

IN BRIEF

Oregon temporarily suspends ban on self-serve gas

Oregon Fire Marshal Jim Walker temporarily suspended the state's ban on self-serve gas over the coronavirus. His office produced a flyer for service stations to post for customers who don't know how to fuel their vehicles.

Service stations neither are required to offer self-serve nor, under some circumstances, are they required to have any attendant present.

For years, Oregon and New Jersey have been the only states disallowing self-service, but Oregon gradually has been easing restrictions, especially in rural areas.

Oregon politicians had differing reactions to the news.

"Personally, I think the best solution is to have the customer run their own card and let the attendant pump the gas, thereby limiting the number of different people touching the pump," state Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, wrote in his daily constituent update.

"This is preposterous. Gas pump handles could become breeding grounds for virus," tweeted Sen. Mark Hass, D-Beaverton.

— Oregon Capital Bureau

County closes parks over virus

Clatsop County parks are closed to the public due to the coronavirus.

County parks include Smith Lake, Cullaby Lake, John Day, Kloutchy Creek and North Fork Nehalem.

Member of Nehalem Bay Fire & Rescue tests positive for virus

Nehalem Bay Fire & Rescue announced that one of their members tested positive for the coronavirus.

The individual reportedly has mild symptoms and is expected to return to work soon, according to a Facebook post from the fire district on Sunday. The fire district said they are monitoring staff and volunteers closely, but do not expect other members to be infected.

Nehalem Bay Fire & Rescue provides mutual aid for agencies in southern Clatsop County.

— The Astorian

Pacific snake eel found near Astoria

A Pacific snake eel, a species rarely seen in waters as far north as Oregon, was found in the sand near Astoria over the weekend.

Pacific snake eels generally inhabit the waters between Peru and Northern California, but rarely travel as far north as Oregon. The animals typically grow to around 3 feet in length.

Sunday's discovery was only the third time this particular species of eel has been found on an Oregon beach, according to the Seaside Aquarium. Last year, beach visitors discovered a Pacific snake eel buried in the sand in Long Beach, Washington.

— Associated Press

DEATHS

March 29, 2020

PIPER, Derryl D., 86, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

CULP Sr., James F., 82, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Harassment

Matthew Ruljancich, 31, of Seaside, was arrested Thursday on 23rd Street in Astoria for violation of a restraining order, harassment and criminal mischief in the second degree.

Danielle Caplinger, 55, of Astoria, was arrested Thursday on Duane Avenue in Astoria for telephonic harassment.

Menacing

Chance Daniel Hovda, 19, of Westport, was arrested Sunday on Westport Ferry Road in Westport for menacing, harassment and interfering with making a police report.

DUII

Braddly Ryan Lundberg, 24, of Astoria, was arrested Saturday on U.S. Highway 101 near S.E. Airport Lane in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 12 p.m., work session on coronavirus (virtual meeting).

THURSDAY

Astoria Design Review Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Seaside parking amendment sent back to city planners

Ordinance was to reduce hurdles for workforce housing

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Concerns about the loss of already limited parking downtown derailed an ordinance intended to address Seaside's lack of affordable housing.

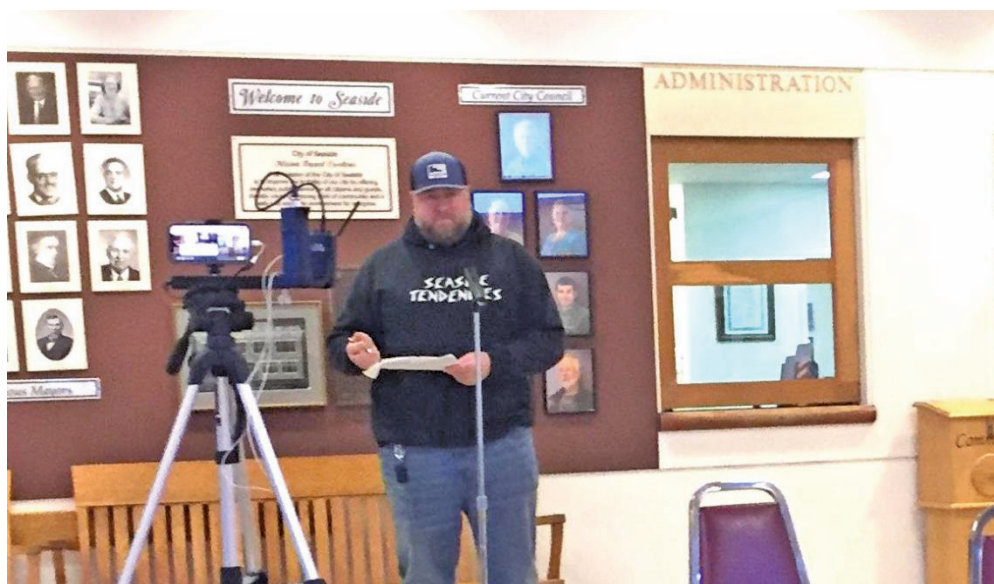
The ordinance would have reduced parking requirements for apartments citywide, and lifted limits for residential units over commercial downtown businesses.

In public comment at a City Council meeting last week, Seaside Brewing Co. owner Jimmy Griffin said the ordinance provided no mechanism to ensure downtown residential buildings would be affordable or workforce housing.

Parking could be further strained, he said.

"What's going to happen is people who normally park on the streets to go to our businesses are going to be shoved into the parking lots, because the streets are going to be full of residents and their cars," Griffin said. "It's going to create pressure driving people into these other parking lots that are already overwhelmed."

