m., 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.

Seaside Library Board, 5:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

Miles Crossing Sanitary Sewer District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Seaside Planning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## the Astorian

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## JAZZ HANDS



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

**TOP:** John Dover busts out a solo on stage of the Liberty Theatre while performing with Astoria High School band and choir students on Wednesday night. Dover, a professional musician based out of Portland, taught clinics to the local music students before the performance. **ABOVE LEFT:** Saxophonists from the high school's band play a series of jazzy tunes at the free concert. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Senior Kajsa Jackson sings with the Port City Singers, Astoria High School's jazz choir.

## Small farmers voice support for cap and trade

## A step to protect natural resources

By GEORGE PLAVEN  
Capital Press

SALEM — As Oregon lawmakers clash over a controversial bill to curb the state's greenhouse gas emissions, Mimi Casteel says climate change is already posing a major identity crisis for winegrowers.

Casteel grew up on her family's vineyard in the Willamette Valley, home of internationally recognized pinot noir. She remembers harvest usually happened around October, with the area's relatively mild weather allowing more time for grapes to ripen and add layers of distinctive berry-like flavors.

Over the years, Casteel said that climatic window has begun to shift. Summers are becoming hotter and drier, forcing growers to pick grapes earlier in the season when sugars — and thus alcohol content — are higher but flavors have not yet come into balance.

In short, Oregon pinot noir might no longer taste like Oregon pinot noir.

"We just established ourselves a world-class wine region," Casteel said. "We're looking at a hard reality where that is not what we have anymore."

In 2008, Casteel started her own vineyard, Hope Well Wine, in the Eola-Amity Hills west of Salem. She is one of more than 270 small farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who signed on in support of Senate Bill 1530 — the cap-and-trade proposal — through the Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, or OrCAN.

The bill is now stalled in the Legislature as both state House and Senate Repub-

licans staged boycotts of the short session this week, demanding that cap and trade go to the voters.

OrCAN Director Megan Kemple rejected that notion, saying the bill is comprehensive with extensive input from all sides.

"No bill has had this much work and this much public process," Kemple said. "The Legislature is where policy like this should be made."

Opponents of the bill, including the Oregon Farm Bureau and #TimberUnity, a grassroots group of farmers and loggers whose members have staged large rallies outside the Capitol, argue that SB 1530 will raise fuel and energy prices, crippling agricultural producers who cannot pass the increased costs along to consumers.

A statewide cap-and-trade system would also have a negligible impact on climate change, critics add. Oregon generated just 0.13% of global carbon dioxide emissions in 2019, according to the International Energy Agency.

But Casteel said the bill contains a number of compromises intended to protect rural communities and trade-exposed businesses, and is a necessary step toward protecting natural resources.

"This would facilitate the transition toward climate-smart farming," she said. "The smartest, most responsible thing we can do right now is throw our full and honest support behind farmers who can protect this region."

## Front lines

Under cap and trade, the state sets a hard cap on greenhouse gas emissions and charges companies for allowances to exceed the limit. The cap gradually lowers over time, which is meant to encourage the companies to adopt more climate-friendly

practices and technology.

Money collected would go into a state Climate Investment Fund with specific allocation levels for adaptation projects, including 25% for wildfire mitigation and 25% for natural and working lands to adopt measures such as tree planting, cover crops, no-till farming, riparian buffers and capturing dairy gas to create renewable energy.

Casteel, who built Hope Well Wine on 80 acres of reclaimed property, said these practices will ultimately determine whether Oregon is able to maintain its ecological resilience.

"It's really farming where we make our greatest impact," Casteel said. "We are on the front lines (of climate change)."

Other farmers who support cap and trade say the costs of doing nothing now are much higher than the cost of waiting until climate change creates irreparable harm.

In the Applegate Valley of southern Oregon, Taylor Starr, executive director and farm manager at the nonprofit White Oak Farm and Education Center, said the last 10 years have seen increasing wildfires and lower snowpack in the Siskiyou Mountains, creating a lack of water flows later in the season.

Two years ago, Starr said the farm had its irrigation water shut off in early July, about a month earlier than usual. White Oak Farm grows and sells a variety of produce and contracts with several seed companies. The center also receives grants and contributions to support its programs.

"We've really had to adjust our scheduling," Starr said. "When things are so uncertain, it makes that planning really challenging."

Starr estimates the farm has invested about \$10,000

to upgrade its irrigation systems, installing more efficient drip lines and resurrecting an old 1940s-era water storage pond. He said the farm is also shifted toward planting more deep-rooted perennial plants that can better withstand drought, versus shallow-rooted annuals.

Wildfire smoke is another serious issue, Starr said, choking skies and impacting customer turnout at local farmers' markets. He said the farm has experienced a 10% drop in market revenue during smoky summers, which adds up to thousands of dollars of lost revenue.

"It is stressful," he said. "It just feels like we're in this ecosystem here that's a little bit on edge."

## Makeup of species

Sarah Deumling, forest manager for Zena Forest Products in Salem, said the company owns one of the largest intact remaining forests in the Willamette Valley, though climate change is beginning to change the makeup of species in the woods.

Deumling said drought has led to a 10% to 20% loss of Douglas fir trees that had to be removed and replanted with white oak and cedar.

"I'm not the only one who has firs dying," Deumling said. "Some people have cedars dying that wouldn't normally be dying. ... If you put that out on a trajectory, the costs can be huge."

Deumling admits she is not certain whether cap and trade is the best solution for managing Oregon's greenhouse gases, but she said producers can no longer afford to wait years for someone to do something about it.

"We're trying to make a living. It's not easy," she said. "We better do all we can to prepare for and get a handle on climate change."

**Volunteer Pick of the Week**

**Thomas**

**Adult American Shorthair**

As magical as any white rabbit, Thomas will bring both whimsy and elegance to your home

(Read about the pet of the week on Facebook)

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**2020 Astoria Seafood & Wine Festival**

**UnWined**

An intimate wine tasting event previewing wine that will be available at the 2020 Astoria Warrenton Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival.

**\$40 ticket includes:**

- 10 wine tastes
- 2020 tasting glass
- live music
- appetizers
- access to 140+ wines and more!

Tickets available at the Chamber office or [oldoregon.com](http://oldoregon.com).

**Saturday, March 7**

This event is held in downtown Astoria at the Liberty Theatre's McTavish Room and Paulson Pavilion.

Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce  
111 West Marine Drive, Astoria • (503) 325-6311