

IN BRIEF

States set Columbia River salmon fisheries

Oregon and Washington state fishery managers have set summer and fall salmon fishing on the Columbia River.

Low projections for returning summer salmon combined with the coronavirus pandemic made planning the fall fisheries very challenging, said John North, fisheries manager for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Columbia River Program.

Summer Chinook, coho and upriver summer steelhead returns are still projected at below-average numbers. As a result, the summer season will be limited to sockeye and steelhead retention.

Though the forecast of 38,000 Chinook returning to the Columbia River is slightly better than last year's returns, it is not high enough to provide for fishing in nontreaty fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam, according to the state.

In June and July, fishermen will have a daily bag limit of one summer steelhead and there will be area-specific steelhead retention closures beginning in August.

Crabbing reopens on Oregon Coast to nonresidents

The state has reopened recreational crabbing along most of the Oregon Coast to nonresidents.

The decision is part of a phased approach to gradually reopen fishing opportunities even with ongoing concerns about the coronavirus pandemic.

Clamming remains closed to nonresidents.

Crabbing opened Wednesday in bays and estuaries and Oregon ocean areas south of Cape Falcon. North of Cape Falcon and on the Columbia River, however, crabbing is only open to residents.

Astorian journalists win awards

Journalists at The Astorian were honored this week with two awards from the Northwest Excellence in Journalism contest.

Reporter Edward Stratton won first place in comprehensive coverage for his stories on management struggles at the Port of Astoria.

Photojournalist Hailey Hoffman won runner-up for her photo of a family's anguish after a Warrenton house fire.

The competition covers the work of journalists in Oregon, Washington state, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

"At our best, we hold up a mirror to our community," said Derrick DePledge, the editor of The Astorian. "Edward has consistently done important work documenting the management and financial issues at the Port. Hailey's photography is rooted in grace and empathy."

"We are proud they were recognized in this regional competition."

— The Astorian

DEATHS

May 19, 2020
FRENCH, Jerry, 56, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

May 18, 2020
SODERVICK, David

Gerald, 60, of Wheeler, formerly of Astoria and Warrenton, died in Wheeler. Ocean View Cremation & Burial Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements. A private memorial is planned.

BIRTH

May 7, 2020

GAYDOS, Rebecca and Travis, of Astoria, a boy, Alvin Stephen Gaydos, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Stephen and Gretchen Gaydos, of Naselle, Washington, and Tammy Pope-Guilland, of Boone, North Carolina.

CORRECTIONS

Incorrect city — Avery Roy Eager, of Naselle, Washington, was arrested last week on the New Youngs Bay Bridge for drunken driving. An On the Record item on A2 on Saturday incorrectly said he was from Chinook.

Book reference — The author Robert Michael Pyle said it took him 40 years to write his first novel. A Q&A on A4 on Saturday incorrectly said his upcoming novel would be his first in 40 years.

ON THE RECORD

Criminal trespass

• Tori Rae Tobey, 29, of Astoria, was arrested Monday on Walluski Loop in Astoria for criminal trespass in the second degree.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 3 p.m., budget meeting, 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

the Astorian

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A moment



Erika Olsen captured this moment near St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Astoria.

Erika Olsen

Beach volleyball spiked over coronavirus restrictions

One of summer's larger events

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Seaside Beach Volleyball, one of the city's largest summer events, is canceled due to coronavirus restrictions.

The tournament, scheduled for early August and organized by the Seaside Chamber of Commerce and AVP America, is the latest in a series of cancellations as a result of the pandemic.

Hood to Coast, the Miss Oregon and Miss Oregon Teen competitions and the Fourth of July fireworks show are all canceled. Gearhart canceled its annual Fourth of July parade this week.

Large gatherings and events are not possible until a reliable treatment or prevention for the virus is available, Gov. Kate Brown said earlier this month. As a result, sporting events, concerts and festivals are canceled or significantly modified through at least September.

The event is considered the largest amateur beach volleyball tournament in the world.

