



LOGGERS DOMINATE ALL-LEAGUE TEAM

SPORTS • 10A

PARTISANSHIP RISES IN OREGON



John Horvick, vice president and political director at DHM Research, speaks to an audience about polling specifics and the outcome of the election during the Columbia Forum on Tuesday at the CMH Community Center in Astoria.

Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

STATE VOTERS' MOOD A MICROCOSM OF THE NATION'S

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

Oregon remained solidly blue in the November election, but the state's electorate has become far more partisan in recent years, according to a polling expert.

Between 2001 and 2008 — under a Republican president and Democratic governor — Oregon's Democrats and Republicans differed by an average of eight percentage points as to whether they felt things in general were headed in the right direction, with Democrats polling more positive attitudes than Republicans.

Between 2009 and 2016 — under a Democratic president and governor — the gulf increased to 44 percentage points.

"When we talk about partisanship in the country, it's really important to note: It's affecting Oregon, as well," said John Horvick, vice president and political director of DHM Research, a Portland-based nonpartisan opinion research firm.

On Tuesday, Horvick kicked off the 27th season of the Columbia Forum lecture series, held in the Columbia Memorial Hospital Community Center, with a statistical analysis of the election, among the most rancorous in modern times.

"The country has become more partisan. Oregon has become much more partisan, at least in our attitudes about how we view the world, how we think of the state," Horvick said.

As polls predicted, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton carried the state, winning more than 50 percent of the vote to Republican candidate Donald Trump's 39 percent.

Clinton performed above average for a Democrat, though slightly below President Barack Obama's two turns. Trump's support in Oregon, however, was the lowest for a Republican presidential candidate since Bob Dole's run in 1996.

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Probe into explosion at pot shop continues

Owners not willing to talk to investigators

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The investigation into the explosion and fire at marijuana processor Higher Level Concentrates in Astoria continues, without much cooperation from the owners.

Astoria Fire Chief Ted Ames said fire investigators were done at the scene. "The cause is undetermined, it will probably remain undetermined," he said.

An explosion rocked a walkout basement at the corner of Portway and Industry streets in Astoria late last month. Jason Oei and William "Chris" West, owners of Higher Level, were inside with Jacob Alan Magley.

All three escaped. Oei was uninjured. Magley and West were transported to the Legacy Oregon Burn Center in Portland in serious condition. A GoFundMe account has been started to help pay for Magley's medical expenses.

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Port calls on CREST to release dam documents

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to write a letter calling on the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce to release all correspondence regarding a controversial proposal to remove the Eighth Street Dam in Warrenton.

"The motion is to ask CREST to cooperate in public interest with any request to release correspondence and documents pertaining to the Eighth Street structure — or dam — in Warrenton," said Commissioner Stephen Fulton, who made the motion.

Commissioner Robert Mushen is the Port's representative on the CREST council. He has often disagreed with commissioners Fulton and Bill Hunsinger regarding the Port's membership in the group, but offered to draft a letter and disseminate it among commissioners for their feedback.

"We have to support our brothers of Warrenton," Mushen said. "We share a lot of real estate with Warrenton. But I think we're putting our nose where it doesn't belong."

Commissioner James Campbell said a letter seemed a bit strong, but that CREST's council needed to exert more control over

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Kayaks, wheelchairs figure into parks plan

Cannon Beach to draft the master plan

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — An improved dory boat launching in Tolovana, a restroom near Haystack Rock and safer transit options for walkers and bikers are among the proposed projects that could be part of Cannon Beach's first parks and trails master plan. After gathering input from residents, a citizens advisory group and the Public Works Department, park

planners will draft the master plan by the end of December. After review by the advisory group, the draft could come to the City Council in February.

At an open house last week, residents carefully looked at maps displaying potential plans for future parks and trails. They spoke to park planners and city employees, marked stickers on the maps and placed ideas on proposed projects they considered important.

"We've narrowed things down," said Kirk Anderson, a city public works employee who is involved in the planning process. "Prioritizing is one more big step."

Otak planner Mandy Flett

said identifying priorities early on could help the city meet deadlines and receive funding for projects. There are no cost estimates yet.

Trail projects marked as high priority included a bike and pedestrian route west of Hemlock Street along Pacific, a path under the bridge at Ecola Creek Park and a trail from Elk Run Park to Hemlock Street.

Possible park projects are canoe and kayak launches at Les Shirley Park, Ecola Creek Park and Oxbow and Second Street. Other ideas included NeCus' Park improvements that respect the site's Native



Lyra Fontaine/The Daily Astorian

Residents considered options at an open house as the city develops its first parks and trails master plan.

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