



CAR SHOWS,
PROPERTY LINES
INSIDE



LONG, LONG
GONE
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Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

A close look at an Eric Wiegardt painting at the Columbia Forum reveals a medley of color and texture.

CREATIVE STRUGGLE

Artists describe tension of art, commerce

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

Two roads diverge before serious artists early in their careers: What happens if they decide to become commercial artists, customizing their craft to satisfy a specific market? What happens if they don't?

"If you do, you're beholden to that market, and it can be very difficult," said Eric Wiegardt, a professional watercolorist based in Ocean Park, Washington.

Wiegardt and Darren Orange, an Astoria-based mixed-media artist, discussed their entrepreneurial paths through the art scene — their paintings, processes and practical wisdom — during the final lecture of the Columbia Forum's 26th season Thursday night in Columbia Memorial Hospital's Community Center.

The first road, they said, is replete with compromise. The final product may never reflect what artists consider their best work, let alone fulfill their highest vision of themselves as artists.

On the other hand, the road is often replete with money — precious, comforting money that makes food materialize.

Not taking that road, Wiegardt said, may have made his life tougher than it needed to be.

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LEFT: Eric Wiegardt speaks about his art during the Columbia Forum dinner on Thursday. Local artists Wiegardt and Darren Orange spoke about their art and the business of art. RIGHT: Darren Orange answers questions and talks about his process during the Columbia Forum dinner on Thursday.



Paintings by Eric Wiegardt are seen on display during the Columbia Forum dinner on Thursday.

Sodomy case dismissed in Goodding legal fallout

Fallen officer was lead investigator in crimes

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

A Seaside man accused of sodomizing and sexually abusing a young girl had the charges dropped Thursday, the latest legal fallout from the death of Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Goodding.

The entire case against Ronald F. Flores had to be re-evaluated because Goodding, who was shot and killed in the line of duty in February, was the lead investigator.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said any time someone is unavailable to appear in court — whether it is a witness skipping town or a murdered police officer — their testimony and reports become hearsay, which is inadmissible as evidence.

"It's a tragic result because of a tragedy that happened," Brown said.

The District Attorney's Office has been doing damage control over the past few months, Brown said, trying to prosecute cases where Goodding was the lead or only officer. Felony cases down to drunken-driving arrests have been influenced.

In the case against Flores, the prosecution was able to get a harassment conviction. However, two counts of first-degree sodomy and two counts of first-degree sex abuse were dismissed.

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Timberlands up for auction

Land has served as coastal tree farm

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Have an extra \$2 million to \$4 million lying around?

Realty Marketing/Northwest is auctioning two parcels in a coastal tree farm near Ecola State Park that overlook Cannon Beach.

The properties are some of the last timberlands owned by Weyerhaeuser in Clatsop County.

"It's what I call a real 'green gold' type of property, because there's merchantable timber there now, and there's timber that will be merchantable in 10 to 18 years," said John Rosenthal, president of Realty Marketing.

A western parcel of 156 acres adjoining both Ecola State Park and the Elmer Feldenheimer Forest Reserve is available for a minimum reserve of \$1.8 million. The property contains an estimated 1.6 million board feet of mostly 70-year-old white-woods, with an additional 1.9 million board feet of timber projected to be available within 18 years.

The eastern parcel of more than 184 acres next to U.S. Highway 101 is available for a minimum reserve of \$1.9 million. The land includes an estimated 2.9 million board feet of timber, with another 2 million board feet projected to be available within 18 years.

The properties can be sold separately, but the sales are pegged on aggregate bids totaling at least \$3.8 million. Weyerhaeuser, however, will entertain lower bids.

The parcels have been managed as a tree farm for the past 75 years. The land can be accessed by Radar Road on U.S. Highway 101.

Rosenthal said the properties include viewing platforms and signs marking the age of various timber stands. Sealed bids are due by May 26.

Rare white-tailed deer still in peril

Wildlife biologists want to keep native species on the endangered list

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — State and federal wildlife managers have been trying to save the endangered Columbian white-tailed deer since the late 1960s, with mixed results.

A population in southern Oregon has bounced back, and has been removed from the federal Endangered Species List. However, despite extensive efforts to improve their habitat, control predators, and even trap and relocate them, their counterparts on the Lower Columbia River continue to struggle.



EO Media Group/File Photo

Columbian white-tailed deer, the region's smallest and rarest native deer species, are protected on the Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuge between Skamokawa and Cathlamet.

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