

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143RD YEAR, NO. 223

DailyAstorian.com // MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016

ONE DOLLAR

THE SALMON CANNON 3000



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Wyatt Jackson, left, releases several Chinook salmon into the Skipanon River on a slide, nicknamed the Salmon Cannon 3000. Next to Jackson are Brian Xochipiltecatl, center, and the slide's creator, sophomore Brandon Williamson.

SLIP SLIDIN' TO THE SKIPANON

Warrenton High's Salmon Cannon 3000 sends fish on their way

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Kids lined up behind Warrenton High School Friday for a chance to help release student-raised Chinook salmon into the Skipanon River, one net at a time.

Warrenton High Fisheries Inc., the nonprofit, student-run hatchery, let kids scoop a small net full of salmon from a bucket and send them down the Salmon Cannon 3000, a series of spray-painted plastic gutters sloping down toward the Skipanon.

"The fish have to travel about 48 feet," said sophomore Brandon Williamson, a fisheries student and the slide's designer.

Williamson estimates he spent about 15 to 20 hours on the slide. After the fish were dropped into the gutter, they had an equal chance of going left or right, before looping down the bank and into the river. Williamson went up and down the bank of the Skipanon Friday, steady-ing rocks that held some parts of the lengths of gutter in place, and trying to scare away a sea otter waiting for the fingerlings to slip out the end of a track.

Warrenton receives surplus eggs each year from local hatcheries through the Salmon Trout Enhancement Program, including 20,000 Chinook, 6,000 coho salmon and 500 steelhead trout this year. Students incubate the eggs and raise the salmon to fingerlings before releasing them at community events.

Fisheries program teacher Steve Porter said his students probably kept alive about 85 percent of the salmon they received as eggs last year. He said more than 5,000 salmon were released Friday. In a high school tradition, graduating seniors will release many more.



LEFT: Salmon in sophomore Brandon Williamson's Salmon Cannon 3000 slid nearly 50 feet down a set of gutters into the Skipanon River. RIGHT: Warrenton High Fisheries, a student-run hatchery, is expecting to release more than 20,000 salmon and steelhead this spring.

ELECTION 2016

Primary interest is high

A quarter of ballots already in for Tuesday's primary election

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — About one-fourth of the state's nearly 2.3 million registered voters had turned in ballots for Oregon's primary election by the end of Thursday, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

County clerks said they were expecting a more robust turnout — up to 60 percent of voters — before the 8 p.m. Tuesday deadline because of strong interest in the contests for the Republican and Democratic nominations for president.

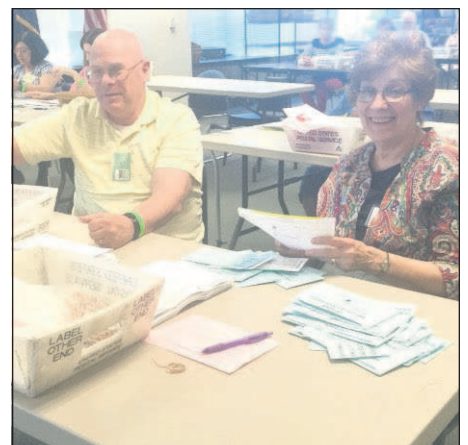
"Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump are both bringing in more participation this election," said Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess. "It's hard to know what the votes will come up with in terms of results."

Voters also will be deciding party nominees for governor and secretary of state and local offices.

Here's what you need to know for voting in the last days of the election:

- The time has passed for vote by mail for

See PRIMARY, Page 10A



Pamplin Media Group
Election workers Frank Pauley and Bev Clayton-Quiring sort ballots Friday at the Marion County Clerk's Office.

Cannon Beach may hike water rates

Increase is 'just the beginning'

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach residents may pay more for their water next year.

City staff suggested water, wastewater and storm drain rate increases at the May budget committee meetings. They also suggested a study to bring the city's rates "up to market rate." Without the hike, money would need to be transferred from the city's general fund, as it has in years past.

Staff has proposed a 7 percent increase in monthly water charges, which would go from \$795,000 to \$845,000 in next year's budget.

The 7 percent increase is "just the beginning," Public Works Director Dan Grassick said.

The amount is a conservative estimate, Grassick said, because the city will not get the entire 7 percent.

"When you raise your prices, people tend to conserve," he said. Ratepayers may see an



Dan Grassick

New city planner has a lot on her plate

From vacation rentals to food carts, 'there is so much going on'

Astoria City Planner Nancy Ferber is well aware of how important her role is to providing direction and approval on building permits, economic development and historic preservation.

Ferber also knows the large shoes she is filling by replacing Rosemary Johnson, who retired last year after a 35-year career.

Ferber said she is up for the challenge.

An average day consists of balancing historic preservation rules, addressing the housing



Submitted Photo

See FERBER, Page 10A Nancy Ferber is the new city planner in Astoria.

See WATER RATES, Page 10A

