

IN BRIEF

Two dead after crash on Highway 101

Two people were killed Saturday afternoon in a crash on U.S. Highway 101 near Cullaby Lake Lane.

Police say Hazel Nyberg, 66, of Astoria, was heading northbound in a Toyota Corolla at about 1 p.m. when a pickup truck towing a large RV, driven by Donald Siglin, 76, of Banks, crossed the center divider and struck her vehicle.

Nyberg died in the crash. Siglin was flown to Oregon Health & Science University Hospital in Portland, where he was pronounced dead.

The highway was closed for several hours following the crash while authorities conducted an investigation and reconstruction.

Hiker falls from cliff at Hug Point

A hiker who fell more than 100 feet from a cliff Friday afternoon near Hug Point State Park is reportedly recovering.

A U.S. Coast Guard aircrew hoisted the hiker at about 5:15 p.m. and they were flown to Sector Columbia River.

The Coast Guard said the hiker was conscious and responsive before they were flown to a Portland area hospital.

An investigation found that the hiker had fallen while walking too close to the cliff's edge. The Portland resident sustained serious injuries.

Wyden to hold town hall for Clatsop County residents

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden will hold an online town hall on Saturday for Clatsop County residents.

The noon event is hosted by People's Town Hall. Instructions to participate are available online at peoplestownhall.org. People can watch the town hall on Facebook Live.

"I very much look forward to resuming the conversation with Astoria, Warrenton, Seaside, Gearhart, Cannon Beach and all of Clatsop County to hear residents' priorities with the new Biden administration and Senate in its first weeks," the Oregon Democrat said in a statement.

"While precautions require a temporary hold on in-person town halls, I thank People's Town Hall for helping these 'Oregon Way' discussions to continue online for Oregonians living and working on the North Coast."

As senator, Wyden has committed to holding at least one town hall every year in each of Oregon's 36 counties.

— *The Astorian*

DEATHS

March 7, 2021

JACKSON, Oscar James, 89, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

March 4, 2021

RALL, StephanAnthony, 72, of Arch Cape, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Funeral & Cremation Arrangement Center of Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Burglary

• Joshua Henry Marshall, 36, of Seaside, was arrested Wednesday on Beerman Creek Road for burglary in the second degree and criminal trespass in the second degree.

DUII

• Gabriel Coleman, 25, of Portland, was arrested Sunday on N.W. Warrenton Drive for driv-

ing under the influence of intoxicants.

• Monica Lynn Terrell, 58, was arrested Sunday on Third Street and the Astoria Riverwalk for DUII and driving with a suspended or revoked license.

• Casey Walter Wagner, 40, of Warrenton, was arrested Saturday on 17th Street and Exchange Street in Astoria for DUII.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Clatsop County Planning Commission, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting).

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors, 4:15 p.m., workshop, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

Clatsop Care Health District Board, 5 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., main fire station, 34571 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Clatsop Community College Board, 6:30 p.m., (electronic meeting).

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District Board, 10 a.m., (electronic meeting).

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Warrenton-Hammond School Board, 6 p.m., Warrenton High School Library, 1700 S. Main Ave.

Astoria School District Board, 7 p.m., (electronic meeting).

THURSDAY

Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

Gearhart Planning Commission and City Council, 7 p.m., (electronic meeting).



IN BLOOM

Jonathan Williams/The Astorian

Daffodils bloom on a hillside off of 15th Street in Astoria.

Mapping shipwrecks at the Graveyard of the Pacific

By **JAMIE HALE** and **MARK GRAVES**

The Oregonian

The Pacific Northwest coastline has long been fraught with danger, threatening all who dare to set sail off its shores. One area in particular has become so notorious over the centuries that it's earned a grim moniker all its own: the Graveyard of the Pacific.

To give some sense of this level of danger, The Oregonian has mapped 238 of the most significant shipwrecks near the mouth of the Columbia River and along the Oregon and Washington state coast, between 1725 and 2005, pulled from one of the definitive texts on the subject: "Pacific Graveyard" by James Gibbs.

The author, maritime historian and lighthouse keeper in the Pacific Northwest wrote about shipwrecks up and down the coast. Gibbs served as a lighthouse keeper at the Tillamook Rock Lighthouse, and built his own private lighthouse, the Cleft of the Rock Light, near Yachats. He wrote more than a dozen books in his career, and "Pacific Graveyard" was among his best known.

The shipwrecks he tracked down around the Columbia River entrance resulted in at least 535 deaths, though the toll is likely much higher. Historical records of some shipwrecks simply say that "all lives were lost," and are counted here as one fatality for lack of better information.

There were also many more incidents than the map indicates. The Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria estimates approximately 2,000 vessels have sunk in the area since 1792, including many smaller boats that wrecked at the mouth of the Columbia. This map shows some of the most dramatic and deadly shipwrecks that occurred as settler colonists began to arrive to the

PACIFIC GRAVEYARD

Check out the interactive maps of shipwrecks online at: projects.oregonlive.com/shipwrecks

region in droves over the 19th century, continuing as industry increased shipping traffic in the Pacific Northwest the following century.

For generations earlier, the stormy river mouth was part of an area populated by the Clatsop tribe of the Chinookan peoples, a group of interconnected indigenous communities who lived along the lower Columbia River.

EVEN TODAY, VESSELS ENTERING THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER ARE GUIDED BY THE COLUMBIA RIVER BAR PILOTS, AN ORGANIZATION FOUNDED IN 1846 TO HELP KEEP SHIPS AFLOAT.

The Chinook were highly skilled at navigating the body of water that many on its lower stretches called wimahl, meaning "big river," using dugout canoes carved from enormous cedar logs. Europeans and Americans, who first entered the river mouth in 1792, struggled mightily in their massive ships, losing many lives on their quest to expand industry and white settlement to the Pacific Northwest.

Over the ensuing two centuries, there were many tragedies, much wreckage and a

fair amount of drama as ships crashed, burned and exploded on their way up what would soon become the Oregon and Washington coast.

The "graveyard" is considered to range from Tillamook Bay in Oregon up the Washington coast to Vancouver Island, an area that's home to many rocky reefs and shorelines. But perhaps the most treacherous area lies at the mouth of the Columbia River.

Straddling the border between Oregon and Washington, the mighty river mouth is home to shifting sand bars, high seas and heavy winds that combine to create a nightmare for ships entering from the ocean.

The number of annual shipwrecks peaked in the middle of the 19th century, but continued to be a regular problem into the 1960s. The advent of GPS and its preceding technological advancements helped maritime navigation immensely, effectively ending the age of shipwrecks at the mouth of the river.

That doesn't mean the Graveyard of the Pacific became safe. Even today, vessels entering the mouth of the river are guided by the Columbia River Bar Pilots, an organization founded in 1846 to help keep ships afloat. The U.S. Coast Guard also stays busy rescuing vessels in distress — at the beginning of crabbing season in February, rescuers saved crews from three fishing boats in one day.

Although the major shipwreck era has passed, the stormy, violent nature of the Pacific Northwest coast ensures that the Graveyard of the Pacific remains very much alive.

The sun sets over the wreck of the Peter Iredale at Fort Stevens State Park.

Jamie Hale/The Oregonian



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