## IN BRIEF

### Three rescued after commercial fishing boat capsizes off Willapa Bay

The U.S. Coast Guard rescued three people and a dog Saturday morning from a commercial fishing vessel that capsized off of Willapa Bay.

The boat, Terry F, reportedly lost power and began taking on water at about 7:30 a.m. about 4 miles offshore.

The Coast Guard lost communication with the crew on Terry F, but sent an aircrew and boat to the location.

The Coast Guard aircrew arrived at about 7:40 a.m. and passed a radio to the fishing boat. They instructed the crew to enter the water one at a time to meet a rescue swimmer. All three were wearing survival suits and communication gear.

Everyone on the boat was rescued by 9:15 a.m. and flown to Westport Airport in Washington state. All three were in stable condition and declined medical treatment.

Petty Officer Michael Clark, of Coast Guard public affairs, said having an emergency position indicating radio beacon "as well as the proper survival suits aboard likely contributed to the three persons surviving this ordeal."

Washington state Department of Ecology responded to the Terry F near the north tip of Leadbetter Point State Park on Saturday night after a spill from the vessel was confirmed.

*— The Astorian*

### Study finds warmer weather will increase flooding in the Columbia River basin

Warmer winter weather, more rainfall and less snow will contribute to significantly increased flooding in the Columbia River basin this century due to climate change, new research says.

New modeling shows an increase of flooding by up to 60% in the next 50 to 100 years, according to a study by Oregon State University's Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. Less precipitation falling as snow during the winter will lead to earlier spring streamflows for many rivers in the basin, including the Columbia, Willamette and Snake rivers and hundreds of tributaries.

The researchers based their findings on natural river conditions and did not take into consideration the offsetting effects of flood-control infrastructure like dams. Even so, according to the study, the increase is significant. The flooding season will also expand.

"The flood you're used to seeing out your window once every 10 years will likely be larger than it has been in the past," said Laura Queen, the lead author and research assistant at the institute.

*— Oregon Public Broadcasting*

### Thousands without power after winter storm

More than 200,000 customers were without power in and around Portland on Monday morning as a heavy coat of ice brought down trees and power lines across the region and there was no clear estimate for when service would be restored.

Between Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties, at least 209,000 homes and businesses still had no power as of 10:30 a.m., Portland General Electric and Pacific Power reported. And that was an improvement, said Gov. Kate Brown.

"Last night's weather continued to create widespread outages throughout the Willamette Valley, with more than 330,000 Oregonians without power as of this morning," Brown said in a statement. "While utility crews are making progress, the weather is leading to new outages faster than the pace of restoration, with the tri-county area now being the hardest hit."

*— The Oregonian*

## DEATHS

**Feb. 11, 2021**

KELLER, Donald James, 87, of Warrenton, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## ON THE RECORD

**Robbery**

• Kyle Michael Long, 27, of Seaside, was arraigned on Jan. 27 for robbery in the second degree, menacing, felon in possession of a restricted weapon, criminal trespass in the first degree and theft in the third degree.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**TUESDAY**

**Union Health District of Clatsop County Board**, 8 a.m., Seaside Civic & Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

**Clatsop County Board of Commissioners**, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting).

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

**Knappa School Board**, 5:30 p.m., (electronic meeting).

**Seaside Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

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

**WEDNESDAY**

**Sunset Empire Transportation District Board**, 9 a.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

**Sunset Empire Transportation District Transportation Advisory Committee**, 2 p.m, (electronic meeting).

**Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee**, 3 p.m., (electronic meeting).

**THURSDAY**

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

**Cannon Beach Design Review Board**, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).


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# CRAB ON

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

**Crab pots cover the back of a boat at the Warrenton Marina. The commercial crab season opens Tuesday on the North Coast.**

# Quarantine lifted at Oregon mink farm

By GEORGE PLAVEN
*Capital Press*

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Agriculture has lifted a quarantine on a mink farm where animals previously tested positive for COVID-19.

The farm, which has not been identified for privacy reasons, was initially placed under quarantine on Nov. 24 after 10 mink tested positive for the virus. A quarantine means no animal products were allowed to leave the facility.

Since then, the Department of Agriculture has followed up with five rounds of additional testing. Samples were sent to the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory, which confirmed the last two rounds came back virus-free. The state officially lifted the quarantine on Thursday.

Dr. Ryan Scholz, the state veterinarian, said getting to this result involved collaboration between state and federal agencies, as well as cooperation from the farmer. He said the virus did not mutate, nor was it detected in any nearby wildlife.

