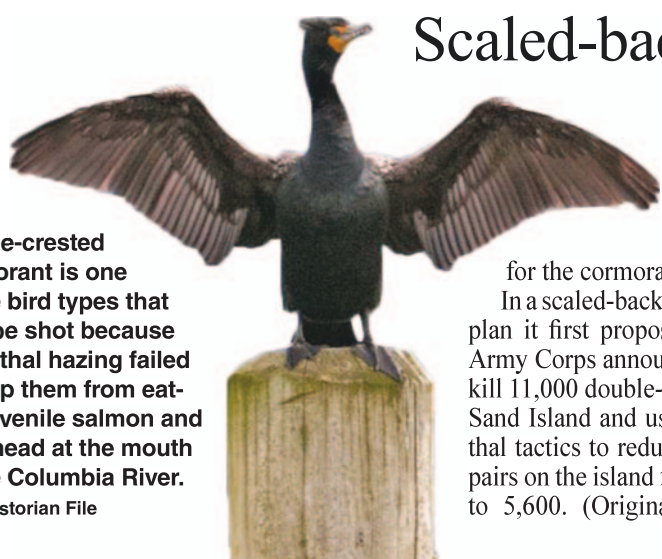


Corps gets ready to kill cormorants

Scaled-back plan protects young salmon at mouth, Corps says

The double-crested cormorant is one of the bird types that may be shot because nonlethal hazing failed to stop them from eating juvenile salmon and steelhead at the mouth of the Columbia River.

Daily Astorian File



By KATIE WILSON
EO Media Group

CHINOOK, Wash. — It looks like it's curtains for the cormorants.

In a scaled-back version of the management plan it first proposed last summer, the U.S. Army Corps announced Friday that it plans to kill 11,000 double-crested cormorants on East Sand Island and use a combination of nonlethal tactics to reduce the number of breeding pairs on the island from approximately 13,000 to 5,600. (Originally, the Corps' preferred

option included the killing of nearly 18,000 individual double-crested cormorants.) Under this management plan, the colony would be brought back down to numbers last seen on the island in the 1990s.

This final plan will go out for public review late next week and, once approved, the Corps' contractors could be on the island at the mouth of the Columbia River as early as this spring, according to a representative for the Corps.

Audubon promises litigation

"We're definitely prepared to litigate and seek an injunction," said Bob Sallinger, con-

servation director for the Audubon Society of Portland. That society has successfully pursued lawsuits on similar issues in the past, he said. Because the Corps' final decision is only a month away, he said the society had to make a quick decision about how it was prepared to respond.

"All the concerns we raised several months ago are still in place," Sallinger said. He and others question the science behind the Corps' plan and think the response is too drastic.

See CORMORANTS, Page 10A

With quick saws, Knappa gets back



Knappa's Tabitha Adams, left, competes in the double-buck sawing competition against a team from Clatskanie (not pictured) while being cheered on by Sophie Hansen and Meisha Boettcher at the Astoria Timber Festival Saturday at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Loggers win Astoria Timber Festival against former coach

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Knappa Loggers' FFA forestry team members had friendly revenge on their minds Saturday.

There was revenge against opponent Clatskanie, which beat Knappa last May to win its first FFA state forestry championship.

And there was friendly revenge against Clatskanie's coach Jeff Skirvin, who two years earlier led Knappa to its fourth FFA state forestry championship before taking a teaching job with his alma mater.

The Loggers beat the Tigers by less than a second Saturday at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds in the finale of a three-school timber sports relay, the highlight of the Astoria Timber Festival & Job Fair.

The final round started with two students hurling double-sided axes at a large cookie cut of tree

trunk painted into a target. After four throws, their teammates at the power buck station, clad in orange Kevlar chaps, each powered their chain saws through another cut of tree trunk.

A timber sports relay, said Knappa junior Meisha Boettcher, can be won or lost at the double-buck stage, a throwback to the days before chain saws, in which two-person teams stand on either side of a peg-and-raker crosscut saw to see who can saw off another wooden wafer the fastest.

Saturday, Boettcher lined up opposite Knappa alumnus Kevin Tilander, a prodigious forestry sport and science student. But with the Clatskanie's double-buck team already halfway through their log by the time Tilander and Boettcher started, revenge looked like a long shot.

However small its forestry team, Tilander said, Knappa fields



Clatskanie's Isaac Points, right, falls in the water during a log-rolling competition against Knappa's Trentne Smith.

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

tough competitors there to win every event — and hopefully beat Skirvin's team. He and Boettcher heaved, hoed and sawed through their log almost twice as fast as Clatskanie's duo, leaving the two schools in a dead heat by the final event, the choker race.

Knappa senior Jimmy Hendrickson leaped off his perch and

hurdled two logs laid crosswise in the main arena, on his way to a length of choker cable laid out in the middle of the arena. Hendrickson and his competitor were neck and neck with their chokers in tow, before his adversary dropped his cable. Hendrickson approached

See FESTIVAL, Page 10A

Deer may have been killed by cougar

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

HAMMOND — A deer carcass found last week outside the entrance to the historical area of Fort Stevens State Park in Hammond was confirmed to be the result of a cougar kill.

However, Fort Stevens State Park officials are reconsidering the initial claim this week, saying the deer, a fawn, could have been killed from a number of sources.

"Nobody really knows to be honest," Park Manager Teri Wing said. "We don't have enough information to say. It's all speculation."

Warrenton Police Chief Matt Workman said he was notified by park rangers about the kill last week, then sent an email to the Oregon Department of Fish and

See COUGAR, Page 10A

West Coast shutdown slows Port log loading

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Loading of ships on the West Coast — including the log vessel Bunun Fortune moored next to Pier 1 at the Port of Astoria — was suspended Saturday through 8 a.m. today, after terminal operators decided Friday to shut down ship operations at 29 West Coast ports amid increasingly contentious negotiations for a new contract with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union broke down.

"After three months of union slowdowns, it makes no sense to pay extra for less work," said PMA spokesman Wade Gates in a press release Friday, "especially if there is no end in sight to the union's actions, which needlessly brought West Coast ports to the brink of gridlock."

See SHUTDOWN, Page 10A

'We help the least, the last and the lost'

Rescue Mission's director is devoted to God, helping poor

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

There is a passage from Deuteronomy posted on the Astoria Rescue Mission's website that, at first blush, reads like a request but really is a command.

"If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them," Moses instructed. "Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need."

David Newman, the mission's executive director, takes the command literally. "We help the least, the last and the lost," he said.

In January, the mission, which includes separate men's and women's houses on Bond Street, recorded 884 nights lodged, 3,185 meals served, seven salvations and seven baptisms.

While Newman is grateful the mission can offer shelter and food, his favorite statistics by far are the salvations and baptisms. "You betcha," he said.



DERRICK DePLEDGE — The Daily Astorian
David Newman stands outside the Astoria Rescue Mission on Bond Street.

The Astoria Rescue Mission provides three- to five-day shelter for the needy but steers people who want to get back



Everyday People

on their feet toward six-month, one-year and two-year programs infused with the gospel.

The mission also hopes to open a family house on Bond Street, potentially filling a gap in the patchwork of social services for the homeless.

See NEWMAN, Page 10A

