

IN BRIEF

Suspect sought in Seaside gun incident

SEASIDE — Police are seeking the whereabouts of Jeremy Lee Morinville, a 24-year-old Warrenton man considered a suspect in a gun incident Sunday afternoon.

At about 2:45 p.m., police received a report that a gunshot wound victim was being treated at Providence Seaside Hospital. The victim had been shot at his home and drove to the hospital for treatment, police said.

The injuries were described as non-life-threatening and the victim was taken to Portland for continuing care.

The victim and suspect are known to each other, police said, and police do not believe it was a random encounter.

Police said Morinville, who was recently released from prison, should be considered armed and dangerous.

Anyone with information on Morinville’s whereabouts is asked to call 911 or to contact Sgt. Detective Josh Gregory of the Seaside Police Department at 503-738-6311.



Jeremy Lee Morinville

Park district board member resigns

SEASIDE — Erika Marshall has resigned from the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board, citing other commitments.

“I don’t really want to resign,” she said. “I just am being spread too thin at the moment. I have a very demanding role with Mercy Corps as senior director of global HR and also have two kids, Jahzara and Maleek Marshall.”

Over the past few years, she has been coaching soccer, basketball and softball for girls who are now sixth and seventh graders.

“This is really my passion and I am hoping whatever extra time I have can be spent coaching and supporting young female athletes in our community,” she said.

Marshall, who was appointed to the park district’s Position 4 in 2020 after the resignation of John Chapman, was elected in 2021.

— The Astorian

Columbia Riverkeeper challenges new gas pipeline, generator

The environmental group Columbia Riverkeeper has filed a petition challenging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s approval of the Coyote Springs Cogeneration Project near Boardman.

According to state and federal energy department documents, the \$32.5 million gas pipeline compressor station would operate on a 22-acre site at the Port of Morrow Industrial Park. The plant would have two combustion turbines that would generate 440 average megawatts of energy when complete. The project would be built in phases.

Columbia Riverkeeper seeks a rehearing of the regulatory commission’s approval. Audrey Leonard, staff attorney at Columbia Riverkeeper, said the organization is “taking a stand against another misguided fossil fuel project.”

— East Oregonian

DEATHS

Aug. 27, 2022

DYGERT, William Nelson, 71, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Aug. 10, 2022

MATTSON, John Matthew, 74, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell’s Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Evelyn Rose Moss, 22, of Warrenton, was arrested on Saturday on S.E. Marlin Avenue in Warrenton for fourth-degree assault.

• Evan Thomas Burt, 33, of Hammond, was arrested on Saturday on Lake Drive in Hammond for fourth-degree assault constituting domestic violence.

Theft

• Beau Dewayne Golihtly, 35, of Astoria, was arrested on Saturday at Fred Meyer in Warrenton for second-degree theft.

• Keana Christine

Alvarez, 27, of Gearhart, was arrested on Saturday at Fred Meyer in Warrenton for second-degree theft.

• Jerry L. Buckhanon, 43, of Hillsboro, was arrested on Aug. 23 at Walmart in Warrenton for second-degree theft.

• Robyn L. Rasmussen, 42, of Lafayette, was arrested on Aug. 23 at Walmart in Warrenton for second-degree theft.

• Randolph Ross Searls, 64, of Warrenton, was arrested on Aug. 21 at Walmart in Warrenton for first-degree theft.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

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

Lamprey swim past Soda Springs Dam

A long-awaited milestone for species

By COURTNEY FLATT
Northwest News Network

It seemed like a normal Monday morning. Rich Grost pulled his truck into work and went to see what fish had swam past the Soda Springs Dam on the North Umpqua River.

He thought he might see a giant 50-pound Chinook salmon. What he saw was even better — after nearly 10 years of waiting.

A Pacific lamprey propelled itself through the dam’s fish ladder.

Grost, an aquatic scientist on Pacific Power’s North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project, and an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife employee gave each other a high-five.

Grost said they’d been waiting for what seemed like forever to see lamprey swim past the Soda Springs Dam.

“It seemed like it was going to be an inevitable event, but it was like: when, when, when, when?” he said of the excitement he felt that morning.

Pacific Power installed this fish ladder in 2012 with lamprey in mind. Lamprey need wet, rounded corners to travel up fish ladders, unlike salmon.

However, while salmon immediately began using the fish ladder, lamprey wouldn’t make it past the dam for another 10 years.

Often, fish ladders are designed with 90-degree angles and jumps for salmon. However, lamprey use their mouths, or oral discs, to suction and jump their way up fish ladders and waterfalls, such as Willamette Falls, said Kelly Coates, the director of natural resources for the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

“They just suction cup their way up the falls. It’s kind of a unique move. It requires a lot of core strength,” Coates said, joking about the way lamprey move upstream.

The news of the first lamprey to get past the Soda Springs Dam quickly circulated among the wide group of people and agencies that had worked to get lamprey to this point, around 180 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean.

A few weeks later, a second lamprey suctioned itself to the glass fish observation area, perhaps sig-



Pacific lamprey are an imperiled species in the Northwest.

‘THEY JUST SUCTION CUP THEIR WAY UP THE FALLS. IT’S KIND OF A UNIQUE MOVE. IT REQUIRES A LOT OF CORE STRENGTH.’

