

IN BRIEF

Fisherman cited for undersized crabs

The captain of a commercial fishing boat that landed at Pacific Seafood in Warrenton was cited last week for taking undersized Dungeness crab in violation of state fisheries law.

Richard Fulton Brown, 56, of Hebo, docked his vessel, the Calamari, at the fish processing plant on Dec. 6 with what a state Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist noticed was an inordinate number of small crabs on board.

The Calamari had arrived with more than 45,000 pounds of crab. Of that, roughly 22% — more than \$49,000 worth — of Brown's catch was undersized, according to measurements by Oregon State Police fish and wildlife troopers and personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard.

In Oregon, commercial fishermen are permitted to catch male crabs that are 6.25 inches wide, a rule meant to sustain the crabbing industry by not allowing the younger ones to be picked off before they are fully grown. Female crabs are off limits.

The undersized crabs were seized by state police and sold to Pacific Seafood, according to Coast Guard Petty Officer Michael Clark, of District 13 in Seattle. The proceeds from the sale will go to the state, he said.

New virus cases reported in county

The Oregon Health Authority has reported new coronavirus cases for Clatsop County over the past several days.

The health authority reported seven new virus cases on Tuesday, 14 new cases over the weekend and six new cases on Friday.

Since the pandemic began, the county had recorded 2,703 virus cases as of Tuesday.

— The Astorian

DEATHS

Dec. 15, 2021

MART, Brian Jon, 69, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 14, 2021

HAMLIN, Frederick Ronald, 73, of Beaverton, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

HAYWARD, Joseph Orlo, 94, of Warrenton, died in Warrenton. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 12, 2021

PITTARD, Suzanne Mary, 86, of Wheeler, formerly of Seaside, died in Wheeler. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

STAMPER, Shane Edward, 38, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Dec. 10, 2021

KOHANEK, Perry Eli, 63, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Theft and attempted assault

• James Lee Ogier, Jr., 25, of Astoria, was indicted for two separate cases last week.

For crimes alleged to have occurred in November, Ogier was indicted for aggravated theft in the first degree, two counts of burglary in the second degree, being a felon in possession of a firearm and criminal mischief in the second degree.

For crimes alleged to have occurred in early December, he was indicted for two counts of attempted assault in the first degree, attempted animal abuse in the first degree, escape in the second degree, two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm, two counts of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, criminal mischief in the first degree, failing to perform the duties of a driver after causing property damage, two counts of recklessly endangering another person and reckless driving.

Menacing

• Eric Nicholas Ferguson, 41, of Astoria, was arrested on Friday at the Astoria Transit Center on Marine Drive for menacing, criminal mischief in the first degree and disorderly conduct in the second degree.

DUI

• Francisco Ortiz Alvarez, 38, of Portland, was indicted in June for driving under the influence of intoxicants, assault in the fourth degree, failing to perform the duties of a driver to injured persons, reckless driving and four counts of recklessly endangering another person. The crimes are alleged to have occurred in Clatsop County in April.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

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

Seaside Transportation Advisory Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

the Astorian

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Food Hub hosts first winter market



Abbey McDonald/The Astorian

Astoria Food Hub hosted its first winter market Saturday in the historic Mason, Ehrman & Co. building. Jared Gardner, a central partner to the project, said he was excited by the turnout. He intends to open the space as a storage, distribution and retail hub for local producers in February, with a restaurant and speakeasy. 'We really exist to promote small farmers,' Gardner said.

Child care: 'We all want children to be safe'

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according to the bill's fact sheet. Families that don't have access to a publicly funded program are forced to shell out about \$8,600 per year for private preschool, according to whitehouse.gov.

The bill, while quite large, has been whittled down from what was initially proposed, with possibly more changes ahead in the U.S. Senate.

"Once (Build Back Better) is fully implemented, and of course it still needs to pass the Senate, it will make sure that more than 13 million young children are eligible for the (child care) assistance," Bonamici said. "The intent is to make sure that it's not only affordable and accessible, but also high-quality."

Higher wages for child care workers is also a priority, Bonamici said.

"Under Build Back Better, workers in child care and universal pre-K will be paid commensurate to elementary school educators with similar qualifications," she said.

But some child care and labor advocates say the bill falls short for family, friend and neighbor care providers, who made up a significant share of child care providers long before the pandemic.

Family, friend and neighbor care typically refers to home-based care that is not regulated.

"There's a real continued ambivalence about the role for friend/family/neighbor providers in this larger system," said Andrea Paluso, the executive director Family Forward Oregon, an advocacy group.

This ambivalence shows up in multiple ways. An unregulated workforce, for example, is not going to reap

the same benefits in better wages the same way the rest of the child care workforce will benefit.

