



BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JAKE THE ALLIGATOR MAN NEARS

COAST WEEKEND • INSIDE

Trapped in an emergency? Just text

Astoria Dispatch launches text-to-911 project

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Astoria Dispatch is one of the first emergency call centers in the state to start accepting text messages. The local dispatch center unveiled

the new technology this week, giving residents another option in an emergency situation. Receiving text messages allows dispatch centers to meet the public expectation of communicating by text, while benefiting the hearing impaired.

Through a partnership with Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Columbia and Clark counties and the city of Woodburn, Astoria Dispatch is a part of a six-month pilot project. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management agreed to fund the project, and will use feedback to expand

regionally. The Portland-metro area was chosen first since it borders Washington state, which already uses text-to-911. In Astoria, emergency calls are regularly received from Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz and Clark counties across the river. Not having capability in Oregon creates possible confusion and

risks to residents in southwest Washington whose texts are not received and go unanswered, according to the state emergency management office. Jeff Rusiecki, Astoria 911 communications manager, said the goal is to have texting available statewide by 2018.

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County fair tugs at the kid in us all



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Matthew Cano leads a cow to a water bucket at the Clatsop County Fair on Tuesday at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

Critters, carnival, karaoke and crunchies continue through Saturday

The Clatsop County Fair is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Saturday. The carnival is open noon to 10 p.m. • Entrance for adults is \$2, kids 12 and younger is \$1. Parking is \$1 per vehicle • Armbands allowing admission to all rides are \$25.



Tucker Delay, 5, carries a piglet to a warming lamp on Monday during setup for the Clatsop County Fair. The fair will run until Saturday.



On the opening day of the Clatsop County Fair, attendees ride a roller coaster Tuesday at the fairgrounds.



Kids compete in the tractor pull competition at the Clatsop County Fair on Tuesday at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds in Astoria.



Kids compete in the tractor pull competition during the opening day of the Clatsop County Fair on Tuesday at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds.

CLATSOP COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE

Today
3 p.m.: Raeann Phillips
5:30 p.m.: Clatsop County Karaoke Contest
7 p.m.: Craig Morgan

Friday
3:30 p.m.: Two Crows Joy
5:30 p.m.: The Olson Bros. Band
7:30 p.m.: Showdown

Saturday
10 a.m.: Logging Show
Noon: 4-H Fashion Revue
12:30 p.m.: Reach the Stars Dance
1:30 p.m.: 50/50 Line Dancers
3:30 p.m.: Fern Hill
5 p.m.: Matt Hundley
7:30 p.m.: Brownsmead Flats

Daily
Farmers Market
Puzzlemania
Kid's Pedal Tractor Pull
The Oregon Reptile Man
Manfred the Talking Horse
Heather Pearl

Fish cleaning stations gutted

Concerned about dumping innards into the Columbia River

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

No more fish cleaning at the Port of Astoria.

The Port is shutting down cleaning stations at the West and East mooring basins starting today because of environmental concerns. The stations will stay closed until the agency can ensure no fish guts or other remains are being tossed into the Columbia River.

The closure comes three days after the start of the popular Buoy 10 salmon fishing season. "It's the worst time of year to do it, but I cannot let another moment go by if we're doing" something wrong, Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, said.

The Port Commission on Tuesday voted to have staff work out an operating agreement with a local man who cuts fish at the West End Mooring Basin for a fee. Knight said the discussion got him thinking about how the Port has long allowed fish remains to be dumped into the river. The practice is an issue up and down the coast and river, he said, and one the state Department of Environmental Quality is taking a closer look at.

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The Daily Astorian/File Photo

The Port of Astoria is shutting down popular fish cleaning stations at the West and East mooring basins until it can ensure no fish remains are being dumped in the Columbia River.

Forrester witnessed North Coast's transformation

The Daily Astorian

Daily Astorian Editor and Publisher Steve Forrester retires Friday after 28 years at the publication's helm. In this interview with Chinook Observer Editor and Publisher, Matt Winters, Forrester talks about coming here, the era of change the newspaper covered as well as one particularly difficult story.

Matt Winters: A lot of people in Astoria still remember your parents and both Mike being involved at The Daily Astorian. You come from a long line of Oregon journalists. Was it a natural decision for you to get

involved in the business?

Steve Forrester: Like most adolescents, you try to do everything but what your father does. So I did a number of other things, including running a guy's political campaign and enjoyed that. But eventually I ended up doing this.

After Portland State, I worked for the Sellwood Bee and then five of us got together and we started Willamette Week in 1974. I was the managing editor. None of us would have predicted 42 years ago that the Oregonian would be heading for oblivion and Willamette Week would be left standing.

Q: At some point you and

your co-founders decided to sell?

A: We'd run out of capital so we had to sell, and we sold it to the Register-Guard in Eugene, so it was at that point I left.

Longtime Washington correspondent A. Robert Smith offered me his bureau. He wanted to retire, wanted to go do something else, and I was sort of rootless and foot-loose and single and it sounded great, so I did it. I bought his bureau in 1978.

Q: Did you know many people there when you arrived in D.C.?

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Steve Forrester, retiring editor and publisher of The Daily Astorian, chats with John Goodenberger, left, Ann Carpenter and Sean Fitzpatrick at a community open house for the newspaper Wednesday.

