

## IN BRIEF

## Man indicted for sex abuse associated with Jewell School District

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office said the man indicted in late November on multiple sex abuse charges was associated with the Jewell School District.

David Michael Brandon, 44, taught wood shop at the school district, where he worked from 2016 to 2019. The alleged crimes, which the sheriff's office said involved a student, occurred in 2018 and 2019.

"Obviously, if that's the case, that's very alarming, disappointing and of great concern for us," Steve Phillips, the superintendent of the school district, said.

Brandon, who is listed in court records as having a Clatskanie address, was hired earlier this year to teach physical education at Hilda Lahti Elementary School in the Knappa School District. After his arrest, Brandon was placed on administrative leave, Knappa Superintendent Bill Fritz said.

The sheriff's office said that anyone with information about potential victims or witnesses is encouraged to contact Detective Jodi Libertad at jlibertad@co.clatsop.or.us or 502-325-8635.

## Port, city to release more details on waterfront master plan

The Port of Astoria and the city are hosting a second public meeting to discuss the waterfront master plan, which seeks to reinvent the Port's industrial waterfront between Pier 1 and the Astoria Bridge.

A more refined concept will be presented and additional public comment will be accepted.

The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 14 via Zoom.

People can participate by following the Zoom link: [us02web.zoom.us/j/5033255821](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5033255821)

— The Astorian

## DEATHS

Dec. 4, 2021

**COCHRAN, William** Casey Sr., 63, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

**HAWKS, Stephen M.**, 63, of Warrenton, died in Astoria. Caldwell's

Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 3, 2021

**DANIELS, Raymond S.**, 85, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

## ON THE RECORD

## Sex abuse

• Brianna Jean Palmer, 23, of Warrenton, was indicted on Nov. 24 for two counts of unlawful sexual penetration in the first degree and eight counts of sexual abuse in the first degree. The alleged crimes occurred between 2010 and 2013.

## Assault

• Matthew James Williams, 31, of Clarksville, Tennessee, was arrested on Saturday at Commercial and 11th streets in

Astoria for assault in the fourth degree.

## DUI

• Ricky Dean Sutton, 57, of Warrenton, was arrested on Saturday for driving under the influence of intoxicants and criminal mischief in the third degree. He was allegedly riding a bike in the parking lot of Motel 6 on W. Marine Drive in Astoria and struck a parked vehicle, knocking off its mirror, police said.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

## TUESDAY

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

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

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

**Astoria Library Board**, 5:30 p.m., Astoria Library, main reading area, 450 10th St.

**Astoria Planning Commission**, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

**Clatsop County Fair Board**, 5:30 p.m., 92937 Walluski Loop, Astoria.

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

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

## WEDNESDAY

**Astoria Parks Board**, 6:45 a.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

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

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

## THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

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

## the Astorian

Established July 1, 1873  
(USPS 035-000)

Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

DailyAstorian.com

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS, INC.

Circulation phone number:  
800-781-3214

Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP

All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Astorian become the property of The Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©

Entire contents © Copyright, 2021 by The Astorian.



Printed on recycled paper

Subscription rates  
Effective January 12, 2021

## MAIL

EZpay (per month).....\$10.75  
13 weeks in advance.....\$37.00  
26 weeks in advance.....\$71.00  
52 weeks in advance.....\$135.00

## DIGITAL

EZpay (per month).....\$8.25

## KING TIDES



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

A woman photographed a storm at Cannon Beach during king tides on Saturday.

## Rockfish: It isn't clear yet why they're so abundant off the Oregon Coast now

Continued from Page A1

The shortbelly's expansion north puts them in the path of the state's midwater trawl fisheries. The Pacific whiting fishery began to record increased encounters with shortbelly rockfish beginning in 2017.

Most tows that snag shortbelly may only land around 10 pounds of the rockfish, but every once in a while there will be a big tow — a lightning strike — of over 100,000 pounds.

