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FISHERMEN WIN SLUGFEST

SPORTS • 7A



SPRING UNVEILING

COAST WEEKEND



Sisters' first hug

Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

ABOVE: Marti Johnston, 70, tears up as she hugs her sister, Patricia Kibby, 85, for the first time Wednesday. BELOW: Patricia Kibby, left, and Marti Johnston, right, talk after Kibby disembarked from a cruise ship Wednesday morning.

Siblings meet after 70 years

Cruise ship brings long-lost family together

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Tears of love and elation filled Marti Johnston's eyes when she saw her big sister, Patricia Kibby, among the passengers disembarking from the cruise ship Norwegian Jewel as it unloaded Wednesday morning in Astoria.

It was the first time the women, now 70 and 85, had met in person.

Born of the same mother but different fathers, Johnston, of Longview, Washington, spent most of her life completely unaware of her sister, and then many more years not knowing how to connect with her.

All of that changed earlier this year when Johnston's niece — the daughter-in-law of a third half-sister, Dolly Musante — tracked her down. In late winter, Johnston had her very first phone conversations with her two older sisters.

When she and Kibby sat down to begin catching up on two lifetimes' worth of stories, "I cried the first time," she said. "It went really well."



As the cruise ship approached in the Columbia River, Johnston found herself pacing the pier with her husband, Bill — more excited, she said, than a child on Christmas Eve. When the tenders docked, she studied the passengers' faces and held up a sign reading, "Hi sis."

Then the sisters saw each other, and seconds later they were holding each other — momentarily frozen in an embrace that made up for all the hugs they couldn't share during the decades of confusion and separation.

Asked how she felt, Kibby's voice caught on the emotion of the moment: "I'm just excited — nervous, excited, thrilled."

And off they went to spend the day together.

Split-up siblings

Johnston, Kibby and Musante are the last-known living offspring of a woman named Thelma Faye Darling, whose habit of having children, sending them away, then having more children and sending them away kept many of the siblings from knowing one another while growing up in California.

"Our mother tossed us all out with the bathwater when we were babies, and that was kind of our story," Musante said. "There were six of us, and we were all tossed out."

Kibby — who has worked in many

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It's not enough for the salmon

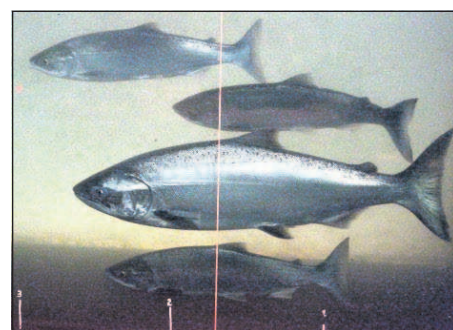
Judge: Salmon recovery requires big dam changes

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

A massive habitat restoration effort by the U.S. government doesn't do nearly enough to improve Northwest salmon runs, a federal judge ruled Wednesday, handing a major victory to conservationists, anglers and others who hope to someday see four dams on the Snake River breached to make way for the fish.

In a long-running lawsuit, U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon in Portland rejected the federal government's latest plan for offsetting the damage that dams in the Columbia River Basin pose to salmon, saying it violates the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

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AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

Two sockeye salmon swim in the Columbia River with a Chinook salmon, middle, at the Bonneville Dam fish-counting window near North Bonneville, Wash.

Court backs fishermen in antitrust suit

Fishers way of Pacific Seafood Group's purchase

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

A federal court order blocking Pacific Seafood Group from purchasing Ocean Gold Seafoods will remain until a trial into whether the sale would create a monopoly.

Commercial fishermen won a preliminary injunction against the sale last year in U.S. District Court in Medford. A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district court's order Tuesday.

The fishermen allege that Pacific Seafood's acquisition of Ocean Gold, a large fish processor in Westport, Washington, would establish a monopoly in the groundfish, whiting and coldwater shrimp markets.

Pacific Seafood, a Clackamas-based company that is a dominant player in fish processing and distribution, announced after a legal setback last year that the deal for Ocean Gold was canceled.

But the company, led by Frank Dulcich, wanted the court to compel antitrust as part of a previous antitrust suit by fishermen that was settled. The district court declined, a decision also upheld by the appeals court.



Frank Dulcich

Top of the class at Astoria schools

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
Gayla Hollaway, right, the longest-tenured teacher at Astoria School District, was honored Wednesday by the Astoria School Board and the district's foundation, including school board members Jeanette Sampson, left, and Grace Laman. Hollaway, a sixth-grade teacher with more than 39 years in the district, will retire after this year.

When she started as a sixth-grade teacher at the then K-8 Lewis and Clark Consolidated School in 1976, Gayla Hollaway remembers her salary was about \$9,000 and the librarian had one of the only personal computers on campus.

During more than 39 years as an educator in Astoria, Hollaway saw the standalone district she started with merge into Astoria School District and technology advance to where she now uses Google Chromebooks to help teach her students.

Hollaway, who retires this summer as the longest-tenured teacher in Astoria after more than 39 years, was one of the many staff and faculty honored for tenure and excellence at the inaugural Tradition of Excellence awards Wednesday at Astoria High School.

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