

**LOCALS SHINE
NEAR AND FAR**
HOMETOWN REPORT • 7A



**THREE PLAYS,
ONE NIGHT**
COAST WEEKEND

DIVE, ROBOT

Students use technology to help find shipwrecks

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

A select group of the top student robot-builders assembled Tuesday in physics instructor Pat Keefe's bottom-floor laboratory at Clatsop Community College.

The team, comprised of engineering, mathematics and other technologically gifted students from Astoria, Warrenton and Jewell, is tasked with building a new underwater robot for the Maritime Archaeological Society to find shipwrecks around the mouth of the Columbia River and on the North Coast.

The team

Organizing the construction of a remotely operated vehicle, or ROV, is Georges Oates Larsen, head of the college's underwater robotics team and a member of the archaeological society.

"We were looking into the possibility of having the competition ROV do these missions," Larsen said. "We looked at that, and that ended up being a little too expensive. We switched gears and said 'Hey, it would be really interesting if we could start up an ROV program.' We could create a division of the ROV club that's responsible for constructing and working with an OpenROV."

The archaeological society, using a grant from the Clatsop County Cultural Coalition, purchased a submersible from OpenROV, a company that manufactures inexpensive kits for educational programs.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Clockwise from bottom left: Brenton Davis, Georges Oates Larsen, Jonathan Kaminski, Darby Cullen, Sam Daire, and Ashley Fish in the physics lab at Clatsop Community College.



The Maritime Archaeological Society recently adopted the Beeswax Wreck Project, the long-running search for what is believed to be a Spanish galleon that sank near the Nehalem Spit in the late 17th century.

Submitted Photo

The Maritime Archaeological Society believes the remains of the Spanish galleon Santo Cristo De Burgos are located near the coastline off of Manzanita.

Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Cannon Beach fire execs stand pat

Special recall election
planned for April

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — A special election will be held in April on the recall of three Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District directors behind the firing of Mike Balzer as fire chief last October.

President Sharon Clyde and directors Linda Beck-Sweeney and Garry Adams chose to fight the recall rather than resign by Wednesday's deadline.

Beck-Sweeney and Adams issued identical statements as Clyde — who announced her intention Tuesday — citing the board's "fiduciary responsibility to those who elected them to provide a high level of oversight, particularly in matters of management and administration."

Balzer was dismissed "when the majority of the directors, elected by district voters, became concerned about his ability to perform the administrative skills required of the head of a public agency," according to the statements delivered to Clatsop County Clerk Valerie Crafard.

Mike Balzer

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Higher wages on way in Oregon

Minimum wage hike
plan becomes law

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown signed landmark legislation Wednesday to set a three-tier minimum wage increase schedule around the state, with Clatsop County going to \$13.50 an hour by 2022.

The plan, which establishes a higher minimum wage in the Portland area and a lower amount in areas with a struggling economy, is the first of its kind in the nation, said state Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland.

"I am so delighted to be here today to celebrate the achievement of my top priority for the short session to raise Oregon's

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Ailing health practitioner now needs help

Stroke sidelines
Meno after years
of service on Long
Beach Peninsula

By LYNDA LAYNE
For EO Media Group

It's not easy to keep a good man down, but in Mike Meno's case, he has no choice.

Mostly confined to a bed at Clatsop Care Center in Astoria, Meno, a longtime Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula health care provider, is making slow but sure progress with physical and occupational therapy, fighting to regain mobility from a stroke he suf-

fered while in a hospital after Christmas when he was being treated for pneumonia. And as is sometimes the case with insurance policies, the longer he is in the care center, the less the company is going to pay. Meno and his family need help.

HOW TO HELP

The Mikey's Road to Recover GoFundMe page is:
<https://www.gofundme.com/z2mu9hgs>
To visit Meno or send cards:
Clatsop Care Center
Mike Meno
646 16th St.
Room 318/2
Astoria, OR 97103

Financial help

Daughter Kallie Meno set up a GoFundMe account, titled Mikey's Road to Recovery. Already, \$8,600 has been received through donations, but more is needed. Kallie Meno, a 2005 graduate of Ilwaco High School, lives in Seattle, where she works as a headhunter for a company called Porch.

On the GoFundMe page, she wrote, "If you've spent much time on the coast of Washington or Oregon, chances are you've met my father. He spent years as city council and volunteered as medical aid for our high school basketball and football teams. A physician's assistant for 40-plus years, he took care

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Anna Reed/Statesman-Journal

Gov. Kate Brown celebrates before signing Senate Bill 1532, increasing Oregon's minimum wage according to a tiered system, at the state Capitol in Salem on Wednesday.