## Triggered a review

The rising number of shortbelly landings triggered a review by the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The council, which recommends fishery management measures in federal waters off California, Oregon and Washington state, took several interim steps in 2019 and 2020 to protect the fish. They raised the annual catch limit and designated the rockfish as an ecosystem component species, a title that recognizes shortbelly's value in the ecosystem as a forage fish but does not come with specific fishery management measures.

Conservation groups argued that more proactive protection was needed.

The Audubon Society and Oceana urged for a prohibition that would prevent the creation of a fishery targeting shortbelly rockfish.

Right now, shortbelly is nearly useless to fishermen. Vessels in the Pacific whiting fishery actively try to avoid them. When a vessel does hit a school of shortbelly, the spiny fish tangle in the net, creating frustrating work for crew and sometimes damaging more valuable fish around them.

But as interest in aquaculture opportunities and demand for fishmeal and fish oil grows, conservation groups worry about what the future could hold.

In November, the council further limited catch of the fish and could consider examining a prohibition on a directed fishery for shortbelly next year.

It's a partial win, said Joe Liebezeit, a scientist and avian conservation manager for Portland Audubon.

Anna Weinstein, the director of marine conservation with the National Audubon Society, agrees. She said the council's action provides some truly meaningful safeguards and breaks.

But in light of climate change, "It's just more important than ever to be proactive about the foundation of the food chain that supports all the species we care about," Weinstein said.

The council does not want to see targeted fishing on shortbelly rockfish either. However, a prohibition takes work and would require extensive analysis of data, some of which is not



Keri Barber/NOAA Fisheries

Vessels in the Pacific whiting, or hake, fishery snag other species in their nets, including, occasionally, a chilipepper rockfish. Shortbelly rockfish, rarely seen in Oregon but abundant in California, have also started showing up in whiting landings — frequently enough and in large enough amounts to raise concerns.

*'SO THE QUESTION REALLY BECOMES ARE WE PREPARED WITH OUR MANAGEMENT TO LOSE SPECIES? ARE WE PREPARED WITH OUR MANAGEMENT TO GAIN SPECIES? AND THE ANSWER IS, 'NOT YET,' BUT WE'RE THINKING REALLY HARD ABOUT IT.'*

Caren Braby | marine program manager with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

readily available for shortbelly. There has not been a stock assessment of the fish since 2007.

"It seems like we should just be able to say, 'Thou shalt not go out and target shortbelly rockfish,'" said Maggie Sommer, with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a Pacific Fishery Management Council member.

It's not that easy. Fishery managers need to be clear about what they are requiring and what they are enforcing. They need to understand how changing management for one species might impact and impede other fisheries.

It isn't clear yet why shortbelly rockfish are so abundant off the Oregon Coast now — though warmer ocean waters associated with a marine heat wave that began in 2015 are likely a factor. What is obvious is that shortbelly rockfish have experienced several very good reproductive years and expanded north of their historical range.

Caren Braby, the marine program manager with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, has been involved in council discus-

sions about various climate change scenarios for West Coast fisheries.

With shortbelly, she sees parallels to Oregon's emerging market squid fishery.

Landings of market squid surged off Oregon in the past five years after decades of being almost nonexistent. Boats that fish for the squid in the animals' more typical range off the California coast have headed north to take advantage of the boom.

The situation caught regulators off guard. Oregon had no established quota and no set season for market squid. Suddenly, as landings continued to come in strong and the number of participating vessels increased, fishery managers needed to discuss a whole new suite of management details.

As with shortbelly, there are gaps in the data and uncertainty about how new management could impact

fisheries or benefit the animals in question.

## Dilemma

It is the kind of dilemma council members like Braby expect to see more of under climate change and it further highlights the need to be nimble and flexible, she said. With climate change and shifting ocean conditions, some species will thrive and others will fail. Many are expected to move into new areas.

There is one really easy question, Braby says: "Are we going to see new species emerge in our landings?"

"And the answer," she said, "is, 'Certainly.' This is an example."

"So the question really becomes are we prepared with our management to lose species?" she added. "Are we prepared with our management to gain species? And the answer is, 'Not yet,' but we're thinking really hard about it."

## WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500