"The Seaside Chamber of Commerce is very saddened to announce the cancellation of the 2020 Seaside Beach Volleyball Tournament," Brian Owen, the CEO of the Seaside Chamber of Com-



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Katie Spieler dives to bump the ball into the air for teammate Delaney Knudsen to hit over the net during last year's volleyball tournament.

merce, said. "Player safety and the new regulations have made it difficult, if not impossible, to hold this event even in a modified format."

Sponsored by the AVP First and AVPNext divisions of the AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour, the tournament contributes to a national pipeline for youth, semi-pro and professional beach volleyball.

The tournament is the largest program for the chamber, which generated more than \$238,000 in funds in 2018 — more than half of its \$414,000 budget.

Last year, the tournament featured about 1,600 teams playing among three divisions, including doubles, quads and sixes. Organizers put up 184 volleyball courts

on the beach, about 20 more than in 2018.

The tournament launched on Sept. 4, 1982, and was sponsored by Seaside lifeguards. It drew 57 teams and 215 competitors from Oregon, Washington state and California.

Lifeguards turned operation of the tournament over to the chamber the following year, under the direction of events coordinator Doug Barker.

The event grew steadily in interest and enthusiasm, with \$19,000 in prizes by 2008 and participation of professional quality college-age youth.

By 2012, the event drew between 8,000 and 10,000 participants during the tour-

namment, a number that has grown in years since.

In 2016, Bad Boys Open Volleyball partnered with the chamber to oversee organization and management of the tournament.

The "bad boys" — organizers Deng Thepharat, Mike Griffin and P.T. Thilavanh — brought more teams, national sponsors, streamlined play and more age groups to play. A smartphone app enabled players to receive net assignments digitally.

"We would like to thank all our athletes, partners, and sponsors for all the support and guidance over the past few months," Owen said. "We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Aug. 12-15, 2021."

State economists put budget gap at \$3 billion

By PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

Gov. Kate Brown says federal aid must go hand in hand with spending cuts to offset almost \$3 billion that state tax collections and other sources will be short.

Brown made her statement Wednesday after state economists told lawmakers that the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented economic downturn from shutdowns in business activity and public life.

Oregon's unemployment rate jumped from a modern low of 3.5% in March to a modern high of 14.2% in April. Oregon's state general fund budget draws more than 90% of its money from personal and corporate income taxes. The combined general fund and lottery budget for the 2019-21 cycle is about \$23.7 billion, and virtually all of the potential spending cuts

of \$2.7 billion will fall within the second year starting July 1.

"The steepness of this decline is unprecedented," Mark McMullen, the state economist, said during a video conference of the state House and Senate revenue committees.

While he and senior economist Josh Lehner said they expected a quick economic recovery when business activity resumes — as early as the second half of 2020, and an "all clear" by mid-2021 — "it takes a full year or more before pain is realized."

They also projected that state coffers will get less than originally forecast in the following two budget cycles. Oregon did get \$1.4 billion as its share of \$150 billion in federal aid from the recent CARES Act, although \$415 million is tentatively earmarked for local and tribal governments other than Port-

land, Multnomah County and Washington County.

Brown said: "Make no mistake, the budget gap created by this pandemic is too large to bridge without additional congressional action. I am thankful for the work of our congressional delegation to secure federal funding for Oregon in the relief packages Congress has passed so far. But those funds only address a fraction of our current need, especially since we are not permitted to use the funding we have received so far to address state budget shortfalls.

"As a state, we took action to shutter our economy in order to save lives in the middle of a once-in-a-century crisis. Now it's time for Congress and the president to step up and provide once-in-a-century support for important state services, including schools, health care and public safety."

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Four new virus cases reported

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County has reported four new coronavirus cases.

The county disclosed Wednesday that a man in his 50s living in the northern part of the county tested positive. He was reportedly recovering at home.

On Tuesday, the county reported that three women living in the northern part of the county tested positive.

The women were described as being in their 20s, 30s and 50s and recovering at home.

The new cases bring the total to 42. Nineteen of the people recovered, according to the county, and the others were convalescing at home.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 3,801 cases and 144 deaths from the virus statewide as of Wednesday morning.

The health authority tracked 1,233 test results in Clatsop County, including the 42 positive cases.

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