

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR



## Taskforce tears down to build up estuaries

**CREST works with landowners to restore habitat**

By **EDWARD STRATTON**  
*The Daily Astorian*

WESTPORT — Across the Westport Slough from Carver Road, father and son Tom and Nate Alfonse and another family member are digging out a 100- to 300-foot section of dike separating 160 acres of wet-

lands from the channel.

The land historically was an unloading point for logs from the Oregon Coast Range being dumped off of railroad cars into the slough to be rafted down the Columbia River. When Alfonse Excavating of Astoria finishes digging out dikes and several tidal inlets by the end of the month, the property, part of the Julia Butler Hansen Wildlife Refuge, will once again be subject to the tides.

The Westport Slough Habitat Restoration Project is the 18th overseen by the Columbia River Estuary

Study Taskforce, which works with willing landowners downstream of the Bonneville Dam to rebuild estuarine environments beneficial to fish and other wildlife.

Paddling around the work site is Jason Smith, a Seaside native and habitat restoration project manager with CREST overseeing the project at Westport Slough.

Smith said the restoration site is where the Nehalem Valley Railroad, after traveling north through the

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Danny Miller  
The Daily Astorian  
**Matt Van Ess, CREST habitat restoration program manager, and CREST Director Denise Lofman look over a map of the Westport Slough habitat restoration project Tuesday in Westport.**

## You gotta love a Regatta parade



Andrew Fick carries his daughter, Zoja, 2, on his shoulders during the Astoria Regatta Junior Parade on Wednesday in downtown Astoria. Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

## Kids in costumes strut their stuff downtown

*The Daily Astorian*

Astoria Regatta festivities hit the streets Wednesday with the Junior Parade. • The celebration continues today with the Queen's Luncheon at the Astoria Golf & Country Club and the crowning of the 2016 queen at 6 p.m. at the Liberty Theater. • Saturday features a full day of festivities, including the Grand Land Parade (see story on Page 10A), Highwater Boat Parade, fireworks and more. The Astoria Regatta special section with the full calendar is online at <http://bit.ly/2aEgtbw> • Sailboat races and a concert wrap up the events Sunday.



Cub Scouts in Packs 509 and 211 march during the Astoria Regatta Junior Parade in downtown Astoria on Wednesday.



Carolyn Roe, left, and Clara Moore walk with their arms around each other during the Astoria Regatta Junior Parade on Wednesday.

### MORE INSIDE

See more photos from the Junior Parade and read about Saturday's parade route on **Page 10A**.

## Odds of Big One revised upward

Risk of major Cascadia quake higher than previously thought

By **KALE WILLIAMS**  
*The Oregonian*

Using data with an unprecedented level of detail, a team of international researchers, including some from Oregon State University, have found that a major earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone is more likely than previously thought.

The team also found that quakes along the subduction zone happen more frequently and some of the region's largest population centers, including Portland and Seattle, are overdue for a rupture.

"These new results are based on much better data than has been available before, and reinforce our confidence in findings regarding the potential for major earthquakes on the Cascadia Subduction Zone," Chris Goldfinger, a leading expert on tectonic activity and professor of earth sciences at Oregon State, said in a statement.

"With more detailed data we have also changed somewhat our projections for the average recurrence interval of earthquakes on the subduction zone, especially the northern parts. The frequency, although not the intensity, of earthquakes there appears to be somewhat higher than we previously estimated," he added.

The subduction zone, which runs from Northern California to British Columbia, is broken up into four sections. Projections for earthquakes in the southern sections, south of Newport, have stayed the same, but from Newport northward experts believe the likelihood of a significant quake are greater than previously believed.

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Chris Goldfinger

## Amusement park is ready to Rock-O-Plane

**Long Beach park fixes rides, aims for 'bigger and better' future**

By **LUKE WHITTAKER**  
*EO Media Group*

LONG BEACH, Wash. — An ambitious amusement park makeover is underway in Long Beach. The owners of LB Amusement, since May, Chris Summerer and Russell Maize, have been on a mission to return the park to its former prominence.

"That was the first thought

in our mind, to get (the rides) repaired and back running again," Summerer said. "Over the years they have fallen into disrepair and have sat here idle." A carousel, Tilt-A-Whirl and bumper cars comprise the core rides of the park, where rides on the fringes of the property have been the focus of a face-lift.

Several of the rides have been out of service for longer than many children attending have been alive, but they will soon discover what they've been missing.

"It's exciting," said Summerer. "When I first came to Long Beach in 2002, these were all running." It's been nearly a

decade since Long Beach residents stood in line for a ride on the "Rock-O-Plane," but the wait won't be much longer. The final green light is likely in coming weeks pending a final inspection. Finding parts, including new 'scissors' and an electrical box, took time. Summerer estimates the last refurbish occurred in 1996, and the ride has been entirely idle for about eight years.

Twenty years later, the ride is receiving a makeover from Marcus Cox, Casey Strong and Jeremy Peven, the trio tasked with repainting the colossal ride from fire engine red



Luke Whittaker/EO Media Group  
**Bob Steffens works to remove rust from the tracks of the "Tilt-A-Whirl" Monday at the LB Amusement Park in Long Beach. Steffens has provided park maintenance for more than 20 years.**

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