

Historic slides
coming soon

NORTH COAST • 3A



Orange
on blue

COAST WEEKEND

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

142nd YEAR, No. 157

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

OPB TELLS THE STORY OF ASTORIA



Crawford Lutton

OREGON SCENERY.

ALBANY OREGON

Photographic print mounted on card stock. View of Astoria looking east, ca. 1890 from about Fourth and Exchange streets. Flavel House is in the foreground.

Free public screening Friday

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Fitting in the highs and lows of Astoria's two century-old history into a half-hour documentary posed a challenge for Oregon Public Broadcasting producer Eric Cain.

Cain decided last fall he was up to the test and spent the next five months researching the oldest U.S. settlement west of the Rockies.

The result is OPB's latest "Oregon Experience" documentary, "Astoria." It will air at 9 p.m. Monday on OPB TV. In advance of the premiere, the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria will host a free, public screening at 7 p.m. Friday. Cain, who wrote and produced the documentary, will answer questions after the screening Friday.

"It's our treatment of the Astoria story," Cain said. "It's an overview, granted, but we tried to stick as much stuff as we could and have a story that makes sense."

The new documentary begins



A logger family.

with the establishment of Astoria in 1811 by settlers sent by New York City businessman John Jacob Astor, the namesake of the coastal town.

Author Peter Stark, who published "Astoria: John Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire. A Story of Wealth, Ambition, and Survival" last year, is interviewed in the documentary and details Astor's failed plans for a fur trading empire.

Cain said he couldn't spend too much time on the founding of Astoria because there are not many

photographs that could be used in the broadcast. Overall, Cain said he was able to collect more than 600 photographs and some video from the Clatsop County Historical Society, Columbia Maritime Museum and museums in Portland, which resulted in quite a few images for a half hour show, he said.

Liisa Penner, Clatsop County Historical Society archivist, said Cain spent a great deal of time in the Heritage Museum collecting photographs and information.

Penner recalls finding some rare



Courtesy of Clatsop County Historical Society
John Jacob Astor portrait lithograph.

photographs of a donkey engine, a steam-powered logging engine used in the mid-1800s that caught Cain's attention.

"He was in here to get photos and he got a lot on a huge variety of subjects," Penner said.

From the founding of Astoria, the documentary jumps to the town's first sawmill built in 1851, which set off a logging boom. Astoria shipped logs and lumber from the lower Columbia region to markets around the world.

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Gearhart Council says no to annex

Fence, marijuana ordinances OK'd

By NANCY MCCARTHY
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — A proposal to annex 35 acres north of Gearhart into the Gearhart city limits was turned down by the Gearhart City Council Wednesday night.

The council also approved ordinances regulating fences and marijuana dispensaries. A third ordinance that regulates how many days recreational vehicles can be parked at a residence was tabled temporarily.

The annexation was requested by Michael R. Fraser on behalf of his mother, Barbara R. Fraser. The three parcels are bounded by Del Rey

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Are LNG plants doomed?

Energy supply, need questioned

By CHELSEA DAVIS
The World

COOS BAY — While Coos Bay waits for Jordan Cove to get the green light or the ax, there's a larger dilemma hanging over the United States' energy industry: How will the U.S. shale boom impact LNG prices and supply on a global scale, and what if export terminals are doomed before they're even built?

The U.S. Energy Information Administration says the nation's shale gas plays will continue to produce enough natural gas to meet American need and provide sufficient supply for export through 2040 and beyond.

Veresen Inc., Jordan Cove's parent company based in Calgary, Alberta, holds the same foresight.

"I get asked a lot nowadays if the low crude (oil) prices will have an impact on our project," said Veresen president

See LNG, Page 10A

The Blob: Taste of things to come for migratory fish

This is the first of two stories that look at how scientists are interpreting strange weather and water patterns and unusual animal sightings in 2014, and what it could mean for salmon, fishermen and the economy.

By KATIE WILSON
EO Media Group

Pygmy killer whales and tropical birds spotted off the coast of California; massive squid, rarely seen farther north than Oregon, cruising through water in Alaska along with sunfish and skipjack tuna; sea turtles washing up on the Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula before Christmas, disoriented and too cold.

