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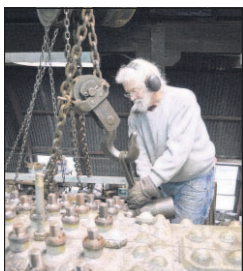
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on the cover

Atop the boiler of locomotive Number 21, Astoria Railroad Preservation Association volunteer Mark Clemens assists in the peening process of large stay bolts, that is, hammering the bolt ends to flatten them, which hardens the metal and makes it more resistant to cracking and abrasion.

Photo by Dwight Caswell

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Learn the story of the nearly forgotten Olympia oyster Rose Rimler to speak at Nature Matters

ASTORIA — Fresh oysters are a culinary symbol of the bounty of the Oregon Coast, but the oysters currently raised, sold and eaten here are not native to our waters.

The story of the Olympia oyster — the West Coast's "nearly forgotten native oyster" — tells us a lot about the history, ecology and economy of our coast.

Learn about the overharvest of the Olympia oyster around the turn of the 20th century at the next Nature Matters free lecture event at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15 in the Fort George Lovell Showroom. You'll also learn about the fascinating life cycle of this species; current efforts to restore the population to its former abundance; and the ecological benefits of a healthy population of native oysters.

Rose Rimler, the lecture presenter, is a recipient of the 2014-15 Oregon Sea Grant Natural Resources fellowship, which she is carrying out at the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership in Garibaldi. TEP works to protect and restore critical estuarine and riverbank habitat in Tillamook County and monitors water quality in its

Coast Weekend welcomes comments and contributions from readers. New items for publication consideration must be submitted by 10 a.m. Tuesday, one week and two days before publication.

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Nature Matters

7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15

Fort George Lovell Showroom

426 14th St., Astoria

Free

bays and rivers. Rimler is spending a year there coordinating the revision and update of TEP's management plan.

Her background is in marine invertebrates and in ecology and evolution in general: She graduated



Submitted photo by Brian Kingzett

The Olympia oyster, *Ostreola conchaphila*, is the native oyster of the West Coast, where they led to the founding of Oyster-ville and a still-thriving shellfish industry based on other oyster varieties brought from elsewhere.

in March of 2014 with an Master of Science in marine biology from the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

(the marine laboratory of the University of Oregon) in Charleston, and received her Bachelor of Arts in integrative biology from the University of California, Berkeley in 2008.

Along the way, Rimler worked and volunteered at three different aquariums in California, caring for jellyfish, rays, tropical fish, eels and many other specie. She is currently a volunteer at the Haystack Rock Awareness Program in Cannon Beach.

This free program takes place in the Fort George Lovell Showroom. Doors open at 6 p.m. Nature Matters is a program from the North Coast Watershed Association and Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in partnership with the Fort George Brewery.

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