

IN BRIEF

New director named for tribal fish commission

Aja K. DeCoteau was named the new executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. DeCoteau, of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, has been the interim director since April. She is the first woman to officially serve as director. "Since I was a child, my family, elders and tribal leaders have taught me the significance of salmon as one of our First Foods and the importance of tribal treaty fishing rights," she said in a statement. "As tribal people, our natural resources are our cultural resources, which is why I have dedicated my career to protect them."

Washington State Route 401 remains closed

Washington State Route 401 will remain closed between the Astoria Bridge and Knappton Road in Naselle through at least the rest of the week, the state's department of transportation said. Bad weather recently caused debris to slush onto the route, freezing traffic in both directions. Drivers can use U.S. Highway 101 to avoid the closure.

County offers grants for social services

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for local organizations that serve people in financial or social need. The Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council can distribute \$30,000 for human and social services. Applications must be emailed to humanservices@co.clatsop.or.us by 5 p.m. on Jan. 28. Proposals will be reviewed by a grant committee of the advisory council. The Board of Commissioners will decide whether to approve the committee's recommendations.

— The Astorian

OHSU Hospital will add 184 beds in major expansion

Oregon Health & Science University will launch a \$650 million expansion of its hospital this spring that will increase total beds by about a third. The 530,000 square feet of new space will come in a dramatic, U-shaped building located between the Casey Eye Institute and Doernbecher Children's Hospital on OHSU's Marquam Hill campus. The new space will allow for 184 new inpatient beds, most of which will be adult surgical beds. "Investing in our people, programs and places allows us to improve the care provided to patients and the educational experiences available for learners," said Dr. Danny Jacobs, OHSU's president. OHSU is a partner with Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria.

— The Oregonian

DEATHS

Oct. 29, 2021
SUMRALL, Betty, 92, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

W I L D E R - M c - CLURE, Dyan, 62, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral

& Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Oct. 28, 2021
BRITTON, Linda Ellen, 67, of Gearhart, died in Portland. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

DUI

• Edinelza Martins Conrad, 45, of Hammond, was arrested on Saturday near N.W. Ridge Road and Fort Stevens State Park in Warrenton for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside Library Board of Directors, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway St.

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

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

WEDNESDAY

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

Seaside Improvement Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Knappa School District Board, 6:30 p.m., Knappa High Library, 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.

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

THURSDAY

Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council, 3 p.m., (electronic meeting).

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

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

the Astorian

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COSTUME CONTEST



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Churchill Mortgage employees dressed as Mario Kart characters for a company Halloween costume contest raced along 14th Street on Wednesday.

Mukumoto named new state forester

By BRADLEY W. PARKS
Oregon Public Broadcasting

The Oregon Board of Forestry has nominated Calvin Mukumoto, of Coos Bay, to become the next state forester.

The board unanimously approved Mukumoto's nomination to the position at a special board meeting on Friday held via Zoom.

"I'm honored at this point and almost speechless," Mukumoto told the board.

The state forester heads the Oregon Department of Forestry, which is in charge of managing and protecting state-owned forests. If Mukumoto accepts the nomination, he'll take over the agency as it grapples with the threats posed by climate change.

"We have a world that's been turned upside down by climate

change and the new fire reality," said Jim Kelly, the board chairman.

Mukumoto began work as a forester in the late 1970s and most recently ran as a Democrat for a seat in the state House of Representatives, which he lost to state Rep. Boomer Wright, R-Coos Bay. Mukumoto has also served as the vice chairman of the Board of Forestry and chairman of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission.

In his application, Mukumoto emphasized his work on behalf of Native American tribes, including Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

Mukumoto will replace Nancy Hirsch, who served as acting state forester since May, when embattled agency head Peter Daugherty left the post. Daugherty was a lightning rod for criticism.

For example, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported in 2017 that Daugherty strongly rejected the science and purpose behind a report from the state Department of Environmental Quality linking water quality issues to logging. His tenure was also marked by significant financial woes at the Department of Forestry.

At the board meeting, Kelly thanked Hirsch for her "tremendous leadership" over the past several months.

"It's just been pretty incredible to see her step in and get things done in this department," Kelly said. "She has not been a person who's just kinda held things together. She's really moved the department along, made a lot of significant changes and really prepared for this next transition."

Kelly and other members of the board also thanked finalists Therese O'Rourke and Jim Paul.



Calvin Mukumoto

Deal: 'A new era of forestry in Oregon'

Continued from Page A1

wildlife and water quality. A habitat conservation plan is a tool that allows practices like logging or irrigation to continue while minimizing damage to wildlife habitat.

Saturday's deal sets in motion what could be a lengthy, possibly yearslong process to craft, approve and adopt a habitat conservation plan into law and begin implementation.

"There's no doubt that there's gonna be challenges ahead," said Sean Stevens, the executive director of the conservation group Oregon Wild. "But I do think that



Todd Sonflieth/Oregon Public Broadcasting

An aerial view of clearcuts and second-growth timber in Oregon.

this agreement provides a different sort of foundation than we've ever had before for tackling those challenges ahead."

The next step will be to

introduce a bill in the Legislature to make significant changes to the Forest Practices Act to protect riverbanks and streambanks, improve forest roads and

allow for adaptive management of private forests. The state will then pursue a habitat conservation plan, which will require a rule-making process overseen by the Oregon Board of Forestry. After that, state leaders can pitch the plan to federal regulators.

Speaking on behalf of the timber coalition, Adrian Miller, with the Florida-based forest products company Rayonier, said Saturday's agreement gives timber operators a sense of security going forward.

"I think we're all really proud to be part of a new era of forestry in Oregon," Miller said.

Rickenbach: Hopes to study veterinary medicine

Continued from Page A1

The land on which Simba was living "could only hold about a hundred horses, and there were a little over a thousand," Rickenbach said. "Without water or feed, some were starving, so they rounded up about 900 horses."

Just a month before the football game appearance — it was just a coincidence that the Fishermen were playing the Milwaukie Mustangs — Rickenbach and Simba teamed up for fifth-place overall in the teen riding division of the event in McMinnville. Rickenbach used the event as part of her senior project.

Rickenbach's grandmother, Debbie Huffman, purchased Simba at the event's auction and donated the horse back to Rickenbach. Proceeds from the



Rickenbach family

Astoria senior Alivia Rickenbach atop her formerly wild mustang, 'Simba.'

sale were donated to Astoria High School's Future Farm-

ers of America and Oregon High School Equestrian Team Programs, with each receiving about \$2,000.

"I thought someone else had bought him, but then I found out my grandma did, so it was pretty emotional," Rickenbach said.

For the homecoming

game, Rickenbach first had to get an official OK from Astoria principal Lynn Jackson to ride Simba around the edge of the field.

"One day out of the blue, I thought it would be cool if I could carry the flag on a horse during pregame," she said. "I had Atheana back then. When I emailed Mr. Jackson, we set up a meeting to talk about it. We discussed where I would ride, and he wanted me to practice so (Simba) could get used to it. The football and soccer teams were practicing, but Simba didn't mind. He did OK."

At homecoming, "they were having some technical difficulties with the speaker system. It scared me, but (Simba) could have cared less."

Rickenbach's 11-year-old sister now even rides Simba.

Rickenbach, who also raises and breeds sheep as an FFA project, hopes to get into veterinary medicine in college. She will continue to ride both Atheana and Simba on trails throughout the region.

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500