

IN BRIEF

Johnson officially qualifies for ballot in governor's race

Former state Sen. Betsy Johnson has qualified for the November election as an unaffiliated candidate for governor. "Damn straight," she said in a statement. "This is a momentous day for Oregon."

Ben Morris, a spokesman for Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan, confirmed that Johnson would be on the ballot alongside Democrat Tina Kotek and Republican Christine Drazan.

Johnson, the former Democrat from Columbia County, submitted more than the 23,744 valid signatures required to qualify.

— Oregon Capital Bureau

Water main problem closes roads

An emergency water main problem has closed roads in downtown Astoria, the city said in a statement.

Repair work has shut down Duane Street between 10th and 11th streets, as well as 10th Street between Duane and Exchange streets, the city said.

It is unclear when the roads will reopen, the city said Friday morning.

People will have to reach buildings such as City Hall, the Astoria Library, the Merwyn Apartments and U.S. Bank by foot, the city said.

North Coast spot open on state salmon committee

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking an applicant to represent the North Coast on the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Advisory Program Committee.

The deadline to apply is Sept. 16.

The department prefers candidates with experience working with volunteers, community service, or natural resource and angling education.

The volunteer position is a four-year term. Candidates must be able to attend two to three meetings a year, either virtually or in person.

For more information, visit the department's website.

— The Astorian

Oregon triples bag limit for invasive green crabs

SALEM — New state regulations allow recreational crabbers to catch triple the number of invasive green crabs from Oregon's bays and inlets.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission increased the bag limit of European green crab from 10 to 35 per day. It's part of a concerted effort to eradicate these invasive crustaceans, which are known to compete with native crabs for food.

Green crabs themselves are fine to eat and some recipes even call for them. They are smaller than Dungeness or even the red rock crab, making them harder to clean.

Mitch Vance, a shellfish project leader with the marine resources program at the Department of Fish and Wildlife, wants people to know for certain it is a European green crab they are harvesting.

"Key characteristics that really help in the identification — five spines on each side of the crab and between the eyes there are three rounded bumps," he told KLCC. "It also has a very fan-shaped shell."

— KLCC

Portland adopts limits on fossil fuel terminals

The Portland City Council voted on Wednesday to limit the expansion of fossil fuel terminals in the city.

Mayor Ted Wheeler said the move will bolster Portland's efforts to combat climate change and help safeguard the city in the event of a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

Dan Serres, the conservation director at Columbia Riverkeeper, called it "an important first step to protect the health, safety, and climate of Portland's residents."

The zoning code change prohibits the construction of new fossil fuel terminals and prevents any of Portland's existing 11 terminals from expanding.

— Oregon Public Broadcasting

DEATHS

Aug. 24, 2022

FORSYTHE, Zachary Patrick, 36, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 21, 2022

NELSON, Kimbirlli "KC," 30, of Warrenton, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Theft

• Nicole Raelyn Horsley, 27, of Astoria, was arrested on Thursday at Fred Meyer in Warrenton for second-degree theft.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Gearhart City Council, 6:30 p.m., work session, (electronic meeting).

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, 2022 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

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST



The Seaside Museum & Historical Society is offering black and white or color canvas photos of the Prom as part of an annual raffle fundraiser.

Report says benefits of dams must be replaced before breaching

Finding was issued by Inslee, Murray

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — The benefits provided by four giant hydroelectric dams on the Snake River must be replaced before the dams can be breached to save endangered salmon runs, according to a final report issued Thursday by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and Washington U.S. Sen. Patty Murray.

That is especially true regarding the reliable and carbon-free electricity the dams generate, the report concluded.

If the four Snake River dams were ultimately removed, it would be largest such project in U.S. history. In 2012, the Elwha Dam on Washington state's Olympic Peninsula was removed to restore habitat. At the time, the National Park Service said the elimination of the Elwha Dam was the largest such project in U.S. history.

Congress will ultimately decide if the federally-owned dams will be removed, and would have to appropriate money for the work.

