

## IN BRIEF

## Crab season faces ongoing delay off North Coast

With unsafe levels of domoic acid found in Dungeness crab caught off the Washington state coast, Oregon fishery managers say North Coast waters could remain closed to commercial crabbers until at least Feb. 15.

Traditionally, northern Oregon and southwest Washington open for the commercial Dungeness season together.

The two states planned to coordinate a joint opening of the fishery this season, but have been delayed by high levels of domoic acid in Washington crab. In Oregon, only the area from Cape Flacon north to the Washington border is still closed to commercial crab fishermen. The rest of the state is open and boats have started to set and pull gear after settling on a starting price per pound with wholesalers.

Fishery managers said they will continue to consult with industry advisors and managers in Washington, Oregon and California to see if a coordinated opening with Washington is possible ahead of Feb. 15.

If that is not achievable, they will open the closed area in Oregon with a line at the Columbia River on or around Feb. 15, independent of Washington.

## East Hills Reservoir project is complete

SEASIDE — A 5-million gallon reservoir and pump station in Seaside's East Hills is complete.

Budgeted at \$5.56 million, the project totaled \$5.84 million after change orders. The reservoir provides water to the new middle and high school building as well as Pacific Ridge Elementary. It also serves portions of Seaside. Older pump stations in nearby Sunset Hills and Whispering Pines have been decommissioned.

"This is a day we have been waiting for, not only for the school district but for the whole city," Mayor Jay Barber said at a City Council meeting last week.

Officials saw the need for the new system when voters approved a bond in 2016 to move Seaside schools out of the tsunami inundation zone. Work began in August 2019.

Through an intergovernmental agreement with the Seaside School District, the city installed the reservoir and pump station. The school district's portion included the water lines, vaults, hydrants, electrical and data conduit above the school campus and associated engineering design costs.

The 3.28-acre reservoir site, part of 130 acres donated to the school district by Weyerhaeuser Co. in 2016 prior to the bond vote, was annexed by the city in October. Ownership will be transferred to the city.

The site will also house a new emergency operations center, Seaside Public Works Director Dale McDowell said.

— *The Astorian*

## Forest Service axes 21-inch logging ban in Eastern Oregon

The Trump administration is removing a decades-old ban on logging large trees in six national forests across Eastern Oregon and southeast Washington state.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary James Hubbard signed off on the decision Friday, amending the rule that prohibits cutting down any trees larger than 21 inches in diameter.

The 21-inch harvest rule is part of a broader suite of management standards, known as the Eastside Screens, adopted in 1995 to protect wildlife habitat and water quality on roughly 10 million acres of federal land in the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur, Ochoco, Deschutes and Fremont-Winema national forests.

Rather than a blanket restriction on logging large trees, the U.S. Forest Service will replace the 21-inch rule with a more flexible guideline that generally calls for protecting old growth forests, but allows land managers to make exceptions if they meet the agency's long-term restoration goals.

— *Capital Press*

## MEMORIAL

**Saturday, Jan. 23**

**BOLDT, Donald Paul** — Memorial and worship service at 1 p.m., North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 N. Wahanna Road in Seaside; COVID-19 guidelines will be fol-

lowed. The service will also be livestreamed at [bit.ly/DBoldt](https://bit.ly/DBoldt). Boldt, 88, of Seaside, died Dec. 2, 2020, in Seaside. Bio-Gift was in charge of the arrangements; he will be cremated.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

**Port of Astoria Commission**, 4 p.m., (electronic meeting).

**Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors**, 5:15 p.m., (electronic meeting).

**Seaside School District**, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

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

## WEDNESDAY

**Seaside Tree Board Committee**, 4 p.m., (electronic meeting).

## THURSDAY

**Astoria School District Board of Directors**, 5:45 p.m., special meeting, (electronic meeting).

**Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission**, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

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## BRIDGE IN THE SKY

The Astoria Bridge stands above a blanket of fog on Friday morning.

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

## Peninsula author memorializes grandson's fight against disease

By PATRICK WEBB  
For The Astorian

LONG BEACH, Wash. — A peninsula boy's struggle for life has been highlighted in a new book by his grandmother.

Cheri Jones is hoping that "Angel Wings" will provide inspiration to others with ailing children or who lose a child, especially those who share her faith.

The story of Conner Reed Jones caught the imagination of readers of the Chinook Observer for the seven years of his life. And even those who didn't know the family grieved when he died in 2010.

"I could not do it for a long time, because of the pain of reliving those years," Cheri Jones said. "Then about two-and-a-half years ago it came back to me. I wanted to write a book about Conner and our journey."

