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ONE DOLLAR

TAKE A PEEK AT PUPS FROM AROUND THE NORTH COAST



WOOF! IT'S NATIONAL DOG DAY FRIDAY EXTRA • 1C-5C

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Smith gets life for Cannon Beach horror

In tragedy, a father finds inspiration from daughters

By **KYLE SPURR**
The Daily Astorian

Gregory Smith is inspired every day by his two daughters.

He focuses on their joyful zest for life and adventure, rather than their role as victims in a tragic crime committed by his ex-wife, Jessica Smith. His ex-wife was sentenced

to life in prison Thursday for drowning their toddler, Isabella Smith, and slashing their teenager, Alana Smith, in a Cannon Beach resort in July 2014.

"I realize I have no guarantees of my words reaching you, much less changing the tragedy of the past couple years," Gregory Smith told his ex-wife at the sentencing hearing in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

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Jessica Smith listens during her sentencing Thursday in Clatsop County Court.

Beth Nakamura
The Oregonian

PADDLERS CELEBRATE PARK CENTENNIAL



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

More than 50 paddlers make their way down the Lewis and Clark River to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service on Thursday in Astoria. More photos available online at DailyAstorian.com

Lewis and Clark park hosts party on the water

By **KYLE SPURR**
The Daily Astorian

More than 50 paddlers took to the waterways around Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Thursday evening to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Experienced paddlers maneuvered the open water of Youngs Bay to reach the park, while others rode their kayaks and canoes down Lewis and Clark River from the park's Netul Landing.

The two groups, each led by park rangers, eventually met on the river at Otter Point, near the park's northern boundary. The gathering of canoes and kayaks was the most seen on the river for a park-sponsored event.

"All parks are doing a celebration. This is our part of it," Chris Clatterbuck, chief of resources at the park, said.

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

A historical gun salute is fired from the shore as about 50 paddlers celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service on Thursday.

Drip, drip, drip ...

Warrenton faces costly cracks in water, sewer pipes

By **ERICK BENDEL**
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Cracks and unsealed joints in Warrenton's old water and sewer lines are quietly costing the city a lot of money, though it is unclear just how much.

"This is a problem that's accumulated over time," Public Works Director Jim Dunn said. "It's not something that just happened overnight."

Depending on the season, a decent volume of the water piped from the water treatment plant to faucets, showers, toilets and other outlets leaks out along the way.

However, "there's a lot of ways water can be lost without it leaking out of the pipe," Dunn said.

Up to 30 percent of potable water usage in Warrenton is unaccounted for, because of leakage, faulty meters that underreport water usage and areas without meters at all, according to a recent Oregon Health Authority capacity assessment.

The asbestos-concrete pipes that were installed decades ago, and are no longer permitted under development codes, give the city the most grief.

"We have a lot of those pipes in our system, which are brittle," Dunn said.

See **WATER**, Page 8A

ODOT's lax review raises questions of fraud

By **NICK BUDNICK**
Capital Bureau

Potholes and ruts cost the average Oregonian driver hundreds of dollars in vehicle repairs every year.

But as Oregon Department of Transportation Director Matt Garrett prepares to ask lawmakers for hundreds of millions of dollars in increased taxes and fees on Oregonians to fund new roads and bridge upgrades, documents show that his department has for more than a decade resisted basic quality improvements intended to stop construction fraud, combat premature

potholes and make roads last longer.

Federal highway officials have warned ODOT repeatedly since 2005 that its road-paving inspection program is vulnerable to fraud. Because the department fails to undertake basic precautions, asphalt contractors can game ODOT's system to make it appear standards were met while compromising road quality, similar to what Volkswagen did with diesel emissions.

ODOT estimates it spends \$100 million a year on asphalt. In the past year, it used about 1.6 million tons of it to build new roads and

rehabilitate existing ones.

For about two decades, Oregon has relied on road contractors to test their own asphalt quality and show they meet minimum standards. State technicians do their own tests to spot-check one-in-10 results.

Garrett maintains that the department's money is well spent, that he has faith in the integrity of Oregon's construction oversight system.

But the federal assessment that Oregon is vulnerable to trickery is echoed by some of ODOT's current and former employees.



Oregon Department of Transportation

A crew member checks the temperature of the asphalt. Federal highway officials have warned ODOT repeatedly since 2005 that its road-paving inspection program is vulnerable to fraud.

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