

## IN BRIEF

## Fishery managers add days to river salmon fishing

State fishery managers announced Wednesday that they would add extra days of spring Chinook salmon and steelhead fishing on the Columbia River.

Fishing from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the Bonneville Dam will open Saturday and then again June 1 through June 15.

Above the dam to the Oregon and Washington state border, fishing will be open on Saturday and Sunday and then again on June 5 and June 6.

Fishermen are able to retain hatchery steelhead and jack Chinook caught in the river's main stem from Tongue Point upstream to the Interstate 5 bridge. The steelhead bag limit is one fish per day.

## Steadfast returns to Astoria

The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Steadfast returned to Astoria after a 49-day counternarcotics patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

During the patrol, the crew intercepted a vessel suspected of smuggling illicit narcotics, which resulted in the seizure of over 2,400 pounds of cocaine. Three suspected traffickers were detained.

## Police investigate robbery at Dairy Queen in Warrenton

Police are investigating a robbery that occurred at Dairy Queen in Warrenton on May 16.

Officials say a man wearing black clothing and a black face mask entered the building through the back door just before 10 p.m.

The man reportedly went into the manager's office and took money from an open safe. After employees confronted the man and tried to stop him, he reportedly told them he had a knife and kicked one of the employees before running away with cash.

Officers searched the area, but could not find the suspect.

## Offices close for Memorial Day

In observance of Memorial Day on Monday, all federal, state, county and city offices and services, including Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach city halls, are closed. All U.S. post offices are closed, and there is no mail delivery.

Astoria, Jewell, Knappa, Warrenton/Hammond and Seaside (including Cannon Beach and Gearhart) school district schools, and Clatsop Community College, are closed.

The Astoria Library, Seaside Library and Warrenton Library are closed.

The Port of Astoria offices and services are closed.

Garbage collection through Recology Western Oregon and the city of Warrenton garbage collection are not affected by the holiday. Recology Western Oregon's transfer station is open until 2 p.m.

The Sunset Pool in Seaside is open from 5:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Astoria Aquatic Center is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.

The Clatsop County Heritage Museum, Oregon Film Museum and Flavel House are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Carriage House is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Uppertown Firefighters' Museum is closed.

Lil' Sprouts is closed. Fort Clatsop is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Columbia River Maritime Museum is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunset Empire Transportation ("The Bus") is running.

— The Astorian

## DEATHS

**May 20, 2021**  
BOYCE, Lloyd, 72, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

**May 19, 2021**  
McCARTY, Mary, 84, of Warrenton, died in

Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

**May 18, 2021**  
MARSHALL, Barbara, 64, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

## ON THE RECORD

## DUII

• Jamie Jean Corbin, 46, of Seattle, was arrested Wednesday off of U.S. Highway 101 for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## THURSDAY

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

**Clatsop County Recreational Lands Planning Advisory Committee**, 1 p.m., (electronic meeting).

**Cannon Beach Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

## the Astorian

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Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Halibut fishing is heating up off the coast. A fish checker from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife measured the catch on a charter fishing boat in Ilwaco on Sunday.

## Big climate bill generates little friction

Legislation grew out of a listening tour

By DIRK VANDERHART  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Oregon would adopt one of the country's most ambitious timelines for eliminating carbon dioxide emissions from its power grid under a major bill advocates believe will pass the Legislature this year.

House Bill 2021 — a product of intensive negotiations between the state's largest utilities, environmental justice groups, renewable energy boosters and more — advanced out of one state House committee last week. It must now navigate the state budgeting process before final votes in the House and Senate.

In a legislative session when police reform, COVID-19 assistance, racial equity and wildfire relief have been at the forefront, HB 2021 could be among the most impactful bills lawmakers will decide.

The bill sets a timetable by which Oregon's two major power companies, Portland General Electric and Pacific Power, must eliminate emissions associated with the electricity they provide. Five electricity service suppliers in the state also would face regulation, though their emissions are tiny compared to the big utilities.

HB 2021's central thrust isn't groundbreaking by today's standards. At least 17 other states and the District of Columbia have already adopted similar goals, according to the Clean Energy States Alliance.

But advocates say Oregon's plan stands out in both approach and timeline. The bill requires PGE and Pacific Power to submit plans to reduce emissions by 80% from a baseline amount by 2030, 90% by 2035 and completely eliminate emissions by 2040.

That end date is notably ambitious. It's a nearer deadline than nearly every other state that has adopted a clean power plan, including Washington and California. Oregon would measure its progress in an atypical way, too. Most states have opted to ratchet down greenhouse gas emissions by requiring utilities to gradually increase the amount of power they get from renewable energy sources like wind and solar. Oregon, which has already had such a renewable portfolio standard since 2007, is taking a more straightforward approach: requiring PGE and Pacific Power to reduce their overall carbon emissions, which are tracked by the state's Department of Environmental Quality.