"This is a best-case scenario, and we are sharing what we have learned with others," Scholz said.

Not everyone agrees.

Environmental groups opposed to fur farms have expressed concerns about the virus spilling into the wild, creating a potential reservoir for future transmission. The Center for Biological Diversity has petitioned the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to add mink to the state's prohibited species list.

A hearing on the petition is scheduled for March 19.

Lori Burd, the environmental health director for the group, also criticized the Department of Agriculture for not sampling enough mink to justify lifting the quarantine. Rounds of testing were based on 62 samples out of approximately 12,000 animals at the farm.

"It's disturbing that after testing no more than 0.5% of the animals, they rushed to lift the quarantine despite the grave implications another outbreak would pose to workers and wild animals," Burd said.

Indeed, two mink that tested positive for low levels of the virus did escape from the farm during the quarantine. They were later recaptured by USDA Wildlife Services, which was trapping and testing nearby wildlife under the direction of state Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists.

Fur Commission USA

**Mink farms have been a concern during the coronavirus pandemic.**

No other animals tested positive for the virus outside the farm. That includes 10 opossums, three cats, two skunks and one other mink.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say there is no evidence that animals, including mink, play a significant role in transmitting the virus to humans. Health officials believe the mink were originally infected by other humans at the farm.

Meanwhile, Portland lawmakers have introduced a bill in the Legislature that would ban all fur sales in Oregon. House Bill 2676 states that eliminating fur sales statewide "will decrease demand for cruel products, reduce public health risks, promote community awareness of animal welfare, foster a more humane environment and enhance the reputation of the state."

HB 2676 is sponsored by state Reps. Rob Nosse, Ken Helm, Khanh Pham and Sheri Schouten, all Democrats from the Portland metro area.

Oregon has 11 permitted mink farms with an estimated 438,327 animals, making it the fourth-largest pelt-producing state behind Wisconsin, Utah and Idaho. Eight of Oregon's mink farms are in Marion County, one in Linn County and two in Clatsop County.

An animal rights group claimed that a mink farm in Clatsop County was the one under quarantine.

According to the industry trade group Fur Commission USA, based in Medford, the U.S. fur crop was valued at $82.6 million in 2018, and produced 3.1 million pelts.

In a previous interview with the Capital Press, Michael Whelan, the group's executive director, said fur opponents were using the pandemic to renew their attacks on the industry.

The Astorian

**Crews worked to restore power after trees and power lines were toppled.**

# Icy conditions leave thousands without power on North Coast

## The freeze downed trees, power lines

*The Astorian*

Thousands of people on the North Coast were without power on Saturday after icy conditions overnight toppled trees and power lines.

The Astoria Bridge was temporarily closed on Saturday morning because of large chunks of falling ice. Several other highways and roads were blocked by debris.

Public works and fire crews were working to clear roads. Officials urged people to avoid driving if possible.

More than 4,000 Pacific Power customers lost power in Astoria and Warrenton.

"Our crews are out in the field assessing damage and restoring power as quickly and as safely as possible," Allen Berreth, Pacific Power's vice president of operations, said in a statement. "We appreciate the patience that customers have shown during this outage and we want to remind everyone to stay clear of any down lines you may see.

"Doing repair work in these conditions is very challenging. Many roads are blocked and lines are still being brought down by ice and snow snapping tree branches. We are often restoring one set of customers only to have another nearby neighborhood go down."

Debris and downed trees were reported on U.S. Highway 30 and blocked state Highway 202 about 2 miles south of Olney.

Multiple downed trees and falling branches were also reported in Hammond. Ridge Road near KOA in Warrenton was blocked due to downed power lines tangled in fallen branches. Astoria 911 Dispatch asked that people be patient and only dial 911 for emergencies. The nonemergency dispatch line is 503-325-4411. A 911 outage was reported in Knappa.

On Saturday morning, the winter weather advisory for the North Coast was canceled because of warmer temperatures.

Hazardous road conditions severed supply chains from Interstate 5 and temporarily depleted several local fuel stations by Monday morning, including Fred Meyer in Warrenton and Safeway in Astoria.

***Video**: Watch a video posted by Workers Tavern in Uniontown of ice falling from the Astoria Bridge at bit.ly/3dacxy5

*Nicole Bales and Edward Stratton contributed to this report.*

The Astorian

**Exchange Street was temporarily closed at Ninth Street in Astoria after a downed tree.**


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