



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

142nd YEAR, No. 193 FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015 ONE DOLLAR



Chris Clatterbuck, chief of resource management at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, and Carla Cole, natural resources project manager, look for a water temperature probe along the South Slough Trail. The probe check is to make sure the water temperature is within the accepted range, and is checked about twice per year.

Lewis and Clark park checks its pulse  
By monitoring elk, birds, water and more, the park sees trends

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Similar to a someone checking their cholesterol or blood pressure, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park regularly checks its own vital signs.

The national park is a member of the North Coast and Cascades Network, a group of seven national parks that work together to monitor 12 vital signs. Results are collected for the National Parks Service Inventory and Monitoring Program.

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Superintendent Scott Tucker said his park monitors seven vital signs, which include elk, land birds, marine intertidal, landscape dynamics, forest vegetation, water quality and climate change.

Much of the monitoring is done in the spring and summertime.

The importance, Tucker said, is to collect baseline data to see what the environmental impacts are on the park, which is especially valuable for climate-change and water-quality trends.

A healthy national park often indicates a healthy ecosystem in the surrounding area, Tucker said.

“Our goal is to restore the landscape to the atmosphere the Corps of Discovery would have recognized, which is the natural ecosystem of the area,” Tucker said.

How it’s done

One of the more interesting, but least glamorous, monitoring is to see



Submitted photo — National Parks Service  
Jason Smith, a former National Parks Services biological technician (now with Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce), tests water quality at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

how the elk use the approximately 1,000 acres around Fort Clatsop National Memorial, LCNHP Chief of Resources Chris Clatterbuck said.

Earlier this month, the park finished its seventh year of elk monitoring. Unlike the larger national parks in the North Coast and Cascades Network that use helicopters,

See PARK, Page 8A

‘Our goal is to restore the landscape to the atmosphere the Corps of Discovery would have recognized, which is the natural ecosystem of the area.’

— Scott Tucker

Lewis and Clark National Historic Park superintendent

Gearhart  
Mayor  
Widdop  
prevails

Majority of voters  
say no to recall

GEARHART — It appears Mayor Dianne Widdop will get to keep her office through the end of her term after an effort to recall her failed.

In Thursday’s special recall election, 63.56 percent of voters, or 321, voted against the recall of Widdop, according to the final unofficial results from the Clatsop County Elections Office. About 36.44 percent, or 184 voters, were in favor of the recall. Of 925 registered voters, 505 cast ballots for a voter turnout of 54.65 percent.

The recall process was initiated in November, when Gearhart resident Harold Gable filed a prospective petition with City Administrator Chad Sweet. He then started circulating his petition Dec. 1, after his prospective petition form was approved.

On his form, Gable listed Widdop’s alleged offenses as reasons she should be recalled. He stated,



Dianne Widdop

See RECALL, Page 8A

Helping  
Hands hits  
a roadblock

Partners say Hyak Building project still will move forward

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The Hyak Building project in Seaside is facing yet another challenge, this time in the form of soon-to-be neighbors who don’t want the facility nearby.

The building in question is a large multi-unit dwelling on the corner of Edgewood Street and Avenue S that is owned by the Clatsop County Housing Authority. The county authority is ready to transfer the property and building to the Northwest Oregon Housing Authority, which has partnered with Helping Hands to use part of the building to house men who are in the last phase of the Seaside-based nonprofit’s re-entry program. Clatsop Community Action also plans to contribute to the

See BUILDING, Page 3A

Data Center hacked again; governor orders review

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown announced Thursday she will hire an independent expert to review management practices and vulnerabilities at the state data center, after hackers gained access to information at the center last week.

Brown also directed state Chief Information Officer Alex Pettit to take charge of daily operations at the center “for the foreseeable future.”

The data breach occurred at a time when two top managers at the data center — Michael Rodgers, the acting director of the data center, and Technical Engineering Manager Marshall Wells — are on paid



Gov. Kate Brown

administrative leave pending a human resources investigation. The two men have been on leave since February and remained on leave Thursday, according to a DAS spokeswoman.

Auditors from the Secretary of State’s Office were already conducting a routine review of security at the data center when the breach occurred. They had identified vulnerabilities at the data center in a 2010 audit, but a March 2012 follow-up audit mostly gave the data center good marks for security.

Brown revealed the data breach in a press release Thursday, and said she plans to ask leaders in the Legislature for money to pay for the review.

The governor said an “unknown external entity” had accessed limited information at the data center. Chris Pair, a spokesman for Brown, described it as information about the location of data on state computer servers, but not the

actual data. State employees notified the governor of the breach on March 20, and Pair said it occurred a few days before that.

It was the third high-profile data breach to occur at a state agency in the last 13 months. Hackers accessed the Secretary of State’s business registry and campaign finance databases in February, and the Oregon Employment Department revealed a similar breach in October.

The state data center, which is housed at the Department of Administrative Services, also came under scrutiny in February when a staffer for then-Gov. John Kitzhaber asked employees at the center to delete emails from Kitzhaber’s

personal account that were stored on state computer servers. Employees ultimately refused to delete the emails, and the U.S. Department of Justice has since subpoenaed the emails and other state records for an investigation into Kitzhaber and his fiancée, former first lady Sylvia Hayes.

The Willamette Week newspaper reported on the deletion request, and emails from Kitzhaber’s personal account were apparently leaked to the newspaper. Michael Jordan, who was director of the Department of Administrative Services, asked the Oregon State Police to investigate the leak.

See HACKED, Page 8A