There is already a parking shortage at his building at Broadway and U.S. Highway



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Jimmy Griffin, the owner of Seaside Brewing Co., speaks to the City Council about parking.

101, he said.

"My only option is to tow people, which creates massive amounts of bad blood," Griffin said. "This is just going to exacerbate the problem that already exists. I have a parking problem every day. I don't want to see it get worse."

City Councilor Tita Montero shared Griffin's concerns.

"Once developers are allowed to develop studio or one-bedroom apartments with little or no parking space requirements, we will never be able to change requirements when we realize the unintended consequences," Montero said.

The city's current ordi-

nance requires two parking spaces per dwelling unit for all types of apartments, multifamily dwellings and conventional detached dwellings.

Along with eliminating the parking required for small residential dwellings downtown, the new ordinance would have brought parking requirements in Seaside in line with other Clatsop County communities, reducing requirements to one parking space for a studio apartment, 1.25 spaces for a one-bedroom and 1.5 parking spaces for a two-bedroom apartment.

The ordinance was intended to reduce regulatory hurdles associated with

developing workforce rental housing and promote more efficient use of land within the city.

While city councilors rejected sections in the ordinance related to residential-over-commercial downtown housing, they hope to keep parts of the ordinance to reduce off-street parking requirements for apartments throughout the city.

"I think staff can bring you back an ordinance that would just take care of that part," City Planner Kevin Cupples said. "You're going to be starting over at square one with the first reading, and bring the other item to the Planning Commission with joint review of counsel."

Whales face more fatal ship collisions as waters warm

By PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Climate change is imperiling the world's largest animals by increasing the likelihood of fatal collisions between whales and big ships that ply the same waters.

Warming ocean temperatures are causing some species of whales in pursuit of food to stray more frequently into shipping lanes, scientists say.

The phenomenon already has increased ship strikes involving rare North Atlantic right whales on the East Coast and giant blue whales on the West Coast, researchers say. The number of strikes off California increased threefold in 2018 — to at

least 10 — compared to previous years.

When whales are killed in a ship collision, they often sink and don't always wash ashore. So scientists and conservationists say fatal ship strikes are dramatically underreported.

Vessel strikes are among the most frequent causes of accidental death in large whales, along with entanglement in fishing gear. Conservationists, scientists and animal lovers have pushed for the International Maritime Organization to step up to protect the whales, but it won't happen without cooperation from the worldwide shipping industry.

For the right whales, which number only about 400 and have lost more than



Brenna Kraus/The New England Aquarium

A whale swims off the coast of Georgia with fresh propeller cuts on its back in 2006.

10% of their population in just a few years, the death toll is driving them closer to extinction, said Nick Record, senior research scientist at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in East Boothbay, Maine.

At least three right whales died from ship strikes in 2019 — a small number, but still dangerously high for so small a population. All three deaths

were documented in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence off Canada, where scientists have said the whales are spending more time feeding as waters off New England warm.

Scientists say the changing ocean environment with global warming is causing right whales and some other species to stray outside protected zones designed to keep them safe from ships.

Oregon man leaves \$2 million for forest museum

By KIM BRIGGEMAN
The Missoulian

MISSOULA, Mont. — A former forester and forest conservation advocate from Oregon has bequeathed roughly \$2 million to shine a light at the end of a long tunnel to an elusive National Conservation Legacy Center in Missoula.

Bill Cannon became enamored with the National Museum of Forest Service History after visiting the site west of the Missoula airport and smokejumper center 20 years ago — five years before the capital campaign for the center began, but years after the dream of it was hatched.

Cannon died peacefully last November at his home in Hood River at age 86. He left behind the national muse-

um's largest single donation to date.

"It's always been a dream, but we've had lots of ups and downs," Tom Thompson, president of the National Museum of Forest Service History, said from his home in Littleton, Colorado. "The (forest) industries have had good times and bad times, and it seems like a lot of folks have been waiting for us to really prove (the legacy center) is going to happen. Now it is."

"That's the difference with this gift. It changes the whole picture for us to finish off our campaign."

The museum reached the halfway point of its \$10.6 million fundraising campaign for the center in 2019, 14 years after it began. News of Cannon's gift,

which pushed the kitty up to approximately \$7.3 million, was timely.

"We made a lot of progress last year. We raised about a half million dollars and felt like we had great momentum," said Lisa Tate, the museum's executive director in Missoula. "But with all the stuff going on in the world our momentum may have waned a bit for life's events. So when this happened we were very excited."

Indeed, Cannon's gift was due to be announced at a celebration of his life in Hood River in March. The event was called off out of coronavirus concerns. Tate said the museum was asked to spread the news among its nationwide membership with a virtual celebration of life, then follow up with a general announcement.

Cannon spent most of his U.S. Forest Service years in California and Oregon, with an interlude in Hawaii, where he was assigned to state and

private forestry work. He finished his career in Washington, D.C., where he worked on program planning for the Forest Service's state and private programs.

Meanwhile, according to a press release announcing his gift, he used his avocation of studying financial markets to become an adept investor.

Cannon became impressed with the National Museum of Forest Service History on a field trip to the site while in Missoula for the Forest Service retiree reunion in 2000.

"Bill became a strong advocate and supporter of the museum, and received its Gary G. Brown Founders Award in 2015," the release said.

Thompson, a retired deputy chief of the Forest Service, sang Cannon's praises.

"I've known Bill for a long, long time," he said. "He was truly a gentleman and a real quiet leader, just a special person."

the Astorian

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