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ONE DOLLAR



NATALIE ST. JOHN — EO Media Group

Members of the Willapa River Beekeepers Club examine combs during a honey-bee hive inspection at a farm north of Tokeland June 6. The members of the club are more interested in pollination and building back a thriving bee population than they are in harvesting the honey.

Squeeze the *honey*, but don't squeeze the bee

Willapa River Beekeeping Club focuses on building healthy hives

By KATIE WILSON
EO Media Group

TOKELAND, Wash. — Paul Young has just committed a very great sin — and the bees know it.

Their gentle “hummm” suddenly changes pitch. The sound of their buzzing wings had faded into background noise, but now it can't be ignored. They're angry, roaring, rising in a dizzy black and yellow cloud — for Paul Young has indeed sinned. Paul Young has accidentally squeezed a bee.

It's a phrase all Young's own and he repeats it now as he continues to calmly search the hive for a queen bee.

“I squeezed a bee so they react, of course, as you would, so now I smell like a squeezed bee,” he says. “Don't squeeze the bees. That's definitely an issue.”

“You need a new pair of gloves?” asks his wife, Gail Friedlander, her face covered with a veil, her socks pulled up over the hem of her pants and her long shirt sleeves stretch over the openings of her own clear, plastic gloves to make sure that none of the bees hovering near her or landing on her find a way under her clothes.



NATALIE ST. JOHN — EO Media Group

Bees crawl across a comb removed from a bee hive at Nancy Fischer and Steve Young's farm north of Tokeland. Some of the bees have begun to build small yellow, conical structures called “queen cups” to pave the way for a new queen bee. More photos at www.dailyastorian.com

“No, I'm good.”

Young, Friedlander and other members of the Willapa River Beekeeping Club are at Nancy Fischer and Steve Young's small farm north of Tokeland. The couple is one year into beekeeping and wanted Paul Young to inspect several of their six hives, including two newer ones they started from swarms — populations of bees that have left their parent hives and set out on their own.

The beekeeping club has approximately 20 active members and provides these members with everything from practical information to a community of like-minded people. It also

offers regular hive inspections where more experienced members can walk newer beekeepers through the ins and outs of hive maintenance, as well as help them determine if a hive is succeeding or struggling.

Bee inspection

Paul Young stands behind hive No. 3 at Fischer and Steve Young's farm. These are Langstroth hives, a particular style of man-made hive that looks like compact dresser drawers stacked on top of each other. Filed vertically in each drawer are the combs, frames containing plastic lattice-work that the bees use to spread out

honey and rear larvae, baby bees.

Young removes the hive's lid first and now it's possible to peer down into the “honey super,” the top drawer. Below that comes the brood drawer.

Several other club members hover nearby, helping him move the pieces and operate the smoker, which spews a regular cloud of smoke in and around the hive. Young wants minimal smoke since smoke makes the bees believe their hive is threatened. He doesn't want to distress them too much, but he also doesn't want them flying by the dozens around his head. When they sense the smoke, the bees rush inside, and some start gorging on stored honey in case they need to make a quick escape. Bee logic says take what you can carry.

The majority of club members keep bees, while the others are a mix: some plan on having bees down the road, others are merely curious and want to tag along. The members represent only about 10 to 15 percent of the total number of beekeepers in the area, Young says, and most of them are not in it for the honey — though it is definitely a perk if the hives are extra productive.

Fischer and Steve Young, as well as club member Brent Naylor, echo this, saying their primary concerns are plant pollination and helping honey bees thrive.

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A license to beg?

Seaside revisits panhandler rules

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The city of Seaside is exploring a new method for making Seaside less appealing to panhandlers: requiring them to apply for a \$50-per-day itinerant merchant permit in order to solicit in public.

More than 30 years since the adoption of an ordinance regarding itinerant merchants, the city is en route to updating the ordinance to make it more “permissive,” which means the city would allow certain activities as long they conform to regulations, City Manager Mark Winstanley said.

At a meeting June 22, the Seaside City Council discussed an ordinance that regulates the buying and selling of merchandise “by individuals that do not have a fixed location,” Winstanley said. The ordinance went into effect in 1984 and has had significant changes since then.

In 1984, Winstanley said, “We could say, ‘No, you don't get to do certain activities,’” but today, it is more difficult for municipalities to ban people from doing things that are not illegal or unconstitutional. The itinerant merchants license ordinance “was a concern for us, because it was a restrictive ordinance, so we rewrote it to be permissive,” he said.

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Riverwalk Inn lease spoken for

Portland hotelier has signed contract

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Brad Smithart's run operating the Astoria Riverwalk Inn might be coming to an end, one way or another.

Shortly after a Tuesday Port of Astoria Commission meeting, Executive Director Jim Knight said he received a call earlier that day from Ganesh Sonpatki, a Portland hotelier representing the Param Hotel Group. Sonpatki, Knight said, told him Smithart was headed to Portland to talk.

At a June meeting, the Port Commission unanimously authorized Knight to transfer the remainder of the lease from Smithart's company Hospitality Masters to the Param Hotel Group, in exchange for Param paying off Smithart's numerous debts.

Knight estimated Smithart's debts at more than \$250,000 to the Port for past-due rent and revenue sharing.

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Conservancy brings violets closer to home

Flowers to be used to lure butterflies back to the coast

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The North Coast Land Conservancy recently received a large delivery at its Circle Creek Habitat Reserve: About 19,000 early blue violet plants, tucked safely in beds until the flowers are ready to be planted in the fall to help bring back the Oregon silverspot butterfly.

On June 30, Stewardship

Director Melissa Reich and the conservancy's summer stewardship crew guided the violets' journey from a nursery in Tillamook to the Circle Creek property, where they will stay for the time being. Come fall, the violets, which were grown using seeds propagated from the seeds of native Clatsop County plants, will be taken to their permanent homes on the Clatsop Plains and Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula.

“The plants have had a long journey, and they have a long journey ahead of them,” Reich said.

Back to the coast

The journey started when the conservancy gathered seeds from flowers growing

on its salt spray meadow properties on the Clatsop Plains. Those seeds were sent Corvallis, where they were planted to make a full bed of flowers. Once the flowers had matured, the center gathered a bag of their seeds and sent them to the conservancy as part of a process known as seed banking, land conservancy Executive Director Katie Voelke said.

In January 2014, staff and volunteers planted nearly 20,000 seeds into individual containers in Tillamook. Since the coast seeds were grown in the valley, the group wanted to re-adapt them to the coastal climate.

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KATHERINE LACAZE — EO Media Group

The North Coast Land Conservancy brought numerous beds of early blue violets to the organization's Circle Creek property, just south of Seaside June 30. The flowers will stay there until this fall, when the conservancy intends to sow the approximately 19,000 violet plants on its Clatsop Plains and Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula properties as part of a long-term research project. One of the goals of planting the violets is to create a habitat to foster Oregon silverspot butterfly repopulation.

