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

said the law is written broadly and the case came down to the judge's interpretation. "The only physical force

Prosecutor Ryan Bounds

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

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."

annon 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

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

· 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 Halll Sims, Alex Autio, Aaron DaVall, Angela

third-floor Commons. Performers in the musical cabaret/talent show will include Alicia Nedd, Dylan Clodgo, Joss Ayers

Fairless and more.

The show had been scheduled for Friday at the college's Performing Arts

Class offered for Alzheimer's caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter is holding a class, "Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers – Early Stage," from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in Room 219 of Columbia Hall at Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Ave.

In the early stage of Alzheimer's disease, families face new questions as they adjust. What does the diagnosis mean? What kinds of plans need to be made? What resources are available to

help? Join the Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter for this class to hear practical answers to the questions that arise in the early stage. Hear from those directly affected and learn what you can do to cope with the changes that come with an early-stage diagnosis.

This class is free, but registration is required. To register, call 800-272-3900. For a full list of upcoming classes, visit www.alz.org/ oregon

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 of-

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

CCC offers information session for adults

evening session include ad-

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! Part of CB History Center & Museums free lecture series

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Cannon Beach History Center Welcomes

missions, available classes, majors, short-term training options, how to qualify for financial aid, scholarships and Room 117. other ways to pay for college. A question-and-answer

interested in finding out about college opportunities. Check-in for the work-

CANON BEACE

HISTORY CENTER

period will follow this pre-

sentation targeted to adults

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

503-338-2411 or email regcall is better for your sched-

Submitted by Lori Little Seaside High School's culinary arts team took third place at the Oregon ProStart High School Culinary Champion-

ships 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 firstplace 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.

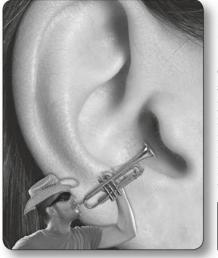
The Admissions Office at Clatsop Community College presents a free one-hour information session for adults considering returning to college full time, or interested in taking a few credit classes to improve their job skills, from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Topics covered in the

For more information or to register for the event, call istration@clatsopcc.edu. If leaving a message, indicate whether an evening phone

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: Crickets Buzzing Hissing Ringing Roaring

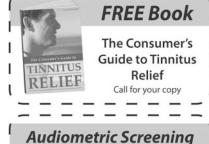
New Research Discovers Relief for Many

 ${
m F}$ or 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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