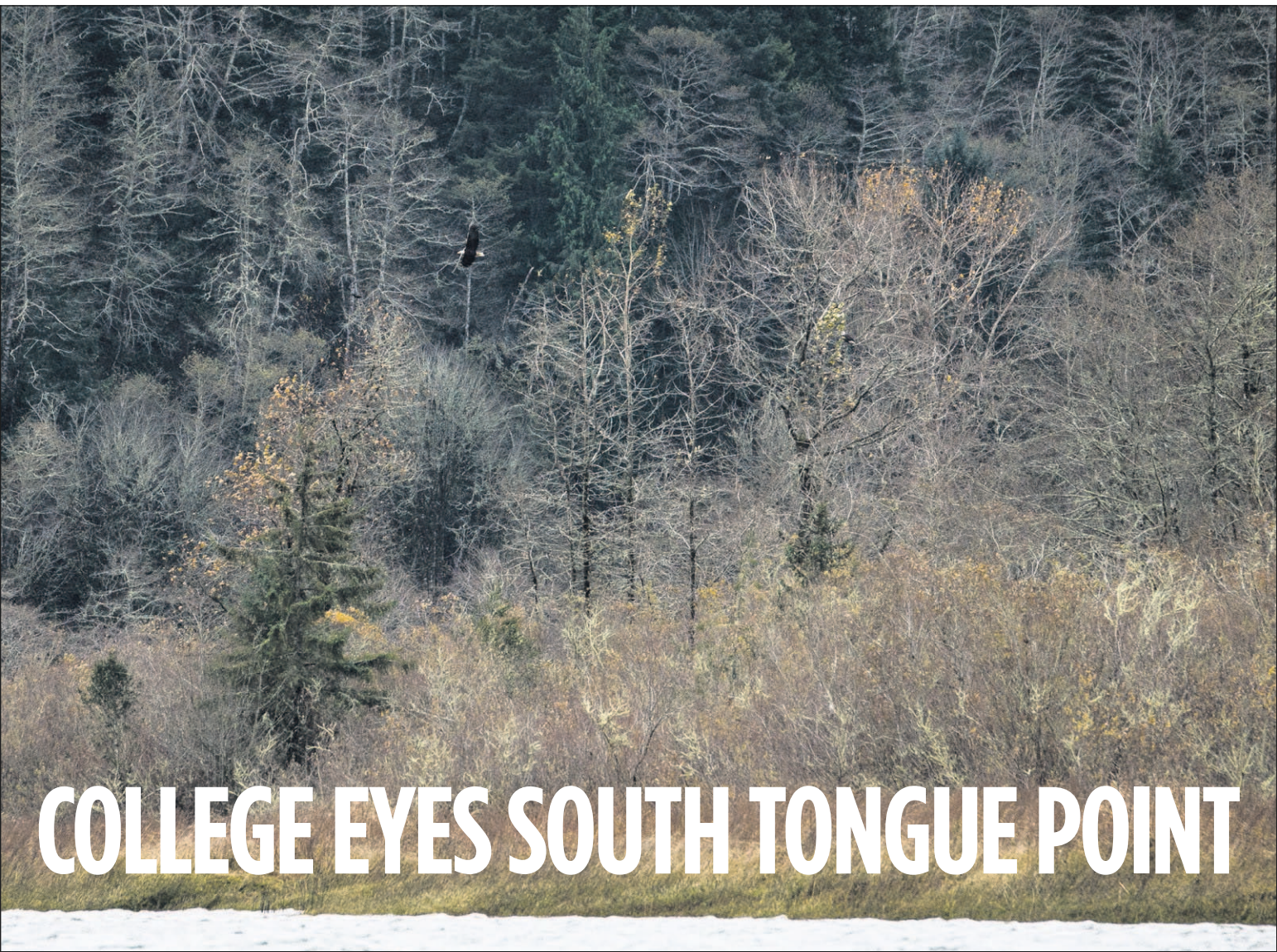




THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 111 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015 ONE DOLLAR



A bald eagle flies over a portion of South Tongue Point on Tuesday. The Oregon State Land Board could decide whether to sell the land. Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Warrenton Fiber had been interested in the land

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

When Warrenton Fiber Co. applied in late 2013 to buy part of South Tongue Point, the Oregon Department of State Lands initiated a review that was supposed to culminate in a decision this month by the State Land Board on whether to sell the land.

But Clatsop Community College also applied earlier this year to buy South Tongue Point for its 7-acre Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station campus, along with more than 100 acres for a living classroom on the southern portion of the land, with the support of local conservation groups.

Jim Paul, assistant director of the Common School Fund Property Program, said Warrenton Fiber's applica-

tion is closed. The Land Board initiated a review into the college's proposal at its October meeting, and Paul said the new due diligence could last at least another nine to 12 months before a decision on whether and how to sell the property to the college.

"While the current lease to the college provides revenue on the 7 acres near the north end of the property, the likelihood of an industrial company developing the remainder of the property — either as a lessee or possible future landowner — is uncertain," said a staff report, recommending the Land Board explore a sale to the college. "Further, many of the potential industrial marine leasing uses carry pollution risks, which can be problematic for DSL to monitor as the landowner."

