

IN BRIEF

Dungeness crab fishery faces further delay

The commercial Dungeness crab fishery will remain closed off Oregon’s North Coast as marine toxin levels continue to be high elsewhere.

Fishery managers opted to continue to delay the opener — already held back for several weeks — with recent samples of crab in Washington state showing domoic acid levels above the established threshold for human health.

The continued closure impacts fishermen who would work in the fishery in ocean waters from Cape Falcon northward to the Washington border. The two states had previously announced they would open the northern Oregon Coast and Washington together.

Farther north in Washington, the Quinault Tribe recalled 29 tons of Dungeness crab caught between Dec. 23 and Dec. 28 because of toxin levels.

Testing off Oregon shows crab are below the action level of 30 parts per million.

Police investigate stabbing of homeless man in Astoria

Authorities are investigating a stabbing that occurred on Wednesday evening in Astoria.

Police responded to a disturbance at 5:40 p.m. in the area of Eighth Street and Astor Street. Police found a 34-year-old homeless man with a stab wound on his back.

Before he was stabbed, police say the man was being chased by several people on Astor Street between Ninth and Seventh streets.

The man was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital. Police say the injury was not life-threatening.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

- Jan. 7, 2021**

REED, George, 77, of Knappa, died in Knappa. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Jan. 6, 2021

HAAS, Elizabeth Marie, 90, of Astoria, died in Longview, Washington. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

FLUES, Paul Ferdinand Sr., 85, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

LANGDON, Ted, 79, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Jan. 5, 2021

PFUNTNER, Allan, 74, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Jan. 4, 2021

ROONEY, Keith, 53, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 30, 2020

JACOBSON, Scott Allen, 56, of Pendleton, formerly of Astoria, died in Pendleton. Pendleton Pioneer Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.
- Dec. 28, 2020**

BURNS, Alaina, 31, of Astoria, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 26, 2020

SHOOP, Phillip, 84, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 25, 2020

LYONS, Raphael, 86, of Seaside, died in Wheeler. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 24, 2020

ROGERS, Raymond, 80, of Clatskanie, died in Clatskanie. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 23, 2020

FARLEY, Calvin, 55, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Condolences may be left at hughesransom.com

Dec. 22, 2020

COSNER, Perry, 81, of Gearhart, died in Gearhart. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 19, 2020

JANOWICZ, Joseph, 95, of Vancouver, Washington, died in Vancouver. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

Oregon lawmakers call for Trump’s removal after Capitol insurrection

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici said President Donald Trump should be removed from office after an insurrection by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday while electoral votes were being counted.

“This was a free and fair election — the hallmark of our democracy — in which the voters selected Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to be our president and vice president,” the Oregon Democrat said on Twitter. “Donald Trump must be removed from office before he can cause any further destruction.”

Bonomici, who represents the North Coast, said she would support impeaching the Republican president.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley also support Trump’s removal or impeachment.

“As I said last night Donald Trump is a clear and present danger to our democracy,” Wyden, an Oregon Democrat, said on Twitter. “His Cabinet must use the 25th Amendment to act. And if Mike Pence and Trump’s ‘see-no-evil’ Cabinet don’t have the stomach to do their duty, Congress should reconvene to impeach this dangerous man.”

Merkley, an Oregon Democrat, said on Twitter that “Trump is absolutely unfit and should be removed from office. If we can do it by Jan. 20 by impeachment, I am all for it. The Cabinet and VP can and should invoke the 25th Amendment TODAY. And there should be criminal investigations and prosecutions. Justice demands accountability.”

Democrats, and many Republicans, blamed Trump for inciting his supporters before they marched to the Capitol and forced their way into the building.

Despite the unprecedented disruption to the vote count, the U.S. House and U.S. Senate returned and formally sealed former Vice President Joe Biden’s victory.

Wyden, Merkley, Bonamici and the other Oregon Democrats — U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio and U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader — voted



Violent protesters, loyal to President Donald Trump, stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.

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U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden

against Republican objections to the electoral votes for Biden from Arizona and Pennsylvania.

Oregon’s wild card was U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, the only Republican in the state’s delegation to Congress, and a freshman who had only been sworn into office on Sunday.

Bentz had been among a group of incoming Republican lawmakers who issued a statement last month calling for “a congressional investigation and review into what has happened in states where election irregularities have been observed.”

In the end, Bentz split his votes. He opposed the Republican objection to the electoral votes sent by Arizona. But he sided with Republicans objecting to the electoral votes from Pennsylvania.

In a press release, Bentz said the issues in each case were different, but his constituents believed the election was tainted by unspecified fraud. “My goal was to protect the integrity of our elec-

tions and to prompt all states to uphold election laws as determined by their state legislatures — all in accordance with our Constitution,” the congressman said.

Lisa Lamping, the chairwoman of the Clatsop County Republican Party, traveled to Washington, D.C., to join Trump supporters at the protest on Wednesday.

She said she does not believe Trump is responsible for inciting the insurrection.