"What we're doing is harder, but I think it's more honest," said Bob Jenks, executive director of the Oregon Citizens' Utility



Amelia Templeton/Oregon Public Broadcasting

Wind energy will be a major ingredient if Oregon hopes to fully decarbonize its power grid.

Board, which advocates on behalf of utility customers and supports the bill.

By targeting emissions, Jenks and others say, Oregon can focus on more than just ramping up its use of renewables. It can also place a premium on helping the state use power in a smarter, more efficient manner.

"It's going to lead to a lot of renewable energy development; it's going to lead to a lot of efficiency development," said Jeff Bissonnette, a consultant with the Northwest Energy Coalition, which also backs the bill. "We're really asking utilities to change the way they do business. That's a big deal."

a coalition called the Oregon Just Transition Alliance held in cities around the state as it worked to develop an Oregon version of the Green New Deal.

"What we heard from communities is our energy policy is not serving our front-line communities and is not meeting our climate goals," said state Rep. Khanh Pham, D-Portland, who at the time of the listening tour served as interim director of the alliance.

Pham and the environmental justice groups that form the alliance emerged from the tour with ideas for how Oregon might decarbonize its energy grid, create jobs and ensure that people

allows cities in Oregon to create so-called "green tariffs," where they agree to pay utilities more money for power from a cleaner mix of sources in order to meet their own climate goals;

requires power companies to consider input from low-income ratepayers, environmental justice communities, federally recognized tribes and others as they develop strategies for reducing emissions.

While all of those provisions — hashed out over months of sometimes tense discussions — have given HB 2021 a solid support base, a big reason the bill seems to have a shot at passing this year lies in something else: a lack of organized opposition.

Unlike the ambitious cap-and-trade proposal that would have ratcheted down emissions throughout the economy, and developed many enemies as a result, HB 2021 touches far fewer entities. And many support the bill.

"We feel optimistic enough that we can get (to zero emissions) that we were willing to move forward to support this," said Sunny Radcliffe, the director of governmental affairs and energy policy at PGE, the state's largest electric utility.

PGE already has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2030, but to date has only set an aspirational target of eliminating emissions entirely by 2040. That's because of a sticking point common to clean energy requirements: No one's entirely sure how utilities will eliminate the final 10% or 20% of their emissions, the fossil fuel-generated power that can help ensure lights remain on when sun isn't shining and wind isn't blowing.

"There is a lack of clarity for how we as an industry are going to get the last bits out," Radcliffe said. "I don't know anybody in our industry who knows how to get to zero with the technology we have today."

Boosters for clean energy targets point out that renewable energy has become far cheaper as technology improves, and they expect that trend to continue. As Radcliffe put it: "As an industry focuses on an outcome, (research and development) tend to follow."

See Climate bill, Page A5

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Sunny Radcliffe | director of governmental affairs and energy policy at PGE

## Jumping together

Advocates of clean electricity have been talking about decarbonizing Oregon's power grid for years.

In 2015, Stanford University researchers laid out a roadmap for what switching to 100% clean energy might look like in each state by 2050. A proposed ballot measure for 2020, ultimately abandoned, would have forced Oregon power providers to transfer to clean power by 2045. And President Joe Biden campaigned on a proposal to switch to 100% clean power as a nation by 2035, though that proposal's chances of clearing Congress are unclear.

With HB 2021, Oregon appears to be on the verge of setting its own ambitious goal in stone.

The bill got its start last summer, months after Republicans cut the 2020 legislative session short with a walkout over Democrats' sweeping proposal to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions with a cap-and-trade system.

HB 2021's origins, backers say, lie in a listening tour

disproportionately impacted by climate change were not left behind. Soon, alliance members were talking with utilities, labor organizations, renewable energy developers, lawmakers and more.

What has emerged nearly a year later is a climate bill that supporters say has buy-in from an uncommonly broad coalition. Pham, who was sworn in to the House in January, is a chief sponsor of HB 2021, alongside Rep. Pam Marsh, D-Ashland, chairwoman of the House Energy and Environment Committee.

Though the bill's centerpiece is cleaning up Oregon's power grid, it contains a lot more. HB 2021 also:

• bans expansion or new construction of power plants that burn natural gas or other fossil fuels;

• sets strong labor standards for any large-scale renewable energy projects built in the state;

• includes \$50 million in grants for community renewable energy projects in cities other than Portland, which has its own fund for such projects;