

College robotics team heads to NASA

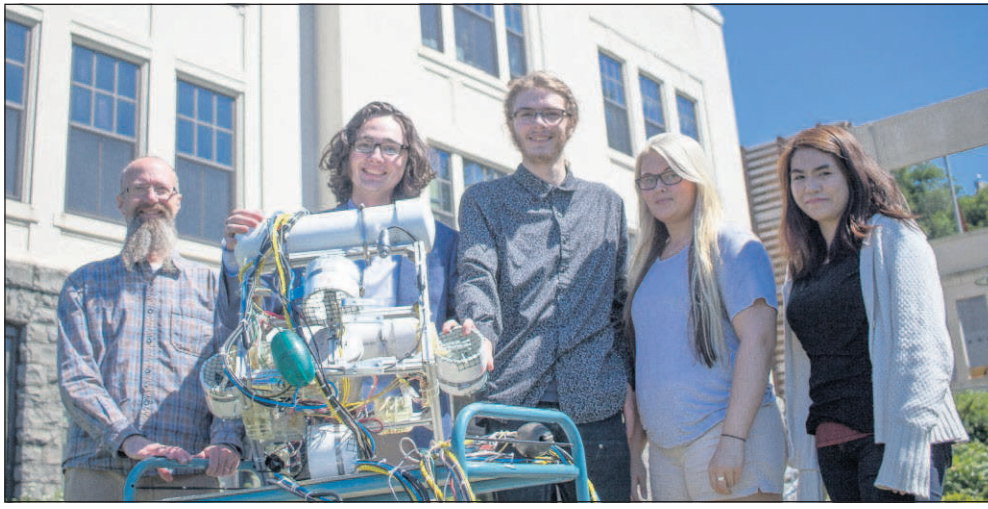
Only team in the state to advance in competition

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

After beating out the likes of Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon State University in Newport, Clatsop Community College is the only collegiate team in the state heading to NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory in Houston for Marine Advanced Technology Education's underwater robotics competition.

The college's team, nicknamed SQUAD (Specialized TasQ-force for Underwater Advanced Development), will go up against 31 other mostly research universities from 12 states and 10 countries to see who has the best submersible robot.

Leading the group is CEO and mathematics major Georges Oates Larsen, who has put in more than 1,500 hours designing Magnificus "Maggie" Praesegmen (Latin for Magnificent Scrap), the



Clatsop Community College's underwater robotics team is headed by physics instructor Pat Keefe, left. From left to right are team members Georges Oates Larsen, Sam Diare, Darby Cullen and L Goyena.

college's most advanced robot ever. The robot will have to complete an underwater obstacle course transitioning an oil rig into an artificial reef.

Team project

Helping Larsen are students Darby Cullen, the vice president of research and design; Sam Diare, the vice president of manufacturing; and L Goyena, the vice president of publicity.

The team has spent \$1,300 building Maggie, while Cullen said some of their competition

can spend \$20,000 or more on their robots. The team has subsisted largely on donations, scavenged parts from previous robots and the personal credit card of physics instructor Pat Keefe, who oversees what he said is the most advanced robotics team the college has ever fielded.

"They're totally self-motivated," he said. "I try to squelch them, because I can see my credit card maxing out."

Keefe buys a lot of the parts, and said he charged

the airfare for the group to his credit card. He said the team needs about \$1,000 in donations to recoup what he spent on airfare, and could spend up to \$500 more on materials for Maggie, which still needs pressure sensors and an operable claw for the competition.

Keefe was around in 2006, the first year the college qualified for internationals, also in Houston, and placed fourth for their class and in the top 10 over the next four years. He said former maritime instruc-

MORE INFORMATION:

To donate to the robotics team, send a check to Clatsop Community College, 1651 Lexington Ave., Astoria, OR 97103, with "ROV team" in the memo line. The team is also on Facebook.

tor Dennis Degner introduced him to the program and mentored the team the first year.

Second Home

The formation of the current team started when Larsen, a homeschooled, came to the college for an orientation.

"I saw (Larsen) and said 'that kid's mine,'" Keefe joked.

By the end of orientation, Larsen was helping Keefe untangle a tether to the old underwater robot. Larsen reconnected with Diare, a childhood friend, at a volunteer event creating electric cars for children with disabilities and talked him into joining.

Cullen, who is helping Larsen build another robot to search for shipwrecks off the Oregon Coast with the Maritime Archaeological Society, said he met her in an engineering class, saw her manufacturing abilities and said he needed someone competent to build props. Goyena was friends with Cul-

len, squeezed her way into the team's weekly meetings and has taken charge of the group's fundraising.

Only Diare is returning next year, while Larsen heads to Portland State University to study theoretical mathematics. Goyena and Cullen are attending Oregon State University to study pharmacology and mechanical engineering, respectively.

