



## These 2 aim to get things done

AmeriCorp volunteers gain experience through their service

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Two young professionals have traveled from different parts of the country to Clatsop County, where they will spend the next year gaining experience in various areas of public service.

Bijan Fayyaz, from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Ian Sisson, of Chicago, came to the North Coast this fall through Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE), a division of AmeriCorps that operates through the University of Oregon.

The program places about 20 volunteers in cities throughout Oregon. They come from all over the country and stay for 11 months.

"It's a mix of people. Some have master's degrees, some have work experience and some are just out of college," Sisson said. "Everyone that is in the program is affiliated with planning or nonprofit management."

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## The year ahead

Minimum wage, tax fights top 2016 Salem agenda

By HILLARY BORRUD  
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Capital Bureau

SALEM — The New Year will ring in some pivotal policymaking and elections in Oregon that could shape the state's government, economy, quality of life and balance of power.

The Legislature will only meet for about a month in 2016, but lawmakers still plan to tackle high-profile issues including the minimum wage, child welfare and problems at the Oregon Department of Energy. It also promises to be a year of contentious ballot measures, from a proposed corporate sales tax to a measure aimed at repealing or weakening the state's low-carbon fuel standard.

### Minimum Wage

Four competing Oregon ballot initiative proposals would gradually increase the \$9.25 per hour minimum wage to at least \$13.50, and to as much as \$15.

Some Oregon lawmakers are trying to head off that contest with their own proposal during the 35-day session in February and March.

Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland, is spearheading the effort. His proposal would set three minimum wages for the state based on cost of living and median income. Lawmakers have yet to agree on exact amounts to propose, Dembrow said. They are scheduled to meet after the New Year to continue discussions.

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Jeff and Christine Jacobson pulled their food cart out of storage in August and transformed it into CJ's Trolley Stop Coffee and Food Cart, an eatery they plan to open Saturday.

## Ding, ding, ding goes the food cart

Downtown lot's first food fixture opens Friday with samples

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

More than five months after the opening of Riverwalk FoodCarts and Market-place, the Bechtolt family has a permanent food cart at the corner of Sixth Street and Marine Drive.

CJ's Trolley Stop Coffee and Food Cart, a product of Portland transplants Christine and Jeff Jacobson, will offer free samples Friday and open Saturday.

After raising their five kids — the youngest is 22 — the Jacobsons decided it was time to realize their dream of living on the coast, quitting their jobs and moving to Astoria in February. In August, the couple pulled out a food cart they had in storage, and painted it to appear as if looking out during a trolley ride along the Columbia River, which provides the backdrop to their cart and the Bechtolts' parking lot.

"We wanted to be Warren's anchor food cart," Jeff Jacobson said of the cart pod's main overseer, Warren Bechtolt. "Hopefully we get a few more carts in here."

After seeing the Riverwalk FoodCarts sign on the side of the road, the Jacobsons said they tracked down Bechtolt and got him to add electricity and water for their Class IV food cart, which includes sinks, ovens, grills — all new equipment they installed, except for a vintage espresso machine Jacobson said comes straight from Italy.

The Jacobsons plan to open for breakfast and lunch, including



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

CJ's Trolley Stop Coffee and Food Cart will offer éclairs and other pastries and candies on site and through preorders.

muffins, scones, cinnamon rolls, pies, cookies, éclairs and other pastries in the morning, along with tea and Kobos Coffee brewed in Portland, and a full assortment of mixed drinks and cold brew coffee and tea. The couple make their own fry bread, using it for entrées like breakfast sandwiches, barbecue pulled pork and Zenner's Sausage Co. sausages wrapped into "dough dogs." The cart will also offer clam chowder daily, along with a rotating daily soup.

"Every day, the goal is to have something different," Christine Jacobson said, adding the cart will do preorders over the phone and eventually add bicycle delivery.

The two said they are living off their savings, trying to make the food cart their full-time venture while giving back to the commu-

nity, donating to the Astoria Riverfront Trolley and giving leftover food to homeless shelters. Jeff Jacobson said he was a chef at Oswego Lake Country Club for nearly 20 years. Christine said she represented TBS Couriers and briefly worked at Shilo Inn in Seaside until September.

"It's exciting and scary and a challenge," she said. "But we're anticipating it's going to be good."

**Christine Jacobson, co-owner of CJ's Trolley Stop Coffee and Food Cart, said she wants to have a rotating cast of soups and entrees, along with daily staples like barbecue pulled pork, homemade fry bread and clam chowder.**

Edward Stratton  
The Daily Astorian



## Foss keeps Brick House hoppin'

'Good evening and WELCOME TO THE BRIIIIICK HOUSE!!'

It's about time to start hearing those words again, as the Astoria basketball season kicks into full gear.

Just as legendary public address announcer Don Essig is the "Voice of the Ducks" on gameday, Dan Foss is the "Voice of the Fishermen."

And he's much more than that. The longtime industrial arts teacher at Astoria High School has, over the years, coached golf, volleyball and soccer; and volunteered for much more (timer at swim meets, driver for Volunteer Parades, etc.).

His career is just now starting to wind down a little. Foss has already stepped down as the Astoria boys golf coach, and he's close to retirement as a teacher.



Daily Astorian/File Photo

Dan Foss, pictured as a volunteer driver for a recent Astoria Homecoming Parade.

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