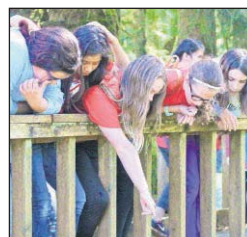


What are they reading?



WEEKEND EDITION



Letting the steelhead go

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN

142nd YEAR, No. 223

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

Art, culture bridge the Pacific

Maori artists from New Zealand explore the coast

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The past week has seen an indigenous culture travel 7,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean from New Zealand to the mouth of the Columbia River to share their art and culture.

Six visiting Maori clay artists, as part of a 10-day cultural exchange organized through Clatsop Community College, have spent this week on the North Coast touring, meeting with local dignitaries, bonding with Chinookans and even trying to pique the interest of local high school students about their backgrounds and art.

On Thursday night, they were officially introduced to the community with the opening of the "Uku-Aotearoa: Spirit of Materials" art exhibit running until July 30 at the CCC Arts Center, 1799 Lexington Ave. The event was attended by members of the Chinook Nation, other regional tribes and the Maori, who all exchanged gifts and songs. The Maori were showered with gifts from the local community.

"I'm a real advocate for the indigenous people," said CCC ceramics instructor and indigenous Hawaiian artist Richard Rowland, a central organizer in the exchange along with staff and college faculty,

See MAORI, Page 12A



Photo courtesy of Laurel Fleet

From left, visiting indigenous artists Colleen Waata Ulrich, Eddie Daughton, Carla Ruka, Clatsop Community College instructor Richard Rowland, Shoalwater Bay Tribe Councilwoman Mechele Johnson, Rhonda Halliday, Baye Riddell, Dorothy Waetford and Todd Douglas took in the Pacific Northwest forests around Willapa Bay as part of their cultural exchange to the region.

MORE INFO

From 6 to 8:30 tonight, the visiting Maori artists and Clatsop Community College writing instructor Nancy Cook give a free public presentation, "Uku-Aotearoa: The Spirit of Materials," at the CCC Performing Arts Center, 588 16th St. in Astoria. This presentation will include a community conversation that examines critical issues surrounding cultural landscape, collective and individual vision and the value of myth and memory.

The Maori are also leading hands-on workshops firing local art and their own in a traditional paper kiln on-site at the CCC Arts Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and Saturday.

Senior Center redo gets go-ahead

Grant funding increased, scope narrowed to balance costs

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Senior citizens will probably have to wait until Christmas before they can enjoy a remodeled Astoria Senior Center.

The city had hoped to finish the improvements at 11th and Exchange streets by August, but construction bids came in higher than anticipated.

So the city went searching for more grant money and narrowed the scope of the project, eliminating renovations in the basement.

See CENTER, Page 12A

Hello, tufted puffins

Fire Mountain students enjoy Earth Day at Haystack Rock

By ERICK BENGEL
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — The four-month nesting season of Haystack Rock's tufted puffin colony began early last month, and seven students from Arch Cape's Fire Mountain School spent their sunny Earth Day morning, April 22, welcoming them back after the birds' eight-month excursion over the sea.

Melissa Keyser, the Haystack Rock Awareness Program's education coordinator, led the students — Genevieve "Gigi" Gardner, 5; Otto

See PUFFINS, Page 11A



After a greeting by the Chinook Nation at Fort Columbia, Wash., the visiting Maori clay artists, including, from left, Baye Riddell, Dorothy Waetford and Carla Ruka, took part in the Long Beach Loyalty Days parade.

Submitted photo

Long Beach dog park plan hits end of leash

City Council tries to weigh money for parks for dogs, people

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — In 2011, Long Beach City Council members began talking about establishing a dog park. For a while, "dog park" was even on a list of goals that was displayed in City Hall.

City officials like the idea of being a "dog-friendly city." At a November 2014 council meeting, they shared

an Everett Herald article, "Northwest's Long Beach Peninsula is a Perfect Pet Getaway" that claimed that Adrift Hotel guests "can step out onto the beach and let your dog roam off-leash, as is possible in many other locations on the peninsula." But the poster in City Hall has been taken down. The park is not any closer to being built, leashes are now required on the beach, and a new city policy that prohibits dogs on city athletic fields has eliminated the largest traffic-free public space where citizens could play with their dogs.

In recent interviews, city officials said a lack of political will and difficulty finding



Chinook Observer file

Dogs used to be allowed to play on the beach off-leash, but now leashes are required on public land. This pup is competing in a previous year's Doggie Olympics.

a suitable property have prevented the project from moving forward.

Ellen Escarcega, chairwoman of the Seattle group Citizens for Off-Leash Areas,

says cities usually don't get serious about dog parks until citizens start pushing for them.

What it takes to build a park

"We need a safe area for humans and animals to be free, and not break leash laws," said Councilman Steven Linhart on April 23. Linhart and Councilman Mark Perez have been perhaps the most vocal supporters of the project. Both men say the park would improve quality-of-life for peninsula residents and create an added draw for dog-owning tourists.

See DOG PARK, Page 8A



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