



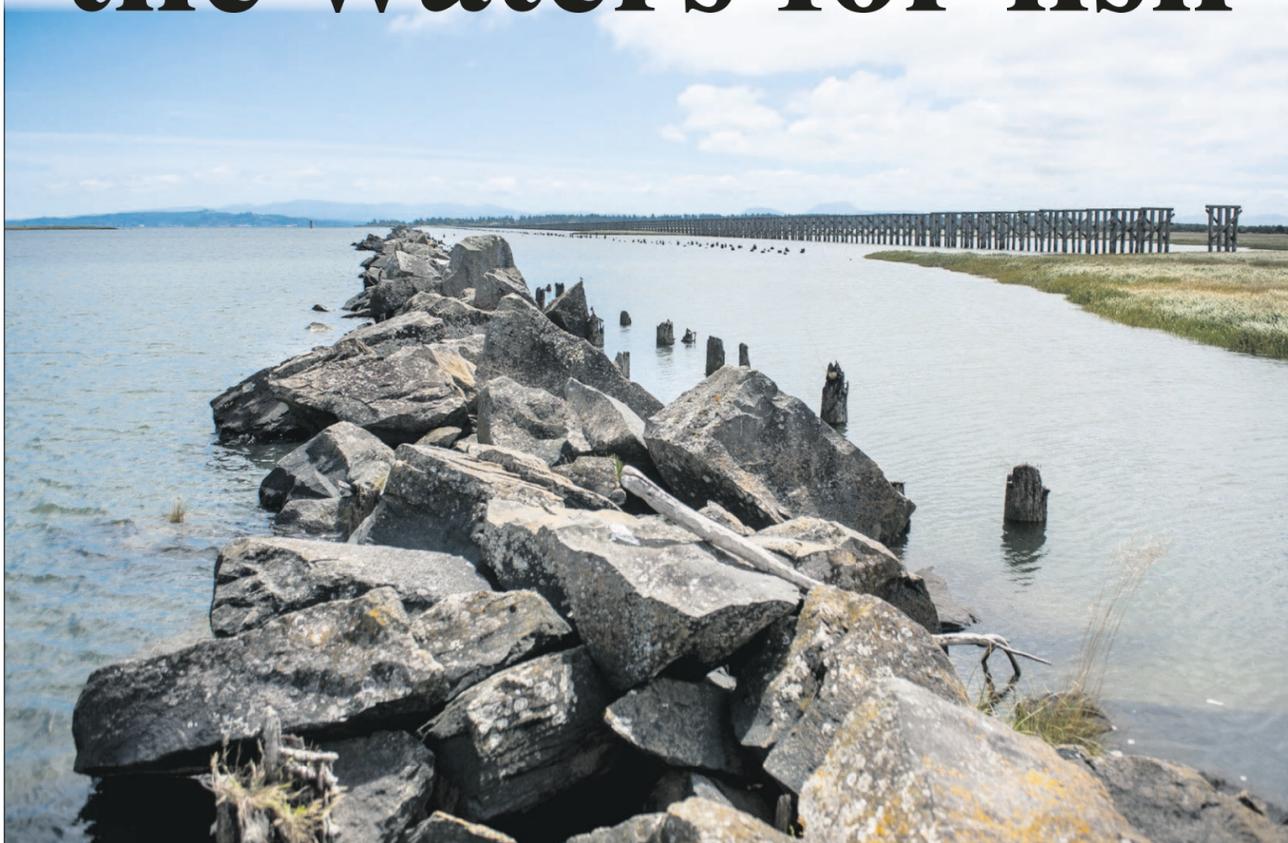
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ONE DOLLAR

Corps aims to calm the waters for fish



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is going to create multiple openings along the South Jetty Root, shown above, to allow access for salmon and steelhead into Trestle Bay as part of an ecosystem restoration project.

Jetty stones will be removed in Trestle Bay

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

FORT STEVENS STATE PARK — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is planning a restoration project near the South Jetty that will open access to more than 600 acres of fish habitat.

The project will remove 900 feet of jetty stones at seven locations in Trestle Bay, located on the river side of the South Jetty.

Removing the jetty stones down to the riverbed will give salmon and trout, especially juveniles, access to quieter waters and feeding grounds.

"It allows them some refuge and some habitat they can feed off of," Gail Saldana, the project manager, said. "It's like a timeout for a length of time. It's nice for them to have a place where the water is not beating at them. It gives them an opportunity to rest."

