

SPORTS



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Tara Lair, Seaside

Sports: Cross-country, softball (all-league)
Favorite sports moment: Stepping on the field for the first time after losing an entire season to the pandemic! Felt so good to finally be back!
Where you see yourself in five years: Hopefully chasing my dream of becoming a sports journalist.
Favorite road trip: When I was 9 my parents and I traveled to Moore, Oklahoma, to deliver supplies to tornado victims. It was a very eye-opening experience for me and I enjoyed spending it with my parents.
Favorite pregame music: Love me some oldies. J Bieb (Justin Bieber), Hannah Montana, all those goodies!
Most influential coach or teacher: I've had a lot of amazing coaches, but the one that has influenced me the most in life and in sports is my dad. He's coached me my entire softball career and I couldn't be more thankful for the bond it created for us.
Advice for young teammates: Hustle. Never give up, always try your best even when your back is against the wall. Lead by example, the next generation is always watching.

Oregon firm generates biochar with wood waste

By GEORGE PLAIVEN
Capital Press

LYONS — Tech giant Microsoft is investing in carbon credits generated by an Oregon wood products company to help reduce, and eventually erase, its carbon footprint. The offsets come from biochar produced at Freres Engineered Wood, which manufactures plywood and veneer in the Santiam Canyon east of Salem. Biochar is a carbon-rich material created when organic biomass, such as wood, is roasted at high temperatures in a low oxygen environment. It is essentially a finely grained charcoal, and can be used as a soil amendment to improve fertility. Because it also sequesters carbon, biochar is marketed as a tool to mitigate the effects of climate change. Biochar from Freres was certified last year by Puro.earth, a marketplace on which companies can buy or trade carbon credits to offset their emissions from other sources. Microsoft has agreed to purchase these credits as part of a sweeping program to become carbon negative by 2030. Carbon negative means Microsoft aims to sequester more carbon than it emits each year.



George Plavien/Capital Press

Biochar is a carbon-rich material created when organic biomass, such as wood, is roasted at high temperatures in a low oxygen environment.

ACT Commodities, a financial institution that backs climate projects around the world, brokered the deal for Freres, a family-run business founded in 1922. "As part of the path to our carbon-negative goal by 2030, we are glad to purchase biochar-based carbon removal credits via ACT from the Pacific Northwest-based supplier Freres," said Elizabeth Wilmott, carbon program director for Microsoft. Freres Engineered Wood — formerly Freres Lumber Co. — has long made biochar as a byproduct of its cogeneration plant in Lyons, said Kyle Freres, the company's vice president.

their disposal costs in the short term while providing an incentive for them to research and develop new commercial products. He envisions marketing a proprietary blend of topsoil and biochar to farmers and home gardeners.

Built in 2007, the plant runs around the clock burning ground up tree bark, limbs and other woody debris to create the steam that powers a massive turbine generator, creating enough electricity for about 5,000 homes.

"I think the agricultural markets could be a big opportunity for us," Freres said.

Portland General Electric, a regional utility, buys the electricity. Meanwhile, what's left over is a combination of ash and biochar that Freres previously sold to farmers. Not only is biochar more than 70% carbon, but its porous nature allows soil to retain more water, growing more robust crops.

The company is now experimenting with techniques to separate beneficial biochar from the non-combustible ash. Once that process is refined, Freres said they hope to start product development in the next year or two. A portion of the feedstock used in the cogeneration plant comes from Freres' timber operations, though a majority is collected from outside the company, including urban manufacturers in the Portland area.

In recent years, however, Freres said it has become increasingly difficult to manage such large volumes of biochar. "Farmers are seasonal, and our business isn't," he explained.

All of the unsalable wood is mulched and fed into the plant, where it is burned at between 1,400 and 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit.

The company opted to send the excess carbon-rich material to a landfill 45 miles away near Corvallis.

"These are materials that are really not useful for anything else," Freres said. "We don't let anything go to waste."

By selling carbon credits to Microsoft, Freres said the added revenue will offset

Freres said he believes wood products play a key role in sequestering carbon and combating climate change.

"Frankly, we feel like our industry is one of the greenest on the planet," Freres said. "It's products like this that really burnish our environmental credentials."

PREP ROUNDUP

Valiants win girls golf district title

Valley Catholic jumped to an early lead after Day 1, then posted another solid score on the second day to win the team title in the District 1 4A/3A/2A/1A girls golf match, held Thursday and Friday at Quail Valley Golf Course in Banks.

The Valiants finished with a final round score of 823 (408-415) to hold off the second place Lady Braves, who carded an 887 team score on their home course.

Valley Catholic and Banks earned the top two state qualifying team spots, while North Marion (937) was third, followed by Astoria (949) and Riverdale (1,029).

The individual medalist was Ava Austria of Catlin Gabel, who finished with a 149 (70-79) to edge defending state champion Challin Kim (80-77—157) of Valley Catholic.

