

Knappa native takes over Port finances

A promotion after CPA exams

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Knappa native Will Isom has been promoted to the Port of Astoria's director of finance, the agency's highest financial position.

He oversees the Port's finance department, which now includes Accounting Manager Jim Grey, Accounts Receivable Specialist Kate Almeida and Administrative Assistant Erin McDonnell.

"As a finance team here, we're responsible for everything from billing to cash collections, to all of our financial reporting,"

he said. "We oversee the budget process, and then also we're responsible for all the audit-related items."

Isom, who has a bachelor's in business administration from Oregon State University, recently took his last exam to become a certified public accountant. Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, said he has often seen Isom spending late nights at the Port studying for his CPA exams, part of the growth he said went into the decision to promote from within.

"It was a team effort of simply watching him improve,

improve and improve and take on more responsibilities," Knight said.

Isom, 33, isn't far from home. He graduated from Knappa High School, and after his time in Corvallis, came back to work for Georgia-Pacific's Wauna Mill, where his wife, Jaime, is a payroll accountant. The two have four children.

He started nearly two years ago as a staff accountant at the Port after being recruited by Grey. The two had both worked in finance at Columbia Memorial Hospital before joining the Port.



Will Isom

Vacation rental sign-ups fall short in Gearhart

One-time application deadline days ahead

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — With only a few days to go until the end of the one-time application period for a short-term rental permit in Gearhart, the number of applications is falling short of expectations.

"So far we've received 43 applications," City Administrator Chad Sweet said Wednesday at a City Council meeting. "I'm guessing that we will still get quite a few more."

The city has estimated 90 short-term rental properties in the city will apply for permits under the new ordinance, which has an application deadline of Dec. 16.

Rental property owner Kathy Schroeder, among those who has filed a Land Use Board of Appeals chal-

lenge to the city's short-term rental ordinance, said many owners are waiting for the results of the appeal.

"I don't think it's a horse that's left the barn," Schroeder said. "Right now the city's spending a lot of money on legal fees and that will continue as long as this goes on. I don't think there's going to be a floodgate in the next 10 days."

Without more applicants, Schroeder said, the city will be unable to meet administrative costs.

Property owners who have not applied for a permit and continue to rent will be in violation of Gearhart's zoning ordinance and subject to a \$500 fine for each day of offense.

If the city's ordinance is upheld, short-term rental property owners will not have an option of applying for a permit, Sweet said.

"If they miss the window, and the appeal is not successful, they will lose their rights to rent their house with the ordinance and the current council that we have," he said.

The state appeal was delayed after a records objection on behalf of property owners to request additional materials or replace records too light or hard to read.

After the land use board rules on the new records submissions, the city will file a supplemental record — adding to almost 2,500 pages of testimony.

"There's plenty for people to review," City Attorney Peter Watts said. "It was a very thorough process."

As the clock ticks for the one-time application, Sweet said he hopes to get the word out for those yet to apply, including those who provided testimony at earlier public hearings or those who advertise their homes for rent on the internet but have yet to apply.

The number of permit applicants is still lower than expected, he said. "There's many people who have stated they do not intend to go ahead with this. They're dropping off a little bit. I have no estimates where we'll end up, but it's a little bit lower than what I thought it would be."

New Oregon law requires screening students for dyslexia

By KAILEY FISICARO
Bend Bulletin

BEND — Legislation passed in Oregon is shining a new light on dyslexia, an often misunderstood learning disability.

The law, which went into effect in July 2015, requires that every kindergarten and first-grade public school student be screened for risk factors of dyslexia, a learning disability that can make it difficult to learn to read and write. Looking for signs a student may be likely to have dyslexia can allow for early intervention, something that can make a huge difference in how it affects a child, according to dyslexia experts.

Much of what the law mandates falls on the Oregon Department of Education to administer. The law requires the state Education Department to hire a dyslexia specialist to support school districts in their new role in screening for risk factors.

Carrie Thomas-Beck, a former special education teacher from the Midwest who co-directed the Oregon Reading First Center, which sought to improve reading among elementary school children, became the state dyslexia specialist in January. She calls dyslexia a "learning difference" for the children who have it. Dyslexia is genetic, she said.

"So they are born with it," said Thomas-Beck in a call from Portland. "Where children experience it has to do with early intervention."

Dyslexia isn't a one-size-fits-all learning difference. It can be different for different

The Port contracted with Barbara Blue of Bussert Law & Associates to check the agency's finances back to June 2013, and with Moss Adams to perform the agency's 2013-14 and subsequent audits. Additionally, the Port brought in Todd Kimball from financial consulting firm CFO Selections around the same time as Isom to help the agency prepare for audits.

