

IN BRIEF

Seaside fire division chief to receive medal of honor

Seaside Fire Division Chief David Rankin has been selected to receive a medal of honor from the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association at a special ceremony later this year.

Rankin has been a full-time firefighter and the division chief of operations for Seaside Fire & Rescue since 2012. He will be honored for an ocean rescue in December.

The heavy surf made it difficult to locate the victim, but Rankin was able to spot the individual near a sandbar. Instead of waiting for the U.S. Coast Guard to arrive, Rankin swam about 300 yards to the victim.

Since the victim was already showing signs of hypothermia, Rankin swam the victim back to shore.

— *The Astorian*

Portland terminal operator rejects smaller reward in lawsuit

PORTLAND — The former operator of the Port of Portland's container terminal has rejected a judge's reduced \$19 million award of damages against the longshore workers' union after a federal jury in November found the union sabotaged shipping traffic and caused productivity to plummet.

ICTSI Oregon has decided instead to go back to trial solely to determine an appropriate amount, The Oregonian reported.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union has asked U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon to put the matter on hold, as it challenges the jury finding that it was liable for damages and should pay any damage amount to the former terminal operator.

The Philippine-owned ICTSI Oregon, which signed a 25-year lease in 2010 to operate Terminal 6, left the port in March 2017, idled by the labor strife it says the national longshore union and the local chapter encouraged. The company argued at trial that the union engaged in unlawful labor practices over nearly five years and caused tens of millions of dollars in losses to its business.

The jury awarded \$93.6 million in damages to ICTSI Oregon. Last month, however, Simon reduced the jury award to \$19 million, finding the evidence at trial didn't support the jury's larger award that the union argued was excessive and would lead to its bankruptcy.

The judge then gave ICTSI Oregon two weeks to either accept the lower amount or he said a new trial would be held solely on the damages amount.

— *Associated Press*

DEATHS

April 3, 2020

BAMBERT, Shirley Wells, 107, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

CROTHAMEL, Frederick, 84, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary and Crematorium is in charge of the arrangements.

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SCHROEDER, Audrey, 84, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary and Crematorium is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Fleeing

• Christopher Clifford Dahl, 61, of Milwaukie, was indicted Friday for fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, attempting to commit a felony, two counts of recklessly endangering another person, reckless driving and criminal driving while suspended or revoked.

Menacing

• Joshua Kenneth Marion, 41, was arrested Sunday on 27th Street and Marine Drive in Astoria for resisting arrest, interfering with a police officer, two counts of menacing, criminal mischief in the third degree and disorderly

conduct in the second degree.

DUII

• Todd Shaw, 55, of Vader, Washington, was arrested Monday on Marlin Avenue and U.S. Highway 101 in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants. His blood alcohol content was 0.12%.

• Drayko Valentino Garcia, 20, of Salem, was arrested Sunday on U.S. Highway 101 and Rippet Lane in Seaside for reckless driving, DUII and driving while suspended.

• Olivia Taylor Wentworth, 21, of Salem, was arrested Sunday at the Clatsop County Jail for DUII.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., (teleconference).
Clatsop Care Health District Board, 5 p.m., (via Zoom).
Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 5 p.m., work session on coronavirus, 6 p.m., regular meeting, (teleconference).

the Astorian

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Video Horizons struggles in to-go world of coronavirus

Rentals slow at Astor Street store

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Despite seeing sales evaporate, Neal Cummings felt it was the right decision to close Video Horizons except by appointment during the coronavirus pandemic.

He set up a curbside to-go service outside his Astor Street store that he felt would better protect his employees and the public while still offering video and game rentals.

But after seeing sales disappear with people unable to browse, Cummings is calling out for support to help one of the North Coast's last remaining video stores survive the coronavirus. He started a GoFundMe page that has so far raised more than \$2,700 out of a \$5,000 goal.

Government restrictions to curb the spread of the virus allowed video rental shop's like Cummings' to keep operating, provided they designate an employee to promote social distancing.

"Most of our customers are browsers," Cummings said. "I think a lot of them prefer coming in and taking a look at the films. And I just haven't felt comfortable letting people in because of the governor's lockdown."

Cummings said he has avoided laying people off, instead cutting hours as he



Coast River Business Journal

Neal Cummings, owner of Video Horizons, said he needs more support to stay open.

switches to curbside service. But Video Horizons lacks the technology to list available titles online, and sales have gone down exponentially with the doors closed.

His landlord has asked him to apply for the federal Paycheck Protection Program covering payroll costs, Cummings said. The program launched Friday but has been beset by technical glitches that have kept many of the nation's top lenders from being able to process applications.

"He has allowed me to be late on my rent, but he hasn't offered a reduction," Cummings said.