This also appears in Build Back Better, which has a requirement that child care providers be licensed.

"I'm really worried about this new requirement that all providers be licensed, and the barriers that that's going to create for (Family Forward Oregon) providers to participate in the system," Paluso said, "particularly for the families that are already using FFN providers that are already struggling the most to participate in this system, who operate in languages other than English or have technology challenges and gaps."

Bonamici noted that Build Back Better does include technical assistance for licensing processes, but she also agreed that when

implementing standards in Oregon, it will be prudent to ensure good providers aren't lost due to new licensing requirements.

"Of course, we all want children to be safe and facilities to be safe, but we have to really keep an eye on that," she said.

As the Senate fast approaches a self-imposed Christmas deadline, Bonamici encouraged people to communicate with their members of Congress to push for passage of the bill.

"It's really helpful to let our senators know, but also, if you are networked with people in other states, just emphasizing the importance of these investments," she said.

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Johnson: 'Oregonians want a different kind of politics'

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things," Johnson said. "I will never forget the opportunity you've given this daughter of Oregon to serve, to learn and to continue to lead."

Under state law, county commissioners in Senate District 16 will make the appointment to fill Johnson's vacancy in the Senate until a new senator is elected next year. The Democratic Party will recommend nominees.

"I hope the party officials and county commissioners who select my replacement will do the wise thing and choose someone who is dedicated 100% to serving in service and not to the pol-

itics of running for election next year," Johnson said in a video posted on Facebook.

State Rep. Suzanne Weber, R-Tillamook, has announced she will run for Senate District 16 next year.

Johnson will resign from the Democratic Party to pursue her independent campaign for governor. She needs to gather more than 23,700 signatures by next summer to qualify as a non-affiliated candidate for the November 2022 ballot.

"It is so clear: Oregonians want a different kind of politics, and they certainly want a different kind of leadership," Johnson said in the video. "They want leadership that

reaches beyond party labels, rejects the extremes and puts common sense in service to the common good."

Andy Davis, the chairman of the Clatsop County Democratic Party, said, "It's a surprise that she's taking this step right now, though I understand wanting to concentrate on the governor's race.

"On a logistical level, I wish we had more time to prepare for the upcoming legislative session."

He said Johnson's decision to resign puts her replacement in a bind because that person will have to climb a steep learning curve. "But we'll make

the best of it," Davis said.

Davis said he talked to the state Democratic Party to coordinate steps for finding Johnson's replacement. The Clatsop County Democratic Party had anticipated running someone next year for Johnson's seat and so far hasn't settled on anyone, he said. The senator's announcement speeds up the timeline.

Asked who might step up, Davis said, "Given we just found out, I haven't had time to talk to anybody to even sound them out. We've got a couple of names that we might try, but I certainly haven't got anybody that would be committed to that yet."

Waterfront: Plan is a framework for redevelopment

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been conceptualized. A relocated trolley stop would also be created.

Other supportive, mixed-use buildings are scattered throughout the plan.

While implementation will take several years, the consultant team identified several smaller-scale projects considered to be "easy wins." They include replacing the Chinook Building with supportive uses for seasonal fishing, improving the Astoria Riverwalk and upgrading access, availability and amenities within the West Mooring Basin.

The plan is intended to provide the Port and the city with a framework for redevelopment with the ability to

make adjustments based on the economy.

A breakdown of local, state and federal funding sources was also laid out. Recruiting developers and investors would be necessary for both maritime industrial and mixed-use projects.

'An important purpose'

Similar to the first meeting, the consultant, the Port and city staff fielded questions, concerns and suggestions.

"The public has had a high level of involvement in this planning process," said Will Isom, the Port's executive director. "I think these public forums serve an important purpose in terms of keeping the pub-

lic informed, but also a chance to ask questions and exchange ideas. It would be my hope that through this process, we can get some public support behind this redevelopment, as well."

While attendance was lower than the first meeting, a few people spoke and provided their thoughts.

Among the questions was the possibility of housing.


Housing was considered, Zilis said, but other options were preferred considering the limited space.

As the concept moves forward, the next steps

include completion of the master plan in February and potential adoption toward the spring and summer.

"The best way to ensure this plan can become a reality is to make sure that we've garnered public support for the plan and we have enough momentum that really the governing bodies have no choice but to move it forward," Isom said. "... Based on the feedback we've received, which has been overwhelmingly positive, it sounds like, in general, we are headed in the right direction."

GAME MEAT PROCESSING



Debbie D's will be at **Cash & Carry** in Warrenton at **10:00 a.m. every Saturday** to pick up and deliver meat for processing.

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