The project took time, in part because she wanted to research accurate details, including contact information for hospitals and other organizations that helped the family.

"Once I decided to do it, the words just kind of flowed," she said.

## Incurable ailment

The boy's parents are Brad and Sarah Jones. His father, an Ilwaco High School graduate, has served as a volunteer with Pacific County Fire District 1 and worked at Oman and Sons. His mother worked at Bank of the Pacific in Long Beach.

Conner, their first child, was born in 2003 with prune belly syndrome, which causes bladder problems and has serious health implications. He was a year old when doctors diagnosed cystic fibrosis, an incurable disease that affects the lungs and other bodily functions.

An ultrasound revealed undrained lungs and an enlarged abdomen. He was born by cesarean section and spent his first nine days



Cheri Jones, of Ilwaco, with her late grandson, Conner Jones. Her grandson's struggle with poor health is chronicled in a new illustrated book written by Jones.

in Oregon Health & Science University's Doernbecher Children's Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Portland.

Conner underwent multiple surgeries and more than 20 hospitalizations, prompting his parents to move to Longview to be closer to the specialized medical care that he needed, in addition to his home-based nebulizers and other treatments to fight infections and the effects of his two ailments.

The family's Christian faith provided strength for all, including Conner, his grandmother said.

"He had a heart for God and Jesus. He asked his mom and dad about going to heaven."

His parents were candid. "We knew that he was a miracle child, but we had no idea the journey we were about to embark on," his father told the Chinook Observer four months before the boy's death. The story quoted his mother wanting to avoid spending her life asking, "What if?"

"I just felt like it is not my decision to play God," she said, recalling how some doctors had advised her to terminate her pregnancy. "What if

I had listened to those doctors? I would never have known what it truly means to persevere and to love someone authentically."

The story highlighted how Conner, just like other little boys, enjoyed video games, soccer, coloring, reading and playing at the park, although his life was dogged by medical restrictions.

His parents have two healthy sons, Hunter and Bradyn, and a daughter Brynlee, now 8, who also has cystic fibrosis. "Her care is not as extensive," Cheri Jones said. "She is doing really well."

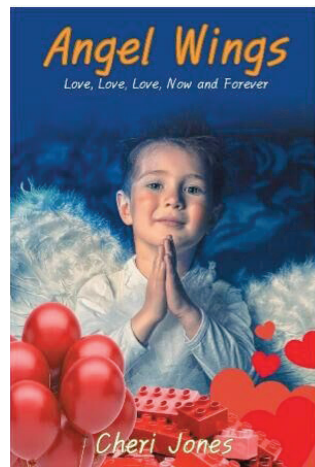
Sarah Jones has since dedicated herself to studying to become a nurse.

## Grateful to colleagues

One bright element toward the end of Conner's life was the involvement of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which financed a six-day trip to Hawaii when its leaders learned of the boy's desire to see humpback whales and volcanoes.

Cheri Jones, a retired administrator, was secretary to the board of Pacific County First District 1 commissioners and a member of the Ocean Beach School District school board from 2001 to 2005. Colleagues at the Ocean Park fire station contributed greatly to helping other family members accompany Conner on his last trip, his grandmother said.

She and her husband,



Cheri Jones' "Angel Wings: Love, Love, Love, Now and Forever" is an illustrated book memorializing her grandson.

Rick, have two sons, one daughter and eight grandchildren. They moved from Ilwaco to Battle Ground four years ago to better meet their own health issues.

The paperback book cover features a drawing of a boy with his hands clasped in prayer, bordered by red balloons from the cystic fibrosis Walk for a Cure, red Lego building blocks and red heart shapes. Cheri Jones recalled the first time she saw the design. "I just started crying."

The color is significant.

"Remember each time you see red, remember our little Conner who has earned his angel wings and is now free from the chains of cystic fibrosis," Jones wrote in a wide-ranging thank-you letter in the Chinook Observer after Conner's funeral in 2010.

She said the full title, "Angel Wings: Love, Love, Love, Now and Forever," combines the name of their CF walk team with a phrase Conner's mom used in a blog about her experiences. The book is published by Christian Faith Publishing of Meadville, Pennsylvania. She said its staff were very helpful guiding her as a first-time author.

As she finalized the details, including photos, the biggest issue was what to leave out — because Conner's life offered so many positive memories.

"He was only here seven years, but he was wise beyond his years and taught all of us to be better people," his grandmother said. "He was an amazing child. Even on his sickest days, he would make us smile."

## WANTED

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