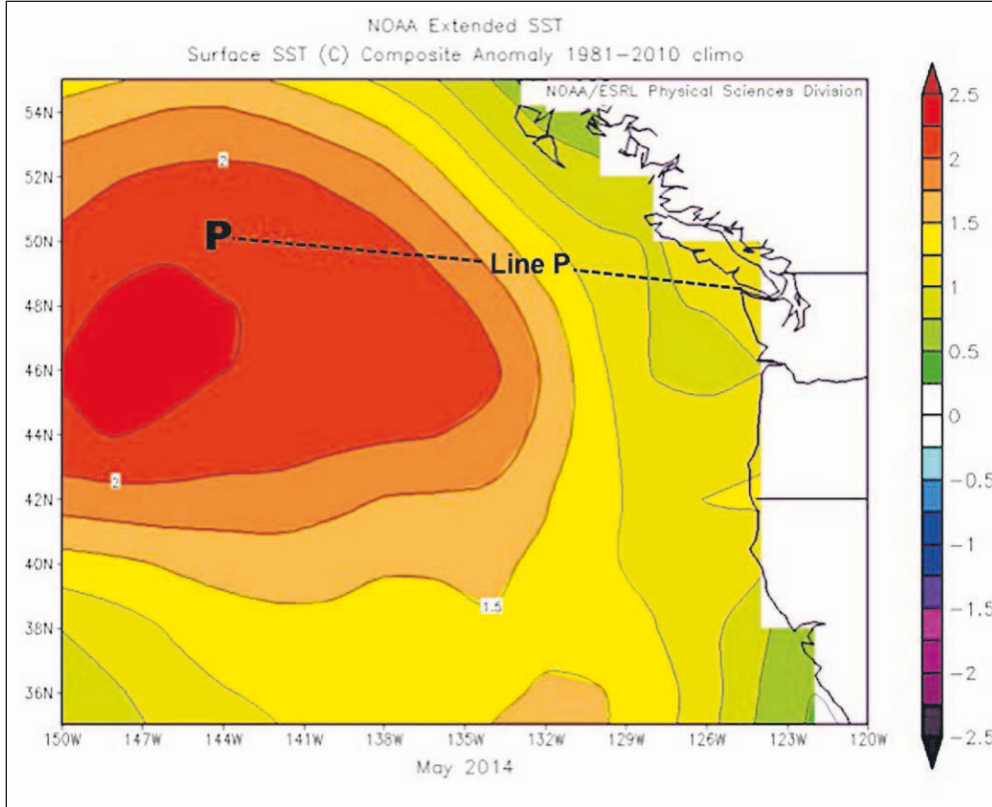
The planet's hottest year on record was also a year of strange sightings on the West Coast.

Though the sightings have more to do with wind patterns and a surge of warm water moving through the area than with climate change, scientists say 2014 was a taste of what is likely to come as climate change reshapes the Pacific Northwest, its people, its animals, its salmon.

But, first, there is a blob — the Blob, actually.

In hot water

"It's a very technical term," joked Washington State Climatologist Nick Bond, who named "the blob."



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
"The Blob" is a giant pool of warm water that formed in the North Pacific and had a particularly noticeable influence on Pacific Northwest weather last year. Out in the ocean, warmer-water species are being observed. Cold-water species like salmon are likely to be negatively impacted as this warming becomes a long-term issue.

Bizarre wind patterns of warm water off the West Coast back in 2013. When winter hit, the blob persisted, along with its associated wind

patterns, warming nearby waters, drawing warm water species to the area and even affecting the weather. Communities at the mouth of the Columbia River enjoyed a hot summer and a mild winter.

Temperatures in the blob were approximately 3 degrees C warmer than normal. A recent study by Canadian scientist Frank A. Whitney, not yet published, found lower productivity of plankton in the blob's hot waters last spring and summer. These microscopic plants are an important indicator of ocean health.

"This is basically bad news for Pacific Northwest salmon," Bond said about the blob. "In particular, the class that would be going to sea next spring."

Right now, those salmon are just little guys hanging out in their freshwater habitat. But the conditions they encounter in their first few months at sea are crucial when it comes to determining how many will survive and come back to be caught by fishermen or to escape up familiar streams to spawn.

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