



LGBT TO SHOW THEIR PRIDE
COAST WEEKEND • INSIDE

ASTORIA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2016
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Clinical director resigns from mental health agency



Move comes after internal investigation

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

The clinical director at Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare has resigned as the mental health



agency responds to the findings of an internal investigation and a state review into management. The agency announced

Wednesday that Michele Crump-Hart, who has served as clinical director since 2014, and Sumner Watkins, the executive director, had come to the mutual agreement that it is in the best interest of the agency for Crump-Hart to resign.

Ben Paz, the agency's outpatient adult program manager and a former director of the Lake County Mental Health Department, has been

appointed interim clinical director.

"Under his leadership, Clatsop Behavioral Health clinical staff will continue to provide our clients with the best of care," Nick Benas, the agency's director of business operations, said in an email.

Benas said the agency's board and Watkins would address the findings of the internal investigation. He did not publicly disclose the findings or, as of Wednes-

day, share the results with Clatsop County Manager Cameron Moore.

The county contracts with Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare for mental health services and has been concerned about management and the quality of care.

"We continue to have concerns about the quality of services that CBH is providing in the

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'EMPIRES OF THE TURNING TIDES'



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Claire Bowman, 10, exits Fort Clatsop wearing a bonnet while exploring with her family on vacation Wednesday at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

Oregon wants to test all schools for lead

Astoria, Seaside and Warrenton will check water

Associated Press and staff reports

PORTLAND — Oregon health and education officials said Wednesday they will team up with school districts and licensed child care programs statewide to facilitate testing for lead in school drinking water over the summer.

The plan responds to a directive from Gov. Kate Brown in April and comes on the heels of belated disclosures about lead in the drinking water of some Portland Public Schools.

In March, the district arranged to test for lead at two schools at the request of parents who were concerned about the unfolding public health crisis in Flint, Michigan. Those tests revealed elevated levels of lead in 14 of 92 water sources at the schools, including a handful of drinking fountains, but parents were not told for weeks.

That disclosure has motivated other school districts around the state to test their water for lead, which is a neurotoxin.

Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes said the district is voluntarily testing the water at its four schools, but waiting to get the testing materials. While it normally takes a couple weeks to get the tubes for testing, Hoppes said, he is hearing of a large backlog because so many schools are testing for lead.

Seaside Superintendent Doug Dougherty said his district is also testing, and that results will be available in July or August at the latest.

Warrenton-Hammond Superintendent Mark Jeffery said his district is preparing to test for lead within two weeks.

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FILLING IN THE CRACKS

Professor and author describes local history as empires rising and falling

By **KYLE SPURR**
The Daily Astorian

The Columbia-Pacific region is marked by a diversity of people and natural resources that have shaped the landscape over time.

Research professor and author Doug Deur describes the local history as a succession of empires rising and falling, each with its own ethnic diversity and signature resource. The past two centuries have seen a boom and bust in the fur trade, canneries, timber and tourism.

Deur explored the idea in his new book, "Empires of the Turning Tides."

"There is an awful lot of local history that has fallen through the cracks," he said.



Doug Deur



Fifth-graders from Chauncey Davis Elementary School in South Bend, Washington, explore the canoe launch area during a school field trip Wednesday at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

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Don't touch seal pups on the beach

It's harbor seal pupping season

By **LYRA FONTAINE**
The Daily Astorian

It is peak time for harbor seal pups to show up alone on Oregon beaches.

The Seaside Aquarium has received at least a dozen reports this spring of baby harbor seals spotted on the beach, general manager Keith Chandler said.

The first seal pups were spotted in late April. The harbor seal pupping season is

usually from April through August, Tiffany Boothe, of the Seaside Aquarium, said.

Although the baby seals might look cute or lonely, beachgoers should give them space and not touch them. They can report the seal sighting to the Seaside Aquarium at 503-738-6211. The aquarium then posts signs around the seal so it can rest.

"We try to get out and put signs around them to get people to just leave it alone, because the beach is where they live," Chandler said. "It's like their bedroom."

The harbor seal pups are typ-



Submitted Photo

A harbor seal pup on the Seaside beach, where they can be found during pupping season April through August.

ically not stranded, but waiting to be cared for and fed by their mothers — who are likely waiting for human activity to clear out before returning to shore.

"They try to go to an isolated place where there are colonies of seals, but sometimes

they can't plan where they are born," Chandler said.

After harbor seals are weaned from maternal care and catch their own food, they may often come ashore to rest on land.

In whale news, the aquar-

ium received a report that some orcas recently went to Tillamook Bay, Chandler said. While most orcas are located near Vancouver Island, a group of transient orcas "cruise up and down the coast" and feed on marine mammals.

