

COASTAL LIFE Close to Home

A feast of oysters on the Willapa Bay mudflats

ARTS Get Lit at the Beach

Literary festival draws authors and fans together in Cannon Beach

FEATURE

Not just another student art show Clatsop Community College opens its annual Art Student Exhibit

DINING Egg and hashbrown cups

You can't go wrong with bacon, eggs and hashbrowns for Easter

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on the cover

Jaime McMillan, a CCC student artist, stands next to one of her works, a white dragon painted in white acrylic on blue cloth, at the CCC Art Center Gallery.

Photo by Dwight Caswell

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REBECCA SEDLAK DWIGHT CASWER COAST WEEKEND PHOTOS: JOSHUA BESSEX DAVID CAMPICH ADVERTISING MANAGER: BETTY SMITH RYAN HUN
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about NOTES FROM THE EDITOR Visiting Long Island's cedar grove

as part of the Willapa National

only the old-growth trees but

also lots of wildlife. Black bears,

black-tailed deer and Roosevelt

though we didn't run into any. I

did spot a bald eagle, and we tip-

toed around several orange-bel-

lied newts on our 2.5-mile hike

mile loop trail, allowing you to

tour the tall trees and appreciate

The grove includes a 0.75-

The island is home to not

Wildlife Refuge.

to the cedars.

Ever since I first heard about : helped to protect Long Island Long Island in Willapa Bay, I've wanted to visit it.

An uninhabited island full of hiking trails and dense forest that's only accessible by private boat or kayak? Sign me up!

Problem is, you sort of need to know someone who has kayaks and a day to devote to the excursion. (Me? I am boatless. And while I love hiking, it's always better with a companion.) Luckily, I recently found a friend who was in possession of both. So to Willapa Bay we went.

It was raining in Astoria when we left. Perhaps the weather would be different on the bay? No such luck. It sprinkled when we launched our kayaks and down poured by the time we reached the island's shore.

Turning back was still an option — but we'd come this far, hadn't we?

True Pacific Northwesterners don't let a little rain get them down, we told ourselves. So we set off, hiking north on the old logging trail. The goal of our outing was to find the Don Bonker Cedar Grove, a section of forest full of old-growth Western red cedars. Bonker, a former U.S. representative from Washington state who served from 1975-98,

Coast Weekend welcomes comments and contributions from readers. New items for publication consideration must be submitted by 10 a.m. Tuesday, one week and two days before publication.

To submit an item, contact **Rebecca Sedlak**

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The cedar grove on Long Island is home to some truly tall trees.

their beauty from several angles. As we sat under the cedars sharing smoked salmon, coconut cookies, and an apple with almond butter, the rain stopped and the sun peeked through the trees, throwing its bright yellow glow down into the forest. A humming bird, seeking the nectar of early salal flowers, paused in its quest, hovering an arm's

length away, eyeing us curiously before continuing its journey.

Photo by Rebecca Sedla

The hike back was considerably less wet; the air was fresh and the forest quiet.

A higher tide greeted us back at our kayaks. The sun glittered on the blue waters of the bay, and the sky was a masterpiece of fluffy clouds. I know I'll be back.