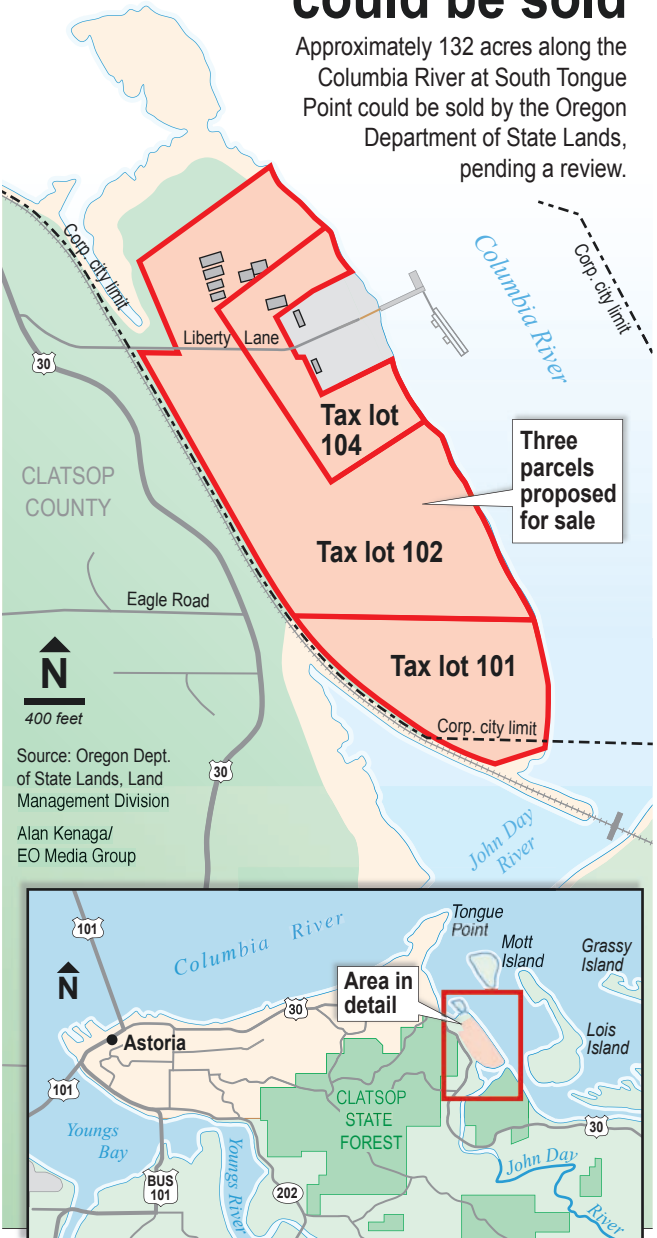
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Clatsop Community College's Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station sits on 7 acres of the South Tongue Point property. The college leases the land from the state for \$13,000 a year. Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

South Tongue Point could be sold

Approximately 132 acres along the Columbia River at South Tongue Point could be sold by the Oregon Department of State Lands, pending a review.



Cannon Beach goes its own way on flood mapping

Residents may see big savings

By DANI PALMER
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — New maps could offer flood insurance savings to Cannon Beach residents. But because of problems with North County mapping, it looked like South County's savings would be delayed.

Cannon Beach was ready to make a request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency to adopt the maps, encouraged by business owners and residents who said changes would lower costs. City Planner Mark Barnes had begun writing a draft.

FEMA acted first. During a City Council work session last month, Barnes said FEMA decided to accelerate its adoption of Cannon Beach and Seaside maps, removing the need to send a letter. In an email exchange shared with Barnes, Stephen Luckner, mapping specialist with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, asked FEMA engineer David Ratte if the agency was "preparing to separate out the Warrenton and Columbia Estuary work and move forward with the rest of the country." Ratte answered yes.

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Schools to absent students: We want you here

Ilwaco aims to fix truancy problems

By KATHERYN HOUGHTON
EO Media Group

ILWACO, Wash. — Twenty years after Washington lawmakers passed a law requiring kids attend school, the state is still grappling with identifying students who habitually miss class. While the state pushes responsibility to each district, individual schools bear most of the weight to find the students sliding into a statistic.

Half of Washington's juvenile court proceedings revolve around truancy cases, or students who collect unexcused absences. However, a recent study by Washington state courts estimated those cases only reflect one-third of students who qualify as truant.

Pacific County Juvenile Court Administrator Wayne Leonard said it's hard to know why only a fraction of truancy cases are recorded.

"The answer could vary from each county, and even each school district within a county," he said. "As far as I'm aware, how it's done hasn't been tracked since the law was put in place."

See SCHOOLS, Page 10A

Holiday shoeboxes begin world journey

Volunteers help local church's effort to help kids

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — More than 1,300 shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, personal hygiene products and other items are one step closer to reaching the hands of children in developing countries.

North Coast Family Fellowship was the local Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child rallying

point for Clatsop County. Volunteers and donations often came in groups. Often, the boxes were put together as a coordinated effort between families, church congregations, schools and other organizations.

"It really brings the community together," volunteer Mark Kenny said of Operation Christmas Child.

He and his wife, Lorri, are in their fifth year as relay center coordinators for the program at North Coast Family Fellowship, but the Seaside church has been a drop-off site for much longer.

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Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group
Volunteers sort and package shoeboxes into cartons for Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse. North Coast Family Fellowship in Seaside is the only local drop-off site, and people from all over Clatsop County delivered their packed shoeboxes to the church during a week in November.

