

# Vigil held for family in Falcon Cove tragedy

By **NICOLE BALES**  
The Astorian

MANZANITA — Nearly 100 people attended a vigil at the Hoffman Center for the Arts on Wednesday, Jan. 15, for the two children washed into the ocean at Falcon Cove over the weekend.

Oregon State Police said Jeremy Stiles, 47, of Portland, was holding his children on the shore when they were caught by a wave that pulled them into the water.

Stiles' 7-year-old daughter, Lola, was pronounced dead at Providence Seaside Hospital and his 4-year-old son, William, is still missing.

According to a GoFundMe page set up for the family, Stiles is recovering from hypothermia.

In a Facebook message Wednesday, Jan. 22, Jamie Stiles, the children's mother, thanked people for "providing light to my dark days."

"Words cannot express how grateful I am for the outpouring of love and support to my family," she wrote. "I am not OK right now but am in treatment and will reach my new normal someday soon. I have read every single comment and message sent our way and feel like each one adds a tiny drop of glue to my completely shattered heart."

"I know Lola and William are surrounding us with their beautiful energy as we navigate a path to peace and healing."

Claudia Johnson, of Nehalem, spoke at the vigil prior to a moment of silence.

She said she called Vestal Elementary School, the school Lola attended in Portland, to tell them about the vigil and learn more about the girl and her family. The



A photo of the Stiles family and a bowl of floating candles sits on the table on a stage at the vigil.

school decided to also hold a vigil for the children on Thursday.

Johnson showed a glimpse of what the family is like through descriptions Vestal's principal, Sabrina Flamoe, shared with her.

"Every morning, the mom and the grandma would bring coffee and pastries because she owns a bakery. And so they would bring Lola to school and the little 4-year-old, William, would come with, and she said he would come flying, literally, into the room ... that he would just bring such joy and that they were really great kids," Johnson said.

She described them as generous people.

"We don't need to know the family, and we don't," Johnson said.

Several people who work with Jamie Stiles attended the vigil.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian  
**Claudia Johnson, from Nehalem, speaks about the deaths of two children in Falcon Cove and the impact it had on the community.**

One of her co-workers, Vineeta Lower, of Seaside, tearfully asked if she could share a few words. Lower and Stiles work at Oregon Virtual Academy, an online charter school, where Stiles is an administrator.

"Jamie is an incredible, incredible woman. She is the sweetest, kindest person you will ever meet. And she loved those children through every fiber in her being," said Lower, an educator who ran unsuccessfully for state House in 2018. "They were deeply, deeply, deeply, deeply loved and I just want to make sure you guys know that."

Jason Isbell, of Clatskanie, has worked with Stiles for over six years.

Isbell and others said when they found out the family they were hearing about on the news was the Stiles' family, they immediately went to hug their children.

"As a dad, I hurt for Jeremy," Isbell said, his arm around his daughter. "When I read the news I went and grabbed her and held her for like an hour."

# Timber Unity pledges new cap-and-trade fight

By **SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN**  
Capital Press

SALEM — The Oregon state legislature's short session begins Feb. 3, with lawmakers planning to resurrect climate legislation after last session's controversial "cap-and-trade" proposal failed.

And Timber Unity, the group heading protests last year, will be back.

On Feb. 6, Timber Unity will organize a convoy of logging trucks to Salem and a rally on the Capitol steps.

On the group's Facebook event page, as of Jan. 7, 936 people have said they will go to the protest, more than 3,100 have marked themselves as interested and 97 have pledged to drive semi-trucks.

"We want to stop cap and trade," said Adam Lardy, a Timber Unity spokesman. "Politicians may want to run with a watered-down version this year. But once they get a foothold, why wouldn't they run with it? So we can't let them get a foothold."

