

Gillnetting: 'I would describe it as an adaptive plan'

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Brown's appointment of Bruce Buckmaster of Astoria to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission also signaled an understanding of commercial fishing concerns.

Buckmaster, a former co-owner of Bio-Oregon, a fish feed company, is a well-regarded voice on fishing who has served as a board member for Salmon for All, a commercial fishing advocacy group that has fought to preserve gillnetting on the river. Sport fishing interests tried to block Buckmaster's appointment, claiming he was too tied to the commercial fishing industry, but he was confirmed by the state Senate in May.

Brown said Buckmaster's appointment came "at some political cost to myself, because I felt pretty strongly that — very strongly — that this community needed a voice on that commission. And that certain factions needed a voice on the commission."

But the governor said she made it clear to Buckmaster the policy on gillnetting is not changing at this point.

"He committed to moving forward with the current plan as it is," she said. "I would describe it as an adaptive plan that, should we need to make changes, we will do that."

Brown did not close off discussion, however. "I'm coming to this issue with fresh eyes and certainly feel like I'm open to input and perspective from communities all along the Columbia River," she said.

LNG project

Brown said she is aware many on the North Coast are opposed to Oregon LNG's plan to build an export terminal in Warrenton and a pipeline through Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia counties into Washington state.

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners has denied a permit for a portion of the pipeline, a decision that was upheld by the state Land Use Board of Appeals in April.

Oregon LNG has said the \$6 billion project, under review by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and federal and state agencies, does not require local approvals.

"I am in the position of not being a decider on this issue at this point in time," Brown said. "I see our role in the governor's office and my role as the governor as facilitating the process, making sure that the feds don't, shall we say, overrule or squash our very public and transparent process."

Asked whether she thinks the project is consistent with local land use law, Brown said: "I am very aware of what Clatsop County has said."

Brown said "there's absolutely no question" the state has oversight responsibility for the project. "I believe that

the state has a role to play in all of this," she said. "There's a number of permitting processes that need to be complied with."

Policy priorities

With only a few weeks left in the state Legislature's session, Brown believes several of her policy priorities still have a chance in Salem.

The governor said she is reasonably optimistic for increased funding for early childhood education, affordable housing and career and technical education.

Brown has followed through on Kitzhaber's call for a \$100 million bond-financed investment in affordable housing that would provide about 4,000 new housing units for low-income families with children.

The lack of affordable housing is not just a problem in urban areas such as Portland, or limited to families on the brink of homelessness. In Astoria, many middle-class workers struggle to find housing.

"It's a huge challenge, particularly for middle- to low-income families, to find housing in the communities that they're working in," Brown said.

In the aftermath of Kitzhaber's resignation, Brown quickly made ethics and government transparency priorities, a move that, politically, could separate her from the disgraced former governor when she is up for election next year.

Brown favors a bill that would make the first partner a public official, prohibit the governor, first partner or other top state officials from receiving speaking fees, and expand the list of public officials — including the first partner — who have to file economic interest statements.

The governor also supports a bill that would expand the Oregon Government Ethics Commission to nine members, up from seven, and reduce the number of commissioners appointed solely at the discretion of the governor to one, instead of three. The bill would shorten the time frame for the commission to conduct preliminary reviews of complaints to 30 days, down from 135 days.

The bill with the potential for the biggest impact, the governor believes, would direct Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins to conduct a performance audit of state agency public records retention and disclosure practices. The bill has passed the state House and Senate and is awaiting the governor's signature.

The news media had made public-records requests of emails and other government documents to help shine light on Kitzhaber and Hayes.

"I think this will provide us with a thoughtful, fact-based approach to making changes to Oregon's public-records laws that I hope will increase access and transparency for all Oregonians," Brown said.



Photos by JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Jose Sosa tears up after learning he received the President's Award at the Clatsop Community College graduation ceremony at the Liberty Theater Friday. See more photos of the graduates online at www.dailyastorian.com

Graduates: Galizio gave his final President's Award to Seaside grad

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Overcoming challenges

"I am very proud of each and every one of you for the sacrifices you have made and the challenges you have overcome," Brown said, noting many of the graduates from the college work full-time jobs, raise families, return from military duty and have to get by on little.

Brown told the story of Mary Byes, 54, who graduated Friday after overcoming an alcoholic family, dropping out as a teenager to care for her siblings and being kept out of college for years by a belittling ex-husband.

"I think what always helped me is I always had to be a strong person," Byes said.

Byes now heads to Portland State University to study human resource management, with 90 percent of her educational costs covered by the Ford Family Foundation's ReStart program for adults returning to school.

Student awards

The college staff and faculty's student awards largely honored the sacrifice, growth and service to community by students.

Byes took home several awards Friday, including departmental honors from art, business and the TRIO student support program. Others took home awards as the top de-



Gael Marin, left, and Miguel Velasco, right, pose for a selfie in the McTavish Room the Clatsop Community College graduation ceremony at the Liberty Theater Friday.



Graduates wait to take their seats before the Clatsop Community College graduation ceremony at the Liberty Theater Friday.

sign, criminal justice, health, Lives in Transition, medical assisting, nursing and welding students.

Two Seaside High School Graduates — Jose Sosa of the

class of 2013 and Daniel Kennedy from the class of 1991 — took home the Outstanding Student Scholar Awards Friday night. Their nomination by the faculty places them on the 2015

All-Oregon Academic Team representing CCC.