“Trump is not a perfect person, but I don’t believe that he wanted this to happen,” said Lamping, a photographer and businesswoman involved with Clatsop News, a community news website. “I’m not a conspiracy person ... but sometimes things just don’t feel right. It’s too easy, too convenient to always blame President Trump for everything. And I think it’s a concerted effort of people to create a narrative and then find ways to support it.

“I went and heard the rally, I listened to him speak and I

don’t believe he condoned anything like this.”

Lamping joined the crowd that went to the Capitol after the president instructed them to protest what he described as a stolen election.

She said when they got to the Capitol, it was easy for protesters to get up to the building and eventually make entry. Lamping said she, like most, protested outside.

“I was proud of everything except for the breaking in,” Lamping said. “Once they broke in, that was taking it a step too far.”

On Facebook the day of the riot, Lamping blamed some of the violence and vandalism at the Capitol on antifa, a far-left movement involved with protests against fascism, racism and police brutality that have at times turned violent. When asked by The Astorian if she had evidence for her claims, she said she did not.

“What I think has happened is that they were there, these people stirred up the pot and there were some Trump people that were amped up. There’s some young guys that come in there and they’re all brawn and no brain,” she said.

Lamping said she traveled to Washington, D.C., because she thinks the country is at a serious turning point and believes it was important to take a stand. “I think it was time for us to make a statement to say, ‘Look, you can’t just dismiss our feelings and our views and our perspectives on life,’” she said.

Gary Warner of the Oregon Capital Bureau contributed to this report.

Cannon Beach weighs options with former school property

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — City leaders are looking to the community for input on what to do with property and a former school that hold both cultural and historic significance.

On Thursday, city councilors and administrators hosted the first of four public input sessions this month. While there has long been a hope to create a community center at the site, the city is entertaining any number of ideas. Given the condition of the buildings, however, upgrades and remodels are expected to come with a hefty price tag.

Cannon Beach acquired the former elementary school on Beaver Street near Ecola Creek in July 2020 after Ecola Creek in July 2020 after several previous attempts to purchase the property over the years.

Mayor Sam Steidel said he first broached the topic of purchasing the school property just over 10 years ago.

Now, he wrote in a recent report, “the property is ours, the city purchased the site lock, stock and barrel shape. The leaks are now ours to fix and the emptiness is ours to fill.”

The main school buildings, built in the 1950s with a portable classroom that was added in 1967, have been vacant for about nine years, according to a building evaluation report prepared for the city in August.

The buildings are considered to be in poor to fair con-



Cannon Beach is exploring ways to make use of an old elementary school closed by tsunami fears.

dition. The engineering and architecture firm that prepared the report for the city recommended incremental updates to ease the burden of the repair and improvement work.

In a cost breakdown, the report estimates it would cost around \$23,000 to stop the deterioration of the buildings and around \$410,000 to obtain occupancy. To create a community center, which would involve major renovation work, total costs could hit nearly \$4 million.

The property acquisition is a very positive moment for the community, Steidel wrote.

“We have a project that bears inspiration and promises future activity,” he wrote. “Even if we fight about one specific detail over another, each opinion may hold fun and a good potential outcome. We could use some positivity, right?”

He hopes to be overwhelmed with “all kinds of concepts, dreams, visions and whatnot. This will be a brainstorm of a community

scale,” he wrote. “No idea will be demeaned, all ideas will be heard.”

At the work session Thursday night, city councilors saw some of the ideas submitted so far for both indoor and outdoor spaces available at the property: a commercial kitchen, a concert venue and concert hall, a community garden, a community center, a community dog park, parking.

In the recent past, there was a desire to create a cultural center for the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes if the city ever succeeded in acquiring the school.

It is believed the site was once the home of a native village. The city already owned a northern portion of the site and honored the tribes’ history there by naming the open, grassy area near Ecola Creek NeCus’ Park, erecting a sign in 2015.

For the tribe’s representatives, the formal christening of the site to recall the long-lost village signaled “a new time for all of us,” said

Roberta Basch, a cultural adviser to the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes and wife of Dick Basch, one of the tribes’ leaders, at the time.

Further representation at the site represents another important foothold in the region for tribal leaders.

Earlier in 2020, the tribes received 18 acres of the Neawanna Point Habitat Preserve from the North Coast Land Conservancy, the first property the tribes owned since they began to be displaced from their lands 200 years ago.

City officials still expect anything they do at the school site will include input from and discussion with tribal representatives. They plan to provide time for the tribes to make a presentation during the public scoping process.

Across Ecola Creek, at Les Shirley Park, interpretive wayside exhibits commemorate a visit to the area by the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery in the 1800s.

Jan Siebert-Wahrmund, a resident and board member for the Ecola Creek Awareness Project dedicated to protecting the creek ecosystem, told councilors Thursday she envisions a place for “historical, cultural, educational and environmental” endeavors.

The property, she said during a public comment period, is “a most significant place in our community and even in our entire region. It deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and care.”

Further public input sessions will be held virtually on Jan. 16, Jan. 20 and Jan. 23.

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