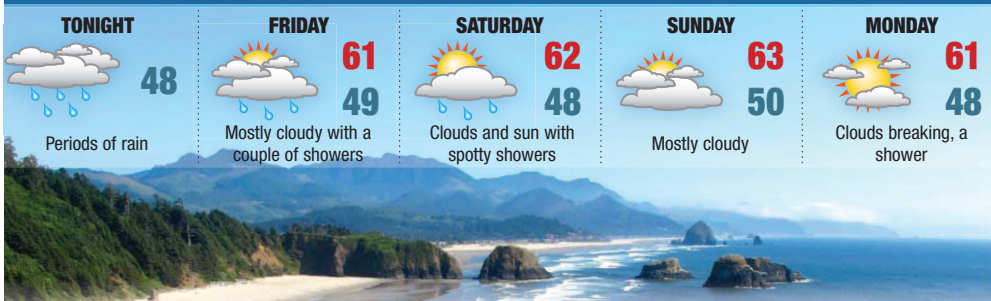
The team estimates more than 2,300 hours spent between them designing Maggie, fundraising and readying for the regional and now international competitions.

"This is our second home, pretty much," Goyena said.

If the team wins at NASA, Keefe said, all they get is a plaque. But for the team members, the competition has been more about their budding friendships and getting to NASA.

"I don't think it's as much about winning this as it is about the opportunity," Cullen said. "I'm excited about the doors it will open."

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Astoria through Wednesday.
Temperatures
 High/Low 65°/54°
 Normal high/low 63°/49°
 Record high 82° in 1932
 Record low 39° in 1933
Precipitation
 Wednesday 0.00"
 Month to date 0.09"
 Normal month to date 0.82"
 Year to date 37.31"
 Normal year to date 34.43"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 9:06 p.m.
 Sunrise Friday 5:24 a.m.
 Moonrise today 10:32 a.m.
 Moonset today 12:04 a.m.

First Full Last New
 June 12 June 20 June 27 July 4

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: The Summer Triangle is in view in the east and northeast at nightfall. The brightest member of the trio is Vega, which is well up in the northeast.

TOMORROW'S TIDES

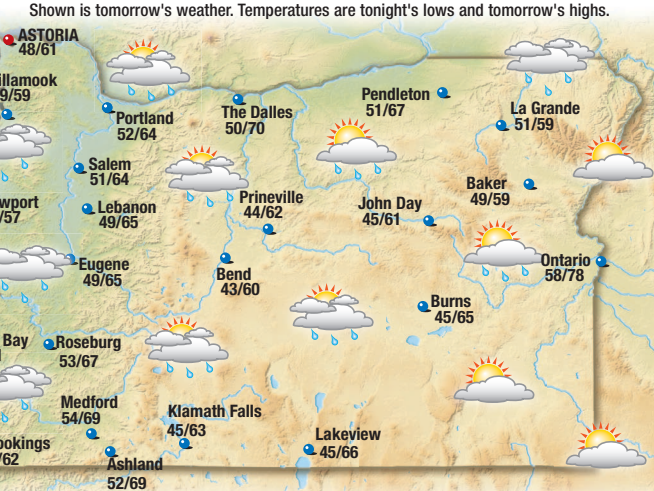
Astoria / Port Docks
 Time High Time Low
 5:34 a.m. 7.7 ft. 12:23 p.m. 0.0 ft.
 7:01 p.m. 7.8 ft. none

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Fri.	W	
Atlanta	88	67	s	92	72	s
Boston	69	52	pc	68	53	pc
Chicago	82	66	t	91	72	t
Denver	89	62	t	92	64	t
Des Moines	94	72	pc	94	74	t
Detroit	76	61	s	79	66	s
El Paso	100	77	pc	101	76	pc
Fairbanks	64	46	pc	72	52	pc
Honolulu	84	72	pc	83	73	pc
Indianapolis	81	64	pc	91	69	pc
Kansas City	91	69	pc	92	73	s
Las Vegas	106	82	s	102	77	s
Los Angeles	77	60	pc	77	60	pc
Memphis	91	68	s	94	72	s
Miami	86	76	t	88	77	t
Nashville	87	61	s	94	68	s
New Orleans	92	75	s	90	76	t
New York	72	58	s	77	60	s
Oklahoma City	90	70	s	91	70	pc
Philadelphia	75	56	s	78	60	s
St. Louis	92	73	pc	95	73	s
Salt Lake City	93	70	s	98	72	pc
San Francisco	69	55	pc	69	54	pc
Seattle	63	51	c	64	50	sh
Washington, DC	80	60	s	80	66	s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

