

Astoria fisherman not guilty of assault of fishery observer

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Astoria fisherman Richard Clayton Palek was found not guilty last week in U.S. District Court in Portland for assaulting, impeding and interfering with a federal fishery observer while at sea in May.

During a brief trial Tuesday in the Mark O. Hatfield Courthouse, Judge Robert Jones ruled that Palek did berate the observ-

er and jabbed him with his finger, but his actions did not rise to the force sufficient under the law.

Prosecutor Ryan Bounds said the law is written broadly and the case came down to the judge’s interpretation.

“The only physical force we alleged he used against the observer was the jabbing in the shoulder,” Bounds said. “(The judge) just didn’t think it was to the level of forcible assault.”

Palek, the deck boss of a groundfish trawler in Astoria, was arrested in Knappa Aug. 13 by Oregon State Police and a special agent and enforcement officer from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Palek, 46, was charged with a federal misdemeanor violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The act prohibits forcible assault, resistance, opposition, intimidation, sexual

harassment, bribery or interference with a fishery observer, according to NOAA. If Palek was found guilty, he could have faced up to \$100,000 in fines and up to six months in prison.

“I got my life back,” Palek said. “If I was found guilty, I would never fish again. I would be done.”

Palek said he was worried the observer was in an unsafe position on the boat, and tried explaining that to him. Palek, a

deck boss since 1986, insists he never touched the observer.

The dispute with the observer revolved around the handling of a 20-pound halibut.

About 80 to 120 federal fishery observers on the West Coast work on fishing boats to collect data and biological samples. Data collected by observers is used for stock assessments and fisheries research, monitoring catches and quotas, helping avoid overfishing and ensuring

fisheries remain sustainable, according to NOAA.

Every trawler boat in Astoria has a full-time observer. Astoria is the largest port in groundfish fisheries by volume landed and revenue.

Palek has not fished since May, when he was arrested. He is now waiting for an opening on a boat to get back to work.

“My plan is to immediately go back to fishing,” he said. “Fishing is my livelihood.”

Cannon Beach tree removal begins

CANNON BEACH — An Oregon Department of Transportation crew is removing hazard trees along U.S. Highway 101 near Cannon Beach from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Wednesday from Ecola Creek Bridge at milepost 28.70 to Sunset Boulevard at milepost 29.48. ODOT is conducting traffic control through the work zone, and the public is

encouraged to drive with caution and to expect minor delays.

The project includes the removal of a number of alder trees that have been identified by the ODOT arborist as hazardous to motorists and to the safe operation of the roadway. The tree thinning effort is part of a multiyear commitment to improve safety along this section of

highway while addressing the guidelines of the Cannon Beach Forest Corridor vegetation management plan.

The month following the removal of the hazard trees, ODOT will begin replanting with species of trees identified within the vegetation management plan and are better suited for conditions along the highway.

Knappa superintendent interviews in Dallas

The Daily Astorian

Jeff Leo, the superintendent of the Knappa School District, interviewed Friday to be superintendent in Dallas, Ore. The Dallas

School District on Feb. 27 announced Leo and two other finalists:

- Michelle Johnston, superintendent in the Brush School District in Brush, Colo., for four years.

- Randy Refsland, superintendent for Clinton Community School District in Clinton, Wis., for five years.

Leo, 42, has been a principal and superintendent for four years in Knappa, which

serves about 500 students.

Before Knappa, he taught math and coached the girls basketball team at Astoria High School for four years. Before that, he taught math in Yuma, Ariz., for eight years.

Talent show rescheduled for Wednesday

The previously announced Clatsop Community College Music Club Variety Show has been rescheduled for noon Wednesday in the CCC Towler Hall

third-floor Commons. Performers in the musical cabaret/talent show will include Alicia Nedd, Dylan Clodgo, Joss Ayers Sims, Alex Autio, Aaron DaVall, Angela

Fairless and more.

The show had been scheduled for Friday at the college’s Performing Arts Center.

Hit-and-run suspect found in Cannon Beach

CANNON BEACH — A vehicle struck two pedestrians during a hit-and-run incident at East Dawes Avenue and South Hemlock Street at around 9:56 p.m. Saturday, according to the Cannon Beach Police Department.

Neither victim sustained serious injuries; both denied transport to a hospital.

The vehicle and the suspected driver were found at an

undisclosed location in Cannon Beach Sunday morning. The suspect’s charges have been forwarded to the Clatsop County District Attorney’s office.