Kelly Coates | director of natural resources for the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians

naling more lamprey could make the journey next year, said Sam Moyers, a biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

“It was pretty late in the season when they crossed the dam,” Moyers said. “Usually, lower in the river, they would have found their little hidey hole to hang out in for the summer.”

Moyers said he hopes more lamprey will make it past the Soda Springs Dam earlier in the season next year.

“It’s a water temperature thing, and it’s a numbers game,” Moyers said.

Pacific lamprey are an imperiled species in the Northwest. Young lamprey spend at least five years in river sediment, filter-feeding until they’re able to migrate out to the ocean.

When adult lamprey return inland to spawn, they don’t always return to the exact location where they were born, as salmon do. Scientists believe pheromones play a role in the direction lamprey head, which is one reason Coates said she’s excited to see lamprey making it past the Soda Springs Dam. Others could follow their pheromones.

Moreover, Coates said, lamprey, known as xtään in Takelma, the language of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians, are a culturally important first food to the tribe. Their lipid-rich bodies provide a good source of protein. Often, people eat lamprey dried or smoked.

In addition, Indigenous people traditionally use lamprey oils as hair and skin moisturizers. People also use lamprey as traditional medicines, Coates said. For example, when her 1-year-old daughter began teething, Coates said she fed her daughter dried lamprey.

“She slept better that night than she had in three nights,” Coates said. “So, I can personally attest to lamprey being good medicine.”

The North Umpqua River is a usual and accustomed fishing spot for the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians. Lamprey haven’t been harvested in this area in a really long time, she said. Harvesting lamprey is an eventual goal once the population is sustainable.

Beyond healing Indigenous people, the return of lamprey will help heal the ecosystem, Coates said. In addition to filter-feeding when they are young, lamprey provide food sources for other fish. Adult lamprey bring marine-derived nutrients to the streams in which lamprey spawn and die.

The two lamprey that made it past Soda Springs Dam could signal a better future for lamprey in the Umpqua River system, Coates said.

“It’s helping to restore the balance, putting the system back on the trajectory to be healthy and functional,” she said.

Getting more lamprey into colder waters will be important as climate change

causes warmer waters, said Bob Nichols, the forest-fish program manager for the Umpqua National Forest. During the 2021 heat dome, a tremendous number of lamprey died before spawning in the South Umpqua River, Nichols said.

“The access to cool water habitats are going to be pretty important in the future,” Nichols said.

Lamprey numbers in the Umpqua River system have been depressed since the early 1970s.

However, more lamprey have shown up recently in the Umpqua River system, Moyers said. Almost 1,400 lamprey have shown up at Winchester Dam on the North Umpqua River, around 118 miles from the Pacific Ocean.

“That’s the highest count we’ve had since 1986,” Moyers said.

Those numbers likely contributed to a few lamprey making it farther upstream into the North Umpqua system and to the Soda Springs Dam, Moyers said.

Coates said lamprey don’t have any passage barriers on the main stem of the South Umpqua River so they can get close to the river’s headwaters. Now that lamprey have passed the Soda Springs Dam, they can get to the headwaters of the North Umpqua River as well.

“This expands their range,” she said.

Barriers in the river, such as dams and culverts, are one of the biggest problems for lamprey, Coates said. The Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative, for which Coates is the tribal co-chair, works with landowners to remove or modify passage barriers to make rounded corners.

“Passage barriers are one of the main reasons we don’t see Pacific lamprey in more places,” Coates said.

Oregon angler has caught more than 1,000 different species of fish

By ALLISON FROST
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Luke Ovgard has been fishing for as long as he can remember — literally. He told Oregon Public Broadcasting’s “Think Out Loud” that one of his very earliest memories was going on a long fishing trip with his dad when he was 3.

“I did eventually hook a fish, but I had no idea what to do. So instead of reeling it in, I just sort of backed up to the bank a little bit higher with each step until I pulled the fish onto the bank. And then that would become our dinner later that night.”

Ovgard is now a writer and a high school teacher in southern Oregon, but he’s never stopped fishing. But it wasn’t until about five years ago that he started carefully keeping track of the number of fish species he caught. That put him in a niche community known as “species hunters,” anglers who catch and catalog their fish

before releasing them.

Ovgard caught his 1,000th fish species in mid-July, becoming only the sixth in the world to make that mark. He calls his endeavor his “SpeciesQuest,” which he writes columns and blogs about. His Instagram is all fish, all the time.

Aside from the thrill of the hunt, he feels this kind of fishing has a much deeper purpose.

“Every single species matters whether or not it has commercial value,” Ovgard says. “Whether or not it’s small or ugly, it deserves to be protected and to have its story told.”

Ovgard says that because he can focus on lesser-known species, he’s able to share data with biologists and researchers — data like migration and feeding patterns, invasive species monitoring, and even new populations of fish.

“I’m not alone in this, either,” Ovgard says. “It’s a



Luke Ovgard holds a yelloweye rockfish he caught and released in summer 2021.

fairly common occurrence in this subset of the fishing community.”

Ovgard says for him, “That’s one of the beautiful things about this type of

fishing.”

The number of fish species he’s caught now numbers 1,101 — and he has no intention of putting away his fishing gear anytime soon.

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