REGIONAL WEATHER

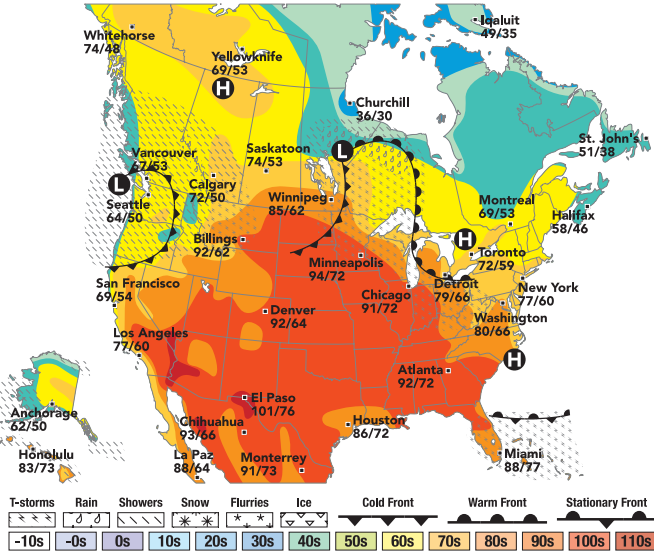


REGIONAL CITIES

City	Hi	Lo	W	Fri.	W	
Baker City	76	49	pc	59	39	pc
Bend	70	43	pc	60	35	sh
Brookings	61	49	c	60	46	sh
Eugene	66	49	c	65	45	sh
Ilwaco	59	51	sh	59	51	sh
Klamath Falls	72	45	pc	63	32	c
Medford	81	54	pc	69	46	sh
Newberg	62	48	sh	63	47	sh
Newport	59	49	c	57	47	sh
North Bend	63	52	c	62	49	sh
City	Hi	Lo	W <td>Fri.</td> <td>W</td>	Fri.	W	
Olympia	62	46	c	62	46	sh
Pendleton	79	51	pc	67	47	sh
Portland	64	52	sh	64	51	sh
Roseburg	71	53	c	67	48	sh
Salem	64	51	sh	64	49	sh
Seaside	60	51	sh	59	51	sh
Spokane	73	49	pc	59	46	sh
Springfield	67	49	c	64	46	sh
Vancouver	62	51	sh	63	50	sh
Yakima	76	47	pc	72	45	sh

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER

Show are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



County supports property tax break to benefit Goodding's family

The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution Wednesday supporting a property tax break to the surviving spouses of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

The county's approval follows a new state law that allows counties to grant property tax breaks up to \$250,000 to a surviving spouse.

It could benefit Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Goodding's wife.

Goodding was shot and

killed in February trying to arrest a man on a felony assault warrant.

The bill was supported by various law enforcement associations. State Sen. Betsy Johnson was one of the sponsors.

Goodding is survived by his wife, Amy, and two daughters.

Transportation district holds open house

The Daily Astorian

The Sunset Empire Transportation District is holding two open houses this week,

from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Astoria Transit Center, 900 Marine Drive, and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Seaside Factory Outlet Cen-

ter, 1111 N. Roosevelt Drive. Community input is wanted about future route and service change plans, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Pacific County rivers at record lows

EO Media staff report

PACIFIC COUNTY, Wash. — With the start of the Pacific Northwest's normally bone-dry summer still two weeks away, a sharp drop in precipitation this spring has reversed local water supplies built up during a notably wet winter.

Pacific County is experiencing its lowest stream flows on record in the Willapa and Naselle Rivers, the Pacific County Emergency Management Agency said Tuesday.

The Naselle River, which flows into Willapa Bay in south-central Pacific County, is currently at 40 cubic feet per second, the lowest for the date in 86 years of record keeping. It was 60 cfs at this time last year. The long-term average stream flow for June 7 is 156 cfs.

The Willapa River, which enters the bay from the county's northeastern and eastern hills, currently has stream flow of 52 cfs, lowest on record for this date in 61 years of record

keeping. It was 64 cfs at this time last year. The long-term average for the date is 207 cfs.

"The National Weather Service indicates that while we are looking at much cooler temperatures over the next week, with a little precipitation, it will not result in any major changes to stream flow," emergency managers said.

These dry conditions will create an increased risk of wildfires in the county's vast area of industrial forestland.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Wednesday's Pick 4:
 1 p.m.: 2-0-3-5
 4 p.m.: 4-4-5-2
 7 p.m.: 5-5-2-5
 10 p.m.: 6-0-8-3
Wednesday's Megabucks:
 7-8-19-28-35-46
 Estimated jackpot: \$5.9 million
Wednesday's Powerball:
 12-25-37-60-69, Powerball: 20
 Estimated jackpot: \$141 million

WASHINGTON
Wednesday's Daily Game:
 4-0-1
Wednesday's Hit 5: 09-23-30-32-39
 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000
Wednesday's Keno: 03-04-05-09-21-22-27-36-44-45-48-52-53-54-57-66-69-71-78-80
Wednesday's Lotto: 06-29-30-34-44-48
 Estimated jackpot: \$2.2 million
Wednesday's Match 4: 01-06-12-14

DEATH

June 8, 2016
WUCHERPENNIG, Steven Lee, 67, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary Crematory in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements. Visit www.hughes-ransom.com to share memories and sign the guest book.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY
Seaside Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 1225 Avenue A.
Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 698 Pacific Way.
Wickiup Water District Board, 6:30 p.m., 92648 Svensen Mar-

ket Road, Svensen.

Friday
Sunset Empire Transportation District Budget Committee, 9 a.m., presentation of 2016-2017 budget, Astoria Transit Center Conference Room, 900 Marine Drive.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits.

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