The issue is not a matter of electricity versus salmon, Thursday's report said.

"We believe that is an oversimplified binary choice, and it is one that we do not accept or see as inevitable," Inslee and Murray wrote.

But, "the science is clear that — specific to the lower Snake River — breach of the dams would provide the greatest benefit to the salmon," the report said.

Breaching the dams would significantly improve the ability of salmon and steelhead to swim from their inland spawning grounds to the Pacific Ocean, where they spend most of their lives, and then back to their original spawning grounds to procreate and die, the report said.

Major benefits of the dams besides electricity include making the Snake River navigable up to Lewiston, Idaho, allowing barges to carry wheat and other crops to ocean ports. Eliminating the dams would require truck and rail transportation improvements to move crops, the report said. The dams also provide irrigation water for farmers and recreation opportunities for people.

A draft report released in June concluded the benefits provided by the dams would cost between \$10.3 billion and \$27.2 billion to replace.

The dams have many supporters, including two



Ted S. Warren/AP Photo

The Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River is seen from the air near Colfax in Washington state.

MAJOR BENEFITS OF THE DAMS BESIDES ELECTRICITY INCLUDE MAKING THE SNAKE RIVER NAVIGABLE UP TO LEWISTON, IDAHO, ALLOWING BARGES TO CARRY WHEAT AND OTHER CROPS TO OCEAN PORTS.

Lower Monumental followed in 1969, Little Goose in 1970 and Lower Granite in 1975. The dams stretch from Pasco, Washington, to near Pullman, Washington, and stand between migrating salmon and 5,500 miles spawning habitat in central Idaho.

U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse and U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers recently introduced a bill to protect the dams.

But the chairman of the Yakama Nation has said the dams must be breached.

"Our people are salmon people," tribal council chairman Delano Saluskin said earlier this year. "When the salmon thrive, we thrive; but when they suffer, our people suffer too."

Exploring the Columbia River basin in 1805, Lewis and Clark wrote of waterways so full with salmon that you could all but walk across on their backs.

In the late 1800s, up to 16 million salmon and steelhead returned to the Columbia River basin every year to spawn. Over the next century and a half, overfishing whittled that number down. By the early 1950s, just under 130,000 Chinook were returning to the Snake River.

Construction of the first dam on the lower river, Ice Harbor, began in 1955.

The dams have fish ladders, but too many of the salmon die as they swim through the dams and across slackwater reservoirs on their migrations. In 1991, Snake River salmon and steelhead were listed as endangered species, requiring production of a federal recovery plan. Over the next three decades, environmental organizations sued the federal government six times, arguing that the recovery plan was inadequate.

The most recent lawsuit, in 2016, resulted in a four-year study of the environmental impact of the dams. Although it found that breaching the dams would be the most effective salmon recovery action, federal agencies ultimately decided against it.

The U.S. government has spent more than \$17 billion trying to recover Snake River salmon, through improvements to fish ladders and other mea-

asures, with little to show for it. In 2017, the number of Chinook salmon returning to the Snake River dropped below 10,000.

Dam supporters blame declining salmon runs on other factors, such as changing ocean conditions.

Inslee and Murray said there are "clear areas of common agreement."

"People of every perspective share a desire to see progress on the underlying issues and relief from the uncertainty created by litigation," the report said.

Inslee and Murray said it is clear that, with adequate money, it is possible to replace most of the services and benefits provided by the dams and to mitigate the loss of others.

Government must move forward to provide replacements for the benefits of the dams "so that breaching of the lower Snake River dams is a pathway that can be credibly considered by policymakers in the future," the report said.

Going forward, Inslee and Murray — both Democrats — committed to:

- Substantially expand salmon habitat and passage throughout the Columbia River basin and the Puget Sound.

- Improve the siting process necessary to build the clean energy resources needed.

- Leverage the investments made in the Biden administration's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act to support energy replacement, infrastructure enhancement and salmon recovery and habitat restoration.