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THERE ARE MANY PATHS TO GRADUATION



Jensen Liu sets up a class selfie on stage during the Seaside High School graduation ceremony at the Seaside Convention Center Monday.

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Schools strive to improve diploma rates

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Hundreds of students around Clatsop County were honored for finishing their high school education over the past week.

High schools handed diplomas to 116 students in Astoria, 95 in Seaside, 41 in Warrenton, 25 in Knappa and nine in Jewell. Clatsop Community College had the county's third-largest graduating class, with 58 of its students this year earning their high school equivalency after passing the General Educational Development (GED) exam.

School administrators, meanwhile, are rushing to help more seniors finish by the end of June, before graduation reports go to the state.

Astoria High School Principal Lynn Jackson said he is optimistic his high school will have one of its highest four-year cohort graduation rates in a long time. The state bases the percentage on freshmen coming into a high school and graduating there as seniors, while it uses a completion rate for those attending five years or taking the GED exam. According to Astoria Registrar Sarah Price, 194 of the class of 2015 entered as freshmen four years ago; 50 transferred out; and 104 graduated in four years.

"I've got five students who did not graduate that we are hoping for them to graduate by the end of the month," Jackson said. "Three of them I'm confident will."

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Evan Yokoyama looks out toward the crowd after receiving his diploma at the Seaside High School graduation ceremony at the Seaside Convention Center Monday.

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian



Knappa High School graduated 25 students Saturday.

EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Moving the line

State proposes moving tsunami edge inland

By ZANE SPARLING
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A proposed redrawing of the tsunami inundation line on the Oregon Coast increases the amount of urban land at risk for massive flooding by 30 to 40 percent, according to the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Earth Science Information Officer Ali Ryan said the new tsunami boundary will place 28,000 structures on the seaward side of the line, up from 20,000.

Better technology, better maps and better risk assessment are spurring the adjustment — not a change in real danger, scientists say.

In 1995, when the department first tried to model the undersea earthquakes that cause destructive tidal waves, computers were unable to simulate the wave after it reached the shoreline. In their place, the department relied on contour maps from the U.S. Geological Survey in order to estimate where the water would stop during a tsunami. Those maps were accurate only to the nearest 20, sometimes 40, feet.

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College commences search for new leader

Galizio's last day is July 8

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College's board of directors unanimously accepted the resignation of President Lawrence Galizio Tuesday and started the process of finding his replacement. His last day is July 8.

After five years at the college, Galizio recently accepted a position as director and CEO of the Community College League of California, where he starts in mid-July.

It was the last regular board meeting for Galizio, who said he will attend the July 14 board meeting as a past president to honor longstanding college board members. He will also preside over the college's board retreat July 2.

Board chairwoman Rosemary Baker-Monaghan said the college intends to hire an interim president, a process the board discussed in a closed session Tuesday.

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Former elections clerk files \$1 million lawsuit

Fired county clerk alleges whistleblower retaliation

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Former Clatsop County Clerk Maeve Kennedy Grimes wants more than \$1 million in damages and her job back, claiming she was unlawfully fired over errors on the November general election ballot.

A lawsuit filed in Clatsop County Circuit Court contends the former clerk was dismissed in December due to whistleblower retaliation.

County Manager Scott Somers placed Kennedy Grimes on paid administrative leave in October after two errors were found on the ballot.

One mistake left off a zero in the amount of a Clatsop Community College bond measure as "not exceeding

\$8,200.00." The second mistake gave Cannon Beach voters incorrect instructions in an at-large election for the City Council.

As a result of the errors, the Secretary of State's Office required the county to distribute supplemental ballots, costing about \$14,000.

The lawsuit claims Kennedy Grimes immediately contacted the Secretary of State's Office, which directed her to proceed with the supplemental ballots. The suit alleges Somers, however, ordered her to consider other options.

"Ms. Grimes felt torn between clear direction she had received from the SOS (Secretary of State's Office) and what she believed to be Somers' illegal demand that she ignore that direction," Andrew Altschul, Kennedy Grimes' Portland attorney, wrote in the lawsuit.

Altschul said he first contacted the county in December regarding Ken-

nedy Grimes. He filed a torts claim notice on the county in April, before filing the lawsuit May 14.

The lawsuit includes two claims each seeking an award of economic losses in back pay, loss of benefits and other expenses to be proven at a jury trial and \$500,000 in noneconomic damages.

Somers said the county's insurance agency is handling the lawsuit. The county manager said he is planning to meet with an attorney with the insurance company later this week.

"It's in the insurance company's hands," Somers said. "They are taking it seriously."

Somers completed an internal investigation in November, which concluded that the clerk's office did not follow its established protocol for proofreading the draft ballots before the election.

His findings detailed an issue with distractions and multitasking. The



Maeve Kennedy Grimes Scott Somers

proofreaders worked individually rather than following the procedure of reading out loud while another proofreader reads along, Somers said.

Altschul argues in the lawsuit that Kennedy Grimes had a set protocol with the election technician to take turns reviewing each proposed ballot and initial when the proof was approved. Somers never asked her to document, change or update her procedure, the lawsuit states.

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