Galizio then gave his final President's Award to Sosa, a student who, he said, exemplifies the award's purpose of honoring a student's impact on the college.

Sosa came to America 10 years ago, Galizio said, a non-native speaker who faced bullying and struggled to fit into school. In college, Sosa maintained a 3.94 GPA, was active in the college's Latino Club, volunteered at the Cannon Beach Bible Church, translated and tutored in math and has taken home several awards.

People immigrate to America for different reasons, Sosa said. "But we're here for the same thing: a better future."

Sosa thanked his parents for the sacrifices they made and the discrimination they faced as Hispanics, all to make his life better. He took a moment during his student marshal's address to thank his mother and Spanish-speaking families.

Sosa, who will attend Western Oregon University and hopes to parlay his love of math into a teaching career, ended his address with a quote from Cesar Chavez about building community: "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. ... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

Grave: Memorial used to be a geocache spot

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"There's a lonely grave on the ocean shore, near to the shadow of Tillamook Head, where there is sounding forevermore, the sullen surf with its stormy roar; requiem sung for the unknown dead," the poem begins, continuing in a later stanza, "Was this the captain or one of the crew? Was it a passenger nearing home? Might it a lover be, brave and true? Father and husband with port in view and home ones waiting for him to come?"

"Kind hands bore to the desolate shore all that was left of the unknown dead; no requiem sung but the sea's dull roar; and that is sounding forevermore where the green sod covers the stranger's head," the poem concludes.

Another newspaper article, a first-person account from C.W. Shively, tells of the *Industry's* journey in early 1865. The bark, or barque, experienced two weeks of heavy weather before arriving at the mouth of the Columbia River around March 7 of that year. The ship capsized and seven people were rescued and 17 people, including Capt. Lewis, were drowned.

Jan Barber, who also takes care of the grave, said people have honed in on the story of the three sailors, but "then you start digging more, and you hear different things." What may possibly contribute to the "conflicting" versions of the grave's origin, Barber said, is they could all be true stories — just not as they relate to that particular site.

Montero agreed, saying, "I



KATHERINE LACAZE — EO Media Group

Robin Montero, left, and Jan Barber are part of an unofficial neighborhood group that has adopted the Grave of the Unknown Sailor in the cove in Seaside and sees to its care and maintenance. A marker at the site says the sailor, or sailors, depending on which version of the grave's origin is correct, were found April 25, 1865, making this year the site's 150th anniversary.

hate to say it — this whole area is a graveyard."

Several of the early residents, according to Hanson, remember incidents before the 1900s when the cove area near the sailors' grave was used to bury other deceased people, particularly several individuals who died from drowning accidents.

"None of these spots were marked with any lasting marker, however, and no records were kept so their locations were soon lost to view," Hanson writes.

Neighborhood care

Before the neighborhood group adopted the Grave of the Unknown Sailor, it also was close to becoming a wholly neglected burial site, broken and overrun with weeds. Now it is

carefully maintained by Barber and her husband, Jay; Montero and her husband, Bill; Walt and Denise Walthour; John Parks; Walter Dagatt; and other neighbors.

"It's just become a great way to meet your neighbors," Montero said. "We just care deeply about it. It's our history; it's who we are."

Together they weed the site, tend to flowers and plants, keep the paint looking nice and occasionally replace the U.S. Marine Corps flag that waves above the unassuming plot that contains two small markers, one engraved with the words, "Known Only to God," and the other engraved, "Found On The Beach April 25, 1865." Sometimes people will leave flowers, mar-

bles, sand dollars or other knick-knacks at the grave as a way of paying homage to someone or something.

Prior to the summer of 2011, the memorial was used as a geocache location, which was "totally inappropriate" and led to people climbing around the site and causing damage, Barber said. Having the geocache removed immensely helped the state of the site, Montero said. Even now, however, some people do not seem to realize the monument is a grave site, and the neighbors have an idea for bringing more awareness.

Marking the site

Whatever the grave's true origin story may be, the neighborhood group is leading an effort to get a historical information board placed on the northeast corner of the memorial where it would not obstruct any resident's ocean view. The sign, as proposed by the cove residents at a Seaside City Council meeting in August 2011, would be 16-by-30 inches and include the lore of the three sailors, a map of various shipwrecks in the area and ocean safety information. While the City Council showed interest in the project at that time, nothing came of it. But Montero and Barber plan to bring the proposal before City Council again soon.

"We need to honor the people that have come before us, and this board would do that," Barber said.

Montero agreed.

"If we keep forgetting, eventually it will be forgotten," she said.

Jaakola: 'If you can't do it by experience, then you have to do it by paper'

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All her siblings graduated from Astoria High School, Marju said, and although she dropped out after becoming pregnant, she earned her diploma through night school at the college shortly after giving birth. Marju pointed out the irony that her native Finland has one of the highest high school graduation rates in the world.

Mikko's grandfather, Heikki Jaakola, graduated from high school in Finland and joined its army before following Marju's family

from Kalajokki to Astoria at age 21. He too worked at the plywood mill and later as a roofer, Marju said, before retiring and moving back to Finland.

"I think about community college, going to MERTS to get a degree," Mikko said. "I've taken a couple of field trips there."

While he would rather just do welding like his father, Mikko said he understands the purpose of continuing his education. "If you can't do it by experience, then you have to do it by paper."

— Edward Stratton