Because the investigation is ongoing, the charges and the names of the suspect and victims cannot be released. No further information was available by press time this morning.

CCC offers information session for adults

The Admissions Office at Clatsop Community College presents a free one-hour information session for adults considering returning to college full time, or interested in taking a few credit classes to improve their job skills, from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Topics covered in the evening session include ad-

missions, available classes, majors, short-term training options, how to qualify for financial aid, scholarships and other ways to pay for college. A question-and-answer period will follow this presentation targeted to adults interested in finding out about college opportunities.

Check-in for the work-

shop is in the student services office in Columbia Hall. The event is in Columbia Hall Room 117.

For more information or to register for the event, call

503-338-2411 or email registration@clatsopcc.edu. If leaving a message, indicate whether an evening phone call is better for your schedule.



Submitted by Lori Little

Seaside High School’s culinary arts team took third place at the Oregon ProStart High School Culinary Championships Feb. 28. From left, mentor Will Leroux, corporate chef at the Wayfarer Restaurant in Cannon Beach; student standby chef Josh Porter; student chef Jose Contreras; mentor Abigail Hines, of the Wayfarer Restaurant; student chefs Celina Nicolazzi; Ian Kimbrough; and Erick Mendez; and culinary arts teacher Chris Holen, executive chef and owner of Baked Alaska in Astoria.

Seaside culinary students place third at state

By KATHERINE LACAZE
Seaside Signal

Seaside High School took third place out of 19 teams in Oregon ProStart Culinary High School Championships.

“We’re real proud of them,” said John Kimbrough, Ian Kimbrough’s dad. The competition was hosted by the Education Foundation for the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association on Feb. 28 in Grand Ronde.

At the competition, student chefs were required to prepare a three-course gourmet meal with only two butane burners and no running water or electricity in less than an hour.

The Seaside team included seniors José Contreras, Ian Kimbrough, Erick Mendez and Celina Nicolazzi. Senior Porter Johnson was the standby team member.

Chris Holen, of Baked

Alaska in Astoria, is the culinary arts teacher at the high school. The chef mentors for the team this year are Will Leroux, Josh Archibald and Abigail Hines of the Wayfarer Restaurant in Cannon Beach.

The Oregon Pro-Start state competition is “the capstone” of the two-year ProStart program, a national technical education program teaching high school students culinary and management skills. At least 36 schools throughout the country participate in the ProStart training program.

South Salem High School won first place and Bend High School won second place. Only the first-place team advances to the 2015 National ProStart Invitational in Anaheim, Calif. Seaside High School won the competition the past two years and placed fourth the year before.

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Cannon Beach History Center Welcomes

Oregon anthropologist and Portland State Assistant Professor
SARAH STERLING
THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH, 7 PM

Join us for her presentation of the Pacific Northwest’s seismic past. She will discuss archaeological and geological evidence of tsunamis in the Pacific Northwest and how historical information can be used to understand the impacts of such events in our region.

All ages are Welcome!
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FREE EVENT Visit www.CBHistory.org



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IMPORTANT HEALTHCARE NOTICE

100 Adults With Ringing Ears Needed

Enrollment dates: March 9th–13th, 2015
Duration of study: 10 days

If you have ringing ears when an external sound is not present, you are needed to participate in a special program. Willoughby Hearing is seeking 100 people with head noise to evaluate a tiny specialized instrument that can minimize or reduce the perception of tinnitus. To take part in this program, please call Willoughby today.

Consultations will be performed at no charge for all qualified callers. Participants will try a new device for 10 days and rate improvement in their perception of head noise. Anyone who is bothered by head noise is qualified to take advantage of this opportunity to try this technology.

Participants needed who have any of the following head noises:
• Buzzing • Crickets • Hissing • Ringing • Roaring

New Research Discovers Relief for Many

For adults with ringing ears (tinnitus), now comes good news. The results of significant tinnitus research were presented at the American Academy of Audiology Conference held in Boston, MA. Researchers from renowned universities, medical schools and technology companies presented positive conclusions to work regarding treatment methods of tinnitus.

For example, one published study reported relief among 60 percent of patients from a sampling provided by 230 clinicians using tone-matching audiograms and frequency-matching programmable hearing aids.

Citizens with ringing ears may now be helped by hearing aids with these special capabilities. This special Willoughby program is an opportunity for Oregonians to find out if this new technology will help reduce or eliminate their head noise. To participate, call for an appointment.



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