

Derby: Former students take part in event

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"Come back next week, and you'll catch a lot of our hatchery fish," Nikkila said.

Cain's students spent Friday night seining for the rainbow trout, pulling 69 out and running them one and two at a time in nets to an oxygen-fed tank in the back of a school district truck for delivery to Coffenburg Lake the night before the derby.

As for the fishing, Cain gave more credit to the general unpredictability in the sport. "It's hard to know why the fish don't bite," he said.

Research Hatchery

The high school's hatchery receives fish from the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program. Students also raise batches of rainbow trout for derbies three years out.

Cain said he sees the science center as more research-focused. Each year, he sends his students out into the field to conduct independent research assignments, from Nikkila's study of microplastics debris in the diets of salmon to Sariah Dieffenbach's study on the effects of temperature on freshwater snails.

"This class has actually altered my job for the future," said junior Sofia Ward, who studies the salinity tolerance of local freshwater fish and wants



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The night before their fishing derby fundraiser, students in Astoria High School's aquatic biology program and fisheries technology class scooped tagged rainbow trout out of a student-run hatchery for delivery to Coffenburg Lake.

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Brian Alfonse

2002 graduate who went on to become a wildlife biologist with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife

to be a biologist.

Dieffenbach said fisheries technology is the class she looks forward to most at school, a common sentiment in the tight-knit group of students drawn to the hands-on scientific work in nature.

Alumni event

Making the rounds on the lakefront Saturday, Cain kept spotting his former students, back to take part in the derby, some current or studying biologists who started their research in his class.

A graduate from 2013, Mack Hunter makes custom tackle, and was one of nearly 30 businesses to donate a product for the raffle at the end of the derby. Hunter's tackle helps pay tuition at the University of Oregon, where he studies aquatic biology with a focus on salmon habitat, and hopes to transfer from into the fisheries and wildlife sciences program at Oregon State University.

Down the waterfront Saturday was Brian Alfonse, a 2002 graduate who went on to become a wildlife biologist with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"I didn't really know what I was doing until I started that program, and that really inspired me to get into fisheries," Alfonse said, remembering the salmon barbecues the program used to put on to raise money.

He now works in a program to reintroduce chum salmon on the lower Columbia River. On Saturday, he was helping a niece and nephew keep a hold of their poles.

"I feel like I had a science-type mindset," he said. "I like being able to work outside and work in nature."

"That can be one of the great inspirations, having a great teacher."

Nance: She is fundraising to buy more safety, video equipment

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"I only found one mention of a woman of African descent, and this woman was from Barbados," she said of Maria Victor, who spent 2007 to 2013 circling the globe.

A friendly escape

Nance was born in Grants Pass and raised a desert-dweller in Tucson, Arizona. While babysitting her friends' children near Phoenix for room and board in 2012, Nance said she posted on Facebook about her yearning to see the world.

"The funny thing is I couldn't figure out exactly how," she said. "How am I going to do it? How am I going to get the money?"

Her answer came with a message from Smith, whom she had lived, worked and become friends with in Phoenix. Smith had been sailing since he was a child, wanted to circle the globe but didn't want to do it alone. Despite having zero experience with sailing, Nance dove in.

"I went to the library and checked out a bunch of books about sailing, including 'Sailing for Dummies,'" she said. "I watched a lot of sailing videos on YouTube and DVD."

Two years ago, she moved to Astoria. Within a few months, Smith had upgraded from his CAL 25 to a roomier Newport 28, which the two named Emuna Endeavor, the forename Hebrew for "faith." While sitting in a local employment office months later, Nance saw a flier for Clatsop Community College's maritime sciences program.

"The original idea of the Emuna Endeavor was interacting with people of different cultures," she said, adding she and Smith would act as ambassadors for peace. "Dovid speaks like five languages. I'm trying to learn French and Spanish."

She expects the trip to take three to five years, depending on whether they sail around Africa or go through the Suez Canal.

Nance said that although their voyage will happen regardless, she and Smith are fundraising to buy more safety and video equipment.

— Edward Stratton

Departures: County has not been briefed about the resignations

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sources say the resignations are in critical functions such as psychiatry, psychiatric nursing, crisis management and addiction counseling.

Cameron Moore, the county manager, said the county has not been briefed about the reasons behind the resignations.

"We already had concerns about the quality of care that CBH was providing to Clatsop County residents," he said. "This, obviously, adds to those concerns."

"However, at this point, we haven't been briefed by CBH

to confirm these departures and to understand the reasons why."

Investigations

The Oregon Health Authority is conducting a review of management issues at Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, which is responsible, through a contract, for providing mental-health services on behalf of the county and state.

Law enforcement leaders and some social-service advocates have described a mental-health system in crisis and have questioned whether the agency's administrators have

adequately addressed persistent complaints about care.

"Anytime the community raises a concern at all, we have the authority to investigate," said Susan Stigers, a public affairs specialist with the Oregon Health Authority. "We take our responsibility seriously to do that."

Oregon AFSCME, a labor union that represents staff, took a "no confidence" vote against Michele Crump-Hart, the agency's clinical director. The union claimed staff morale and the public perception of the agency have declined under her leadership.

In addition to the state review, Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare is conducting an internal investigation.

"Both investigations are still in process, and we do not have a definitive time for when they will be complete," Benas said.

Moore said he does not want to impose an artificial timeline on the reviews, but would like to know some results soon.

"I'm very much hoping that by the end of May we would begin to see either the complete — or some results — from both the state and what I understand is an internal investigation being conducted by CBH," he said.



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