Last year Timber Unity formed to protest House Bill 2020, last year's cap-and-trade bill, which passed the Oregon House. The legislation was designed to cut carbon emissions, but it roused opposition from farmers, loggers and others who argued the bill would raise fuel and natural gas prices. The protests culminated with the walk-out of Senate Republicans, inflaming party tensions. The bill stalled in the Senate at the end of the session when it failed to gain adequate support. According to Harry Esteve, communications manager for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, it's too early to know the specifics of a renewed cap-and-trade proposal.

Kate Kondayen, deputy communications director for Gov. Kate Brown, said the governor is focused on an economy-wide strategy with enforceable carbon limits. Kondayen said Brown plans to "ensure the bill protects jobs and livelihoods in rural communities"



Sierra McClain/Capital Press  
**Representatives of the Timber Unity movement organized massive protests at the Oregon Capitol in Salem last year against climate legislation. The organization is planning to protest a new climate change proposal that will be considered during the upcoming legislative session.**

while still achieving state emissions goals.

"Doing nothing is not an option," said Kondayen.

Although Timber Unity formed to protest HB 2020, the movement has ballooned into something bigger.

"The movement is shifting," said Lardy, the spokesman. "We're fighting over-regulation. We're fighting laws that kill jobs and communities. It's not just about cap and trade anymore."

The movement bears resemblance to the "yellow vests" in France, a grassroots citizens' campaign that started as a fuel tax protest and has morphed into a nationwide anti-government movement aimed at economic justice for the working-class.

Timber Unity also echoed a global trend. In what experts have dubbed the Global Protest Wave of 2019, demonstrations erupted in the Arab world, France, Catalonia, Hong Kong, Latin America and beyond. According to the United Nations, demonstrators around the world sought autonomy, freedom

from political corruption and economic fairness.

As Timber Unity's ranks swell in 2020, its leaders say they are determined to keep protests peaceful.

"I'm an Army wife. I stood up for Gov. Brown when she walked into our caucus room," said Julie Parrish, a former state legislator and current board member for Timber Unity. "It's about respect. If any policymaker will speak with us, we'll take the meeting."

The movement's success, said Parrish, also depends on how protesters treat one another. Parrish said the Timber Unity movement is far from homogenous.

"We're a voting bloc of over 50,000 people now, and we're not all politically the same," said Parrish. "I don't own a gun or hunt or fish. Some people are pro-choice, some pro-life. Some are hell-bent on electing Trump, and others would never vote for him."

She laughed. "It makes managing the dialog interesting sometimes. But we're

trying to focus on common ground — economic issues."

Timber Unity's financial muscle comes from its donors, both through direct giving and in-kind donations.

The group filed as a 501c(6) membership-based nonprofit, and also runs the Timber Unity Political Action Committee, or TUPAC. Since its genesis June 6, 2019, TUPAC has brought in over \$177,000.

TUPAC has been criticized for its partisan and special-interest donors, such as Andrew Miller, a prominent timber executive.

Timber Unity's leaders, however, say they're undaunted by criticisms. Parrish said the organization will extend its reach by helping plant local chapters across Oregon, California and Washington.

Timber Unity, said Parrish, also plans to host training sessions and teach civic engagement workshops.

"You can only talk people so much," said Lardy. "It all started with a rally, and we're doing it again."

## Volunteer planting at Circle Creek

Seaside Signal

For the past three summers, volunteers with North Coast Land Conservancy have been working to eradicate invasive policeman's helmet (Impatiens glandulifera) growing on the banks of the Necanicum River at NCLC's Circle Creek Conservation Center in Seaside.

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, volunteers will return to Circle Creek to plant native trees in shrubs in gaps left by removal of the weed.

Before NCLC part-

nered with the Necanicum Watershed Council to weed out policeman's helmet, this exotic plant had spread widely along the Necanicum River and its tributaries. By planting spruce, hemlock, alder and ninebark along the river, NCLC hopes to discourage policeman's helmet from growing back.

This volunteer stewardship event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers should wear gloves and work boots and bring water and snacks or lunch; there are no toilets or potable water at the site.

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