Into the bay

Trestle Bay was originally formed by construction of the South Jetty in the late 1800s, according to the Army Corps.

The 8,800-foot jetty stone structure in the bay — known as the South Jetty Root — was first breached by the Corps in 1995



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Sandpipers sit on some of the rocks that make up the South Jetty Root in Trestle Bay.

to regain at least partial connectivity. Prior to the breach, the limited access to the bay led to degraded and fragmented salmon habitat.

Saldana said the work in 1995 removed 500 feet of jetty stones, but not all the way to the riverbed. At low tides, salmon and steelhead are still blocked from the bay.

After positive feedback from

the initial opening, she said, "We decided we should create some more openings there."

Work in the fall

The Army Corps plans to award the current project to a contractor by September, with work set to begin in November. The project, estimated to cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million, is expected to take two to three

weeks to complete. Crews will use a barge with a crane large enough to lift the jetty stones, some weighing up to 7 tons. The jetty stones will likely be placed up against other stones along the structure. The largest opening will be about 380 feet while other openings will be about 50 feet, all totaling 900 feet.

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A new Cuba?

Cuban-born teacher sees hope for his homeland after recent trip

By MCKINLEY SMITH
The Daily Astorian

When Manny Suarez visited Cuba this summer, he noticed things had changed since his first trip in 2011, nearly half a century after he had left the country as a child: There was a feeling of hopefulness for the future.

Cuba and the United States have had a stormy history.

The Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 darkened Cold War-relations between the U.S. and newly communist Cuba. After decades of suspicion, the Obama administration removed Cuba from the state-sponsored terrorism list this year amid a move toward a normalized relationship between the two countries.

"Back in 2011, people were very hesitant to say anything," said Suarez, a teacher who lives in Astoria.

Now, he said, people seemed more hopeful and friendly.

Changing times

While in Havana, he heard a taxi driver talking about buying another cab and learned some people were trying to get air conditioning in their homes to attract tourists.

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A Flavel in the House

Descendant tours historic family home, museum

By MCKINLEY SMITH
The Daily Astorian

George and Mary Flavel's great-great-great-great grandson, Mark Bridgeman, and his wife, Ellen, visited the Flavel House Tuesday morning to celebrate their anniversary.

It was their first time touring the historic grounds where the legendary sea captain and bar pilot lived.

Mark Bridgeman said he had never seen the family tree before and learned most of his family history from his grandmother, Virginia Southworth Flavel.

"It may be embellished a little," he said of his grandmother's accounts as he stood in the former Carriage House.

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Hawaii GMO battles will shape West's rules

Key court cases will impact entire 9th Circuit

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Legal battles over genetically modified organisms in Hawaii are expected to shape government authority over biotech crops across the West.

Three attempts to regulate GMOs by counties in that state — Kauai, Hawaii and Maui — have all been overturned by federal judges.

How those decisions play out in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will affect the ability of state and local governments to set their own rules for biotechnology, experts say.

The 9th Circuit has jurisdiction over seven states, including Oregon, Washington and California, where several counties have enacted GMO bans that

AN ANALYSIS

are subject to its rulings.

"Hawaii is definitely the bellwether right now," said Kristine Tidgren, staff attorney for the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation at Iowa State University.

A federal judge most recently struck down Maui County's prohibition against biotech crops on multiple legal grounds. Significantly, Chief U.S. District Judge Susan Oki Mollway held that federal regulations entirely pre-empt Maui County's ordinance banning GMOs, which was passed last year.

If that ruling is upheld by the 9th Circuit, that would directly implicate other GMO bans within the same jurisdiction, meaning they'd be pre-empted as well, said Tidgren.

Conversely, if the appellate court

finds that state and local government GMO rules are not pre-empted by the federal regulations, then it would clear the way for such ordinances.

"It's a huge case for local and state GMO bans," Tidgren said. "The stakes are very high. All eyes will be on the 9th Circuit when this case goes forward."

Supporters of county GMO bans contend that Mollway's legal reasoning is faulty.

In their view, federal regulations cannot pre-empt state and local GMO regulations once the USDA allows such crops to be grown without restriction.

The 9th Circuit has held that USDA has no authority over biotech crops once it determines they're not plant pests, so commercialized GMOs aren't subject to federal regulations, critics say.

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Matthew Thayer/The Maui News/AP

In this photo taken Sept. 10, 2014, Monsanto crew leader Zenaida Arcala places a pollination bag over a corn tassel in Kihei, Hawaii. A federal judge has ruled that the Maui County ban of GMO crops is illegal.

