



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

142nd YEAR, No. 180

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

Judge grants injunction against Pacific Seafood

Fishermen have sued to block acquisition of Ocean Gold

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

Stepping in to avert a potential monopoly, a federal judge has granted commercial fishermen a preliminary injunction to block Pacific Seafood Group from acquiring

Ocean Gold Seafoods. The fishermen have alleged that Pacific Seafood would have a monopoly over the groundfish, whiting and coldwater shrimp markets if it acquires Ocean Gold, a large fish processor in Westport, Wash. The ruling Friday by Judge Owen

Panner in U.S. District Court in Medford came after the Oregon Attorney General's office described the potential merger as "presumptively unlawful given the degree of market concentration." Panner ruled that maintaining competition is in the public inter-

est. The judge set a trial date for July. Pacific Seafood had said after the judge issued a temporary restraining order in January that its acquisition of Ocean Gold had been canceled. But the judge — and the attorney general — agreed that the economic motivation behind a merger has not changed. Pacific Seafood, a top fish pro-

cessing and distribution company based in Clackamas, has an exclusive marketing agreement with Ocean Gold that runs through next February. Frank Dulcich, Pacific Seafood's president and chief executive officer, also holds substantial stock in Ocean Gold. "This is a major victory for the

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PORT PLAN FOR MARINE CLUSTER ERODES



JOSHUA BESSEX — *The Daily Astorian*

The Astoria boatyard opened in 2004. By 2006, businesses like Englund Marine & Industrial Supply, Columbia Pacific Marine Works and Bornstein Seafoods spent millions to move nearer to it. The Port of Astoria recently announced that the boatyard will be closed by the beginning of April.

Boat owners seek balance with log exports

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

At the Port of Astoria's boatyard on Pier 3, hemmed in to the north and west by stored logs and the south by trucks taking them to Pier 1 for export, boat owners are thankful for the good weather, but unsure how long they'll have to work on their vessels.

They and other Port tenants wonder about the impending closure of the 11-year-old boatyard by April 1, which Port Executive Director Jim Knight described as an arbitrary date in the Port's effort to stem the flow of copper from ak-



JOSHUA BESSEX — *The Daily Astorian*

Troy Blix, of Puget Island, Wash., stands next to his tuna crabber in the Astoria boatyard. Blix is one of many commercial fishermen who use the Pier 3 boatyard to do maintenance on their vessels.

known source. He said the Port is exploring every option to responsibly operate the boatyard.

But to many, the sudden closure puts boat owners in a bind and exemplifies how the Port's most recent strategic plans, which en-

visioned a marine services center on Pier 3 anchored by a modern boatyard, haven't been followed or funded. And it seems a convenient excuse to make more room for logs, opponents think.

"I think balance would be good

MORE INSIDE

Toledo expands boatyard, while Astoria's closes. Read more on **Page 10A**.

between logs and Port usage," said Rich Elstrom, secretary of the Astoria boatyard, preparing his boat for the upcoming 2015 Oregon Offshore yacht race from Astoria to Victoria, British Columbia.

Elstrom and other boaters said they understand that logs bring in revenue the Port direly needs. But they wish a compromise could be struck.

"It's going to hurt the economy," said commercial fisherman and shipwright Troy Blix, who said the closure is forcing his business to the Port of Toledo, in the midst of a \$6 million boatyard expansion. The Port's giving up the long-term benefit of the boatyard, he said, for the peaks and valleys of log export.

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Adolescent Sexuality Conference canceled

Seaside Convention Center waives \$1,000 cancellation fee for longtime client

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The annual Adolescent Sexuality Conference, previously held at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, has been canceled for 2015.

The Oregon Teen Pregnancy Task Force, the event's fiscal sponsor, emailed conference participants over the weekend announcing the news.

The conference, which was scheduled for April 13 and 14, had been the target of disapproval from Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin, news agency KOIN6 and a few special interest groups, such as Parents' Rights in Education. Some people and interest groups said they believe the material disseminated at the conference in the past was inappropriate, even illegal.

"This conference has morphed into such a perversion from actual health and welfare that it is time to bring it to a stop and get back to some sanity," Bergin said in a December interview.

The content is aligned with Oregon's Comprehensive Sexuality Education requirements as laid out in the Oregon Administrative Rules, according to the Oregon Teen Pregnancy Task Force. Those requirements state all human sexuality education programs should emphasize abstinence as the only method that is 100 percent effective against unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease.

"Such courses are to acknowledge the value of abstinence while not devaluing or ignoring those students who have had or are having sexual relationships," the rule states. "Further, sexuality education materials, instructional strategies and activities must not, in any way, use shame or fear-based tactics."

In a December guest column that supported the conference's mission of adolescent health and welfare, the Lower Columbia Diversity Project Steering Committee talked about the

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Seaside council hears suggestion for watershed plan

Katie Voelke gives officials a 'gentle nudge'

By **NANCY MCCARTHY**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — In a gentle nudge Tuesday night, Katie Voelke, executive director of the North Coast Land Conservancy, suggested to the Seaside City Council that, before the city embarks on another timber harvesting project in the Necanicum watershed, it should have a management plan in place.

"There might be ways we could support each other and work collaboratively togeth-

er," Voelke said, while presenting a PowerPoint program detailing the benefits of a watershed plan.

"This is not a presentation about complaints," she added. "This is a discussion about the opportunity to work together in the future."

Voelke's remarks came in response to a decision made by city officials to clearcut 60 acres of timber from its property in the South Fork of the Necanicum watershed. The decision was made without providing an opportunity for comment from the land conservancy nor the Necanicum Watershed Council.

Neal Wallace, the city's Public Works director, said proceeds from the timber har-

vest would be used to purchase additional land in the watershed.

Both Voelke and Melyssa Graeper, coordinator for the watershed council, had asked the city to temporarily halt timber harvesting until they could offer harvesting alternatives. The City Council, however, decided at its February meeting to continue the harvest. City staff members later discovered after searching the archives, that the city had a timber management plan that hadn't been updated since 1983.



Katie Voelke

The entire Necanicum watershed consists of 49,000 acres; of that, the South Fork portion amounts to 5,192 acres. The city of Seaside owns 1,100 acres in the South Fork; the rest is split nearly evenly by timber operators Campbell Global and Weyerhaeuser.

An updated management plan would enable the city to protect the city's drinking water resources, Voelke said. By having trees in the watershed to collect rainfall and moisture from fog and to act as a natural filtering system, the costs to treat the water

are reduced dramatically, she added.

Protecting and enhancing natural water resources is more important than ever with the drought facing California, Voelke said.

"Winters like this show that you can't take water for granted," she said. "Californians are coming to Oregon, and we're going to have huge pressures on the state and huge pressures on our water system."

To manage the city's portion of the watershed, several funding sources are available, Voelke said. The state and local environmental organizations could be tapped.

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