Oregon Episcopal's Cayton Smith was a distant third (187), followed by Joceynn Janecek of Banks (190) and Valley Catholic's Keeli Satterfield (193) as the five individual state qualifiers.

Astoria junior Caleigh Peterson, who helped Seaside to a fourth place finish at state a year ago, made the district's all-regional team with a top 10 finish in the district event.

Peterson led the Lady Fish with a 215 (111-104), followed by Marlee Both (227), Katie Jo Strimple-Fields (252), Ava Davis (255) and Mia Rochon (309).

Holly Fergus (248) was Seaside's lone golfer; Warrenton golfers competing were Savannah Bigelow (241) and Jezalynn Stergell (247).

PREP SPORTS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY
Baseball — Knappa at Neah-Kah-Nie, 4 p.m.
Softball — Dayton at Warrenton, 4:30 p.m.; Seaside at Astoria, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Baseball — Seaside at Astoria, 5 p.m.; Catlin Gabel at Warrenton (2), 3 p.m.
Softball — Seaside at Tillamook (2), 11 a.m.; Knappa at Faith Bible, 3 p.m.

THURSDAY
Baseball — Warrenton at Clatskanie (2), 3 p.m.
Softball — Astoria at Seaside, 5 p.m.; Naselle at Warrenton, 4 p.m.
Track — Cowapa League Championships (Scappoose High School), 2 p.m.

Astoria track teams tune up for state

In one last invitational before the post-season meets begin, the Astoria girls and boys track teams showed that they are both prepared to make a run for state trophies later this month, by sweeping the annual Dick Baker Invitational meet on Saturday at Gladstone.

The Astoria boys won eight separate events to rack up 210 points, well ahead of Molalla (140) and Gladstone (105). Faith Bible and Vernonia were the only other teams competing.

The Lady Fishermen won five events to finish with 180 points, ahead of Molalla (139).

Astoria will be among the team favorites later this week in the Cowapa League Championships, held Thursday and Friday at Scappoose High School.

— The Astorian

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
56 43 Clearing	54 45 A passing shower	53 43 Showers in the morning	54 46 A shower	58 47 Partly sunny	61 49 High clouds	57 47 Cloudy

REGIONAL FORECAST
 Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Seattle 57/43	Wenatchee 61/39	Spokane 55/35
Aberdeen 55/44	Moses Lake 65/36	Pullman 53/34
Astoria 56/43	Kennewick 67/43	Walla Walla 59/40
Portland 61/43	Hermiston 65/44	Lewiston 60/39
Salem 60/39	Pendleton 48/28	Enterprise 59/39
Corvallis 59/34	La Grande 53/29	John Day 51/27
Eugene 61/37	Burns 51/26	Ontario 60/35
Bend 56/28	Caldwell 58/34	
Medford 57/36	Klamath Falls 44/23	

ALMANAC
 Astoria through Sunday
Temperatures
 High/low 54/39
 Normal high/low 60/45
 Record high 82 in 2020
 Record low 34 in 1990
Precipitation
 Sunday 0.07"
 Month to date 2.31"
 Normal month to date 1.04"
 Year to date 34.62"
 Normal year to date 32.51"

UNDER THE SKY
 Tonight's Sky: Use Big Dipper hand to "Arc to Artcurus."
 Source: Jim Todd, OMSI
SUN AND MOON
 Sunrise today 5:49 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 8:35 p.m.
 Moonrise today 2:12 p.m.
 Moonset today 3:42 a.m.

TODAY'S TIDES
 Astoria / Port Docks
 Time High (ft.) Time Low (ft.)
 8:47 a.m. 6.1 3:22 a.m. 3.3
 10:20 p.m. 6.8 3:44 p.m. 1.0
Cape Disappointment
 8:29 a.m. 6.0 2:57 a.m. 3.7
 10:03 p.m. 6.6 3:05 p.m. 1.1
Hammond
 8:45 a.m. 6.3 3:10 a.m. 3.5
 10:14 p.m. 7.0 3:22 p.m. 1.1
Warrenton
 8:42 a.m. 6.5 3:06 a.m. 3.4
 10:15 p.m. 7.2 3:28 p.m. 1.1
Knappa
 9:24 a.m. 6.4 4:23 a.m. 2.8
 10:57 p.m. 7.0 4:45 p.m. 0.9
Depoe Bay
 7:45 a.m. 5.9 2:20 a.m. 3.5
 9:19 p.m. 6.6 2:30 p.m. 0.8

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Wed. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	81/59/s	83/61/pc
Boston	57/46/s	57/50/pc
Chicago	88/69/s	86/68/c
Dallas	91/72/pc	92/70/pc
Denver	77/48/s	87/55/pc
Honolulu	84/73/s	86/72/s
Houston	92/72/pc	93/71/s
Los Angeles	68/49/pc	67/50/s
Miami	85/70/s	84/70/t
New York City	70/48/s	70/53/pc
Phoenix	91/65/s	87/58/pc
San Francisco	60/49/pc	62/49/s
Wash., DC	69/50/pc	69/55/s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.