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ONE DOLLAR

ART OF THE NIGHT
COAST WEEKEND • INSIDE

Gillnetters, recreational anglers renew battle

Plan would allow limited netting in Columbia River

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Bureau

SALEM — More than 100 people filled Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's meeting room Wednesday as

the state wildlife commission heard testimony on the status of Columbia River salmon and steelhead runs and how they are harvested by commercial and sport anglers.

The commission is con-

sidering staff recommendations, including a "rebalance" to the bi-state Columbia River Reform plan that would allow limited use of gillnets in the Columbia's main stem rather than phase them

out completely as previously planned.

The commission won't take additional action on the recommendations until December, but the argument is hot and divisive.

Recreational anglers, including fishing guides and led by the Coastal Conserva-

tion Association, are furious at the proposal and consider it a betrayal of the four-year transition plan agreed to by Oregon and Washington. Dozens of them piled into the meeting room, many wearing red CCA hats and sporting stickers proclaiming "No broken promises."

In a letter to commission members, CCA Oregon Chairman Dave Schamp said it would be irresponsible to allow the gillnet fleet's continued use of "archaic and destructive gear." He and others believe beach and purse

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Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
A rescue swimmer is lowered into the water from a helicopter as other Coast Guardsmen exit the water during training exercises Monday at Fort Stevens State Park. More photos online at DailyAstorian.com

SWIMMING TO THE RESCUE

Coast Guard rescue school pairs swimmers and helicopters

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

U.S. Coast Guard helicopter crews from around the country took to the waves and cliffs around the mouth of the Columbia River over the past month for the Advanced Helicopter Rescue School, testing their mettle in some of the roughest conditions faced by rescuers.

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Senior Airman Allen-Mikel Armstrong, pararescueman from Alaska Air National Guard's 212th Rescue Squadron, removes equipment while taking a break from training exercises on Monday at Fort Stevens State Park.

'The Coast Guard is the best at all rescue-swimmer aspects.'

Allen-Mikel Armstrong

one of two pararescuemen on the North Coast this week for training

Maritime Museum receives \$1 million

Longtime patrons create endowment

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Columbia River Maritime Museum has received a \$1 million endowment from longtime patrons David and Anne Myers.

The couple was honored at the 54th annual meeting, where Museum Executive Director Sam Johnson announced the endowment. The Myers were in Astoria Tuesday to talk about their contribution.

"We basically try to support education," David Myers said. "That's the one thing we can leave."

The couple, living in Portland, purchased a unit in the Columbia House Condominiums in 1984. Shortly thereafter, they became members of the museum, which had recently built its current location near the 17th Street Dock. The couple have been trustees since 1990, and David Myers, 89, has been on the museum's board off and on for at least eight years.

"Over the years, we've watched the impact the museum has had on Astoria," he said.

The Maritime Museum, founded in 1962, is experiencing record attendance, up to 150,000 visitors a year, Deputy Director Dave Pearson said.

"That whole image of the town has been really uplifted, and properly so," Myers said. "I point to the museum as one of the primary reasons."

Background

David Myers traces his love of museums to time spent studying anthropology at Beloit College in Wisconsin. There, the Myers also supported the Logan Museum of Anthropology.

Despite his love of anthropology, Myers

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David Myers



Anne Myers

CREST pushes back against Warrenton on dam

Attorney criticizes city fact-finding report

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

An attorney for the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce called a Warrenton fact-finding report on the Eighth Street Dam "extremely careless" and asked the city to refrain from making damaging comments or risk legal action.

Jeanne Kallage Sinnott, a Portland attorney for CREST, said the city's report has placed the task force and staff in a negative light.

"Setting aside all of the factual inaccuracies, what is per-

haps most troubling is that the report repeatedly purports to be an investigation of the so-called 'record,' but the 'record' investigated is woefully incomplete, rendering the report not credible and extremely careless," Sinnott wrote in a letter Monday to Akin Blitz, a Portland attorney representing the city.

CREST withdrew from an agreement with the Skipanon Water Control District to remove the dam as a hazard and to improve fish passage and water quality on the Skipanon River. The task force's decision

came after the City Commission in May declined to renew a \$1.2 million deal with the task force and the water district that would have given the city a single-lane bridge over the river after the dam was removed.

Blitz's fact-finding report in September concluded that the city owned the dam and should take possession of the structure from the water district, either for flood control or as an asset that can be removed later for wetland mitigation credits for a development project.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The future of the Eighth Street Dam in Warrenton is in doubt as the city and water district wrangle over control.

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