Around 86% of the 15,300 video rental stores open in

2007 had closed by 2017, according to USA Today, as movie-watching and buying have mostly gone online. Video Horizons, founded in 1984, is one of only two in Clatsop County. Universal Video in Seaside, co-owned by Steve and Jim Haugen, is the other store.

Business has been down maybe 20% during the coronavirus outbreak, Steve Haugen said, but he blames street construction for keeping potential customers away more than the virus.

"People have been pretty careful, anyway," he said. "A lot of people coming in are wearing masks. We're happy to be able to serve our regular customers. And they

do really seem to appreciate the fact that we've stayed open."

Universal Video could endure a slowdown of several months, since his family owns the building, Steve Haugen said. For Video Horizons to survive, Cummings said, he needs the virus to subside, more donations toward his GoFundMe fundraiser or for locals to call in and reserve more movies and games.

"We do that from 1 to 6 (p.m.) every day," he said. "We have people here who collect the movies and get them safe, sanitize them and have them ready for them at the counter and take them out to your car."

Astoria Downtown Market to close

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Astoria Downtown Market will close in the coming weeks because of financial issues related to owner Samuel McDaniel's legal battle with the federal government to accept food stamps.

"It's disappointing that people won't have the services, and we won't have the local camaraderie that we've all had," he said.

McDaniel took over the

Commercial Street market in July 2017, a decade after he was convicted in Lane County of felony delivery of marijuana and psychedelic mushrooms.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture denied McDaniel's application to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, known as food stamps, arguing his conviction reflected a lack of business integrity, a criteria for denial.

The denial severely lim-

ited McDaniel's ability to serve the low-income community. He sued the federal agency, arguing the drug conviction happened long before he took over the market and related to no crime of dishonesty.

U.S. District Court Judge John Acosta sided with McDaniel's argument and ordered the federal government to review McDaniel's application again. But McDaniel, who is waiting on a settlement with the USDA to recover his legal

costs, said he needs to close down and focus on rebuilding his credit.

The closure of his market will limit grocery options downtown. The Astoria Co-op, formerly in the Shark Rock Building on Duane Street, relocated to a larger store at 23rd Street and Marine Drive. McDaniel had hoped to fill the void downtown and expand his grocery operations. Instead, he is selling everything at a discount as he liquidates before closure.

West Coast sends ventilators to New York

Oregon, California receive damaged equipment

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Monday the state would loan 500 ventilators to the national stockpile for use by New York and other states experiencing a crush of coronavirus-related hospitalizations.

Newsom's decision follows Oregon and Washington state committing to transfer ventilators to New York.

California chose to loan some of its equipment because it is not yet in as dire a situation as New York, now the nation's epicenter for the crisis, said Jesse Melgar, a spokesman for the governor.

Newsom said Sunday the state will return more than 400 ventilators of the



Beth LaBerge/KQED

Staff work in a ventilator refurbishing assembly line at Bloom Energy in California.

500 it got from the federal government so they can go to New York and other states. Inslee, a Democrat, said his statewide stay-at-home order and weeks of social distancing led to slower rates of infections and deaths in Washington, which saw the first serious coronavirus outbreak in the country.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Saturday said 140 ventilators would be sent from her state to New York, saying at this point Oregon doesn't need them.

New York has more than 100,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the

coronavirus.

New York also received 1,100 ventilators from China as a gift.

"It's going to make a significant difference for us," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Saturday of the incoming equipment.

"I know that if the tables were turned and we were experiencing a hospital surge, other states would come to our aid and provide ventilators just as we are today," Newsom said in a statement.

California has been hunting for ventilators to boost its own supply for weeks. Officials requested 10,000 ventilators from the national stockpile, though it has received none. Los Angeles got 170 ventilators from the stockpile, though many were broken.

On Friday, Oregon

received masks with faulty elastic that could cause the straps to snap, exposing medical workers to the disease.

"Several of the shipments we have received from the strategic national stockpile contained (personal protective equipment) well past expiration dates and, while we are being told much of the expired equipment is capable of being used for COVID-19 response, they would not be suitable for use in surgical settings," Charles Boyle, a spokesman for Brown, said in an email.

As of Friday, California had access to 4,252 ventilators, Newsom said. Melgar said Monday the state is boosting that number by rehabilitating thousands of broken ventilators and procuring thousands more from other places. But he declined to provide a rough estimate of how many ventilators the state now possesses.

Hydrogen fuel cell manufacturer Bloom Energy has dedicated a portion of its production plants in California and Delaware to repairing old ventilators. As of last week, the San Jose-based company had repaired 515 ventilators, with more on the way. The company says it has the capacity to repair up to 1,000 per week.

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