

Shorthanded Knappa tumbles

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Astoria's luck runs out

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 59

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

ONE DOLLAR



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A shirtless runner shows off his excitement as he runs through the mud pit at the 3-Course Challenge at Camp Rilea Saturday. More photos at www.dailyastorian.com

RUNNERS TAKE THE CHALLENGE

103 schools, 2,481 runners splish, splash and dash in cross country race

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The 26th annual 3-Course Challenge is in the books, following another successful run Saturday at Camp Rilea.

Just a few of the final numbers from the 2015 Challenge: 85 high schools, 18 middle school or youth teams, 2,481 runners, and eight races over three different courses.

It all took place over miles and miles of trails and hills, with runners running over courses marked with mud pits, sand, thorns and elk droppings (don't underestimate some challenges) on a nice sunny day on the North Coast.

If you're a cross country runner or a fan of the sport ... what's not to like?

"It's just a fun experience for the runners," said Warrenton coach Hayley Espelund Rogers, whose team was one of the 85 competing. "It seems like cross country courses are becoming more true cross country. You have all these mud pits and hills and sand ... this meet definitely incorporates all that."

High school meets in general, she said, "are all getting real crazy. The Ultimook (at Tillamook), this one at Rilea, we have the (Knappa) Teevin Ranch Run back ... it's the same thing. There's four river-crossings in that one. The meets are all getting cross-country-esque, and they're getting big. I think it's



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Runners, including Astoria's Kathy Perez, tries to navigate the mud pit during the 3-Course Challenge at Camp Rilea Saturday.

because those valley schools and the Portland schools are just running around their campuses. They're running on pavement, and this is an opportunity to run a true cross country course."

And off the course, all the coaches and volunteers are getting a good handle on how to run a big meet.

"Twenty-six years, you'd think this guy knows what he's doing by now," said Seaside coach Neil Branson, who staged the first 3-Course Challenge, and still plays a big part in running it every year. "The parking, ODOT,

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A running shoe is left behind in the mud pits during the 3-Course Challenge at Camp Rilea Saturday.

Serial burglar to serve 7+ years in prison

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

A serial burglar who stole from more than 100 businesses and residents in Clatsop County is going to prison.



Loren C. Tarabochia

Loren C. Tarabochia, 42, of Seaside, pleaded guilty Friday in Clatsop County Circuit Court to eight counts of second-degree burglary and one count of attempted second-degree burglary. He was sentenced to more than seven years in prison.

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Astoria teen dies in crash

OLNEY — Jade Marie Morgan, 16, of Astoria, died in a traffic accident on Highway 202 Saturday.

At about 11:20 a.m. Saturday, Oregon State Police troopers responded to a report of a two-vehicle crash on Highway 202, near milepost 7 south of Astoria.

Preliminary information indicates a 2008 Chrysler PT Cruiser was traveling eastbound on Highway 202 when it lost control on a corner and crossed the centerline, according to the state police. The Chrysler collided with a westbound 2003 Dodge Pickup registered to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Morgan, the driver of the Chrysler, was pronounced dead at the scene.

"After she lost control in the corner, the vehicle slid sideways into the oncoming lane," OSP Lt. Andrew Merila said. "They are dangerous two-lane highways. It only takes a split second to cross the centerline."

The driver of the Dodge, Brooks R. Van Develder, 36, of Astoria, was transported to a local hospital where he was treated and released. Van Develder is an employee of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The roadway was closed for at least four hours for the investigation which is continuing.

No cause has been determined yet, according to OSP.

"We are in the preliminary stages," Merila said. "She lost control at the centerline. We are looking at everything. We just don't know at this point."

Astoria High School, where Morgan was a junior, sent a statement to the student body Monday. The school's library will be set up and open for students needing additional support or a break. Counselors will also be available to meet with students.

"During times like this it is important to remember that loss affects people in many ways and can bring up many different emotions," the statement read. "Some people may want to stick to their daily routine, while others may prefer to take time for themselves or talk with others."

The school will share information about memorial service arrangements when they become available. Students wishing to send a message to Jade's family can do so in the counseling office or through the support room.

Until further notice, the high school campus is closed to all visitors.

Legendary Salvage Chief returns to Astoria

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Salvage Chief, one of the most accomplished salvage vessels in the world, returned to Astoria Friday.

Salvage Chief LLC, a group headed by Pier 39 owner Floyd Holcom, recently acquired the Salvage Chief from Fred Devine Diving & Salvage in Portland. The vessel was towed from the Swan Island industrial district in Portland Friday to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dock at South Tongue Point, next to where Clatsop Community College moors its training boat, the Forerunner.

In Astoria, Holcom said, the Salvage Chief (LSM 380) foundation created in May hopes to use the vessel as both a memorial to past crewmen and as an education tool for future seaman.

"Our hope is that we'll be able to use the vessel as training," Holcom said. "All



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The Salvage Chief, a famous former marine salvage vessel, sidles up to the dock Friday evening at South Tongue Point, where it will be used as a memorial and educational vessel.

of the winches, and all of the cranes and all of the accessories on the vessel still work."

All the regulatory steps need to be taken, but foundation hopes to work with Tongue Point Job Corps, the college's Marine and Environmental Research and

Training Station and the U.S. Army.

Holcom said he has several family members who worked on the Salvage Chief, as do many locals. The foundation is made up of people who

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