

Business in Brief

Clatsop housing supply continues tightening trend

ASTORIA — Forty-eight Clatsop County homes sold this February, a 4.3% gain over February 2019. For January and February combined, sales were slightly down. But there was a sharp increase in pending sales during the month — 61 compared to 41 in February 2019, according to data from Flexible Multiple Listing Service.

Potential buyers have to be on their toes: There were 19.6% fewer active listings in the county this February than in 2019. The number of new listings increased to 71 in February, up from 63 in February 2019. However, for the year to date, new listings totaled 123, a 5.4% decrease from January and February 2019.

Among the active listings this February, 21 were priced below \$250,000, compared to 35 in Feb. 2019.

The average sales price in Clatsop County was \$351,175 this February, 1.8% more than in the same month in 2019. The median price — meaning half sold for more and half for less — was slightly down in February but up 4.11% for the year to date.

North Coast Food Web offers rental kitchen

ASTORIA — North Coast Food Web is accepting applications to rent its commercial kitchen at 577 18th St. in Astoria.

“While our kitchen space hosts our community cooking classes, youth cooking programs, and a our weekly farm stand, it sits unused many days of the week. We’re opening the kitchen space for rental to support the growing local food scene in Astoria and on the North Coast,” Food Web organizers said. “We want our certified commercial kitchen to be used as a community resource and an economic driver in Clatsop County for local food and food business.”

Rates are \$30 an hour for for-profit businesses (or \$250 for a 24-hour period) and rentals are available on a case-by-case basis depending on other Food Web events.

“We are especially interested in renting the kitchen to food entrepreneurs, local food producer, and community projects that support good, local food. We prefer long-term partnerships with people or organizations who align with our mission to “cultivate healthy communities and a vibrant economy through food and agriculture,” the organization said in a press release.

Applications to rent the kitchen are available on the Food Web website (www.northcoastfoodweb.org) under the tab “Kitchen.” Information is also available at atinfo@northcoastfoodweb.org and 503-468-0921.

Annual Clatsop County Job & Career Fair is March 12

SEASIDE — Finding and retaining good employees is a constant issue all businesses face, from small businesses all the way up to our largest employers in the county and region. What is being done about this great workforce need in Clatsop County, both from an immediate hiring opportunity and also showcasing career options in Clatsop County?

CEDR (Clatsop Economic Development Resources) and WorkSource Northwest Oregon are spearheading the annual Clatsop County Job & Career Fair on Thursday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., at the newly remodeled Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

Astoria, Ilwaco, Jewell, Knappa, Naselle, Seaside and Warrenton High Schools will be sending all juniors and seniors in the morning and will be finished by 1 p.m.

At 1:15 p.m. the doors will re-open for adult job seekers, Clatsop Community College students, and those seeking more information about career & job opportunities in Clatsop County. CEDR estimates over 750 students will be in attendance, and many college students and adult job seekers.

NW Fishletter: Washington plans to pump out more salmon

WASHINGTON — The specialist publication Northwest Fishletter recently provided an overview of coming salmon hatchery production increases in Washington state. Over the past 30 years, salmon production at hatcheries operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has been cut nearly in half — from about 275 million releases in 1989 to a low of 145 million in 2017, Fishletter reported.

Now, largely to help resident orcas survive and increase fishing opportunities, hatcheries are ramping up again. Depending on broodstock availability and obtaining federal permits, state, tribal and PUD hatcheries plan to raise an additional 26 million hatchery salmon annually, the Fishletter said.

Federal Mitchell Act hatcheries serving the Columbia will receive \$22 million this year — the largest appropriation in five years. Another \$35.5 million is allocated to implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty, Fishletter reported. The Washington Legislature appropriated an additional \$13.4 in 2019 to increase hatchery production, plus \$40 million for capital improvements at state hatcheries.

However, under Washington current plan, Puget Sound will get most of the added production — 18.25 million juvenile releases. Another 5.9 million releases are planned for the Washington coast. The Columbia Basin will host less than 2 million additional juvenile salmon produced and released, Fishletter said.

Coast Community Radio plans spring membership drive

ASTORIA — In what promises to be KMUN’s biggest fundraising campaign for 2020, Coast Community Radio will start its annual spring Pledge Drive on March 11.

As a non-commercial broadcaster, Coast Community Radio operates its three local stations by relying on funds from the community it serves. KMUN at 91.9 FM is the flagship station in its 37th year. Its format includes local news, public affairs and an eclectic mix of locally hosted music shows along with programs from NPR and other independent sources. Sister station KTCB 89.5 FM carries the KMUN broadcast to listeners in Tillamook, while the third station at 90.9 FM broadcasts a separate mix of news and classical music.

“Members make community radio possible,” Janet Fryberger, KMUN’s membership director, said. “We call it radio of, by and for the people of the Columbia Pacific Region.”

KMUN’s annual spring pledge drive continues until noon Friday, March 20. A lineup of special programs and guests can be heard 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day of the drive.

Donations can be made by calling the station at 503-325-0010, on-line at CoastRadio.org and dropping by the station during business hours.

Coast Community radio is a member-supported, volunteer-operated radio station, serving a diverse listening audience along the North Oregon and Southwest Washington coasts, from Raymond, Washington to Pacific City, Oregon.

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