"When I started, Todd was coming out once a week," Isom said. "We were doing a lot of cleanup work."

Isom said Kimball has helped mentor him as he has studied over the past year to become a CPA. The Port has since caught up on its audits and drastically improved its

financial reporting. Isom said Kimball is now coming in once a month, and focusing on more specialized assignments as the in-house staff takes over audit and budgeting preparation.

"Over the past couple years, the finance team at the Port has worked diligently to develop and implement policies and procedures to ensure accurate reporting, enhanced compliance, better controls over assets and added transparency," he said. "I look forward to leading our team going forward and building upon the foundation that has been built."

Isom's next big presentation will be the agency's 2014-15 audit at a Port Commission meeting later this month.

children, Thomas-Beck said.

"Dyslexia by definition is not a difficulty with vision — they see print just like anybody else," Thomas-Beck said. "It's a language disability."

Although some might have believed dyslexic individuals see letters reversed, that's not the case, according to Thomas-Beck. Individuals with dyslexia have difficulty hearing and isolating sounds in spoken words, she said.

"Listening comprehension is often a strength," Thomas-Beck said. "Often they are quite articulate and have great vocabulary, but might have trouble with word-finding, or they'll store a word inaccurately."

Thomas-Beck said academics sometimes use this example: A student may want to share a thought about volcanoes, and know its meaning, but might say "tornadoes."

"It goes back to word-finding," she said.

Dyslexia is generally obvious in a person's spelling and writing, according to Thomas-Beck. A person might also have trouble organizing ideas, and lack punctuation, as well as connecting words.

Students get so bogged down in just trying to figure out how to spell a word or use basic writing conventions that they can't get sophisticated ideas to flow out on paper, Thomas-Beck said.

"Orally they could share it in a way that makes perfect sense, but written, they might do it simply," she said.

Still, she added, it's different from person to person. Dyslexia can occur as com-

monly as 1 in 5 people, Thomas-Beck said. Other estimates show about 85 percent of students with learning disabilities have a disability in reading and language processing, according to the International Dyslexia Association.

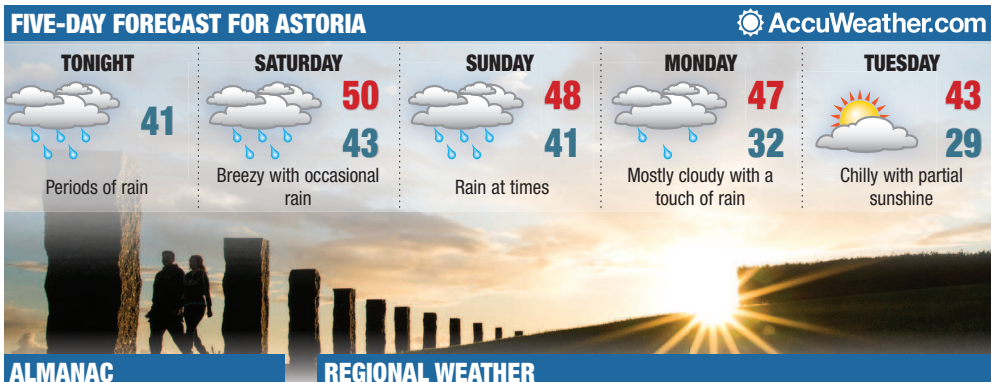
A lot of times, kids with dyslexia don't qualify for special education because they do so well in other areas. They might dedicate hours after school to assignments that may only take a half-hour for their peers to complete, Thomas-Beck explained.

Through legislation, the state is building awareness, Thomas-Beck said. Another piece of legislation, which went into effect Jan. 1, addresses how teachers are trained for dyslexia education. Decoding Dyslexia, a grassroots parent organization, was the main group pushing for legislation in Oregon, Thomas-Beck said.

Part of the law requires that school districts have at least one teacher in each K-5 or K-8 school who has received training related to dyslexia by Jan. 1, 2018.

That teacher will act as a resource who can help fellow teachers carry out the screening of risk factors.

Thomas-Beck worked with stakeholders, including the Oregon Education Association and Oregon School Boards Association, to draft a plan for universal screening. The drafting took about six months, and was submitted to the interim legislative committee on education by September. That committee will decide whether to approve the plan.



Turkeys cause power outages in east Medford

Associated Press

MEDFORD — A flock of wild turkeys, long considered menaces to the city of Medford, have sparked new ire after causing power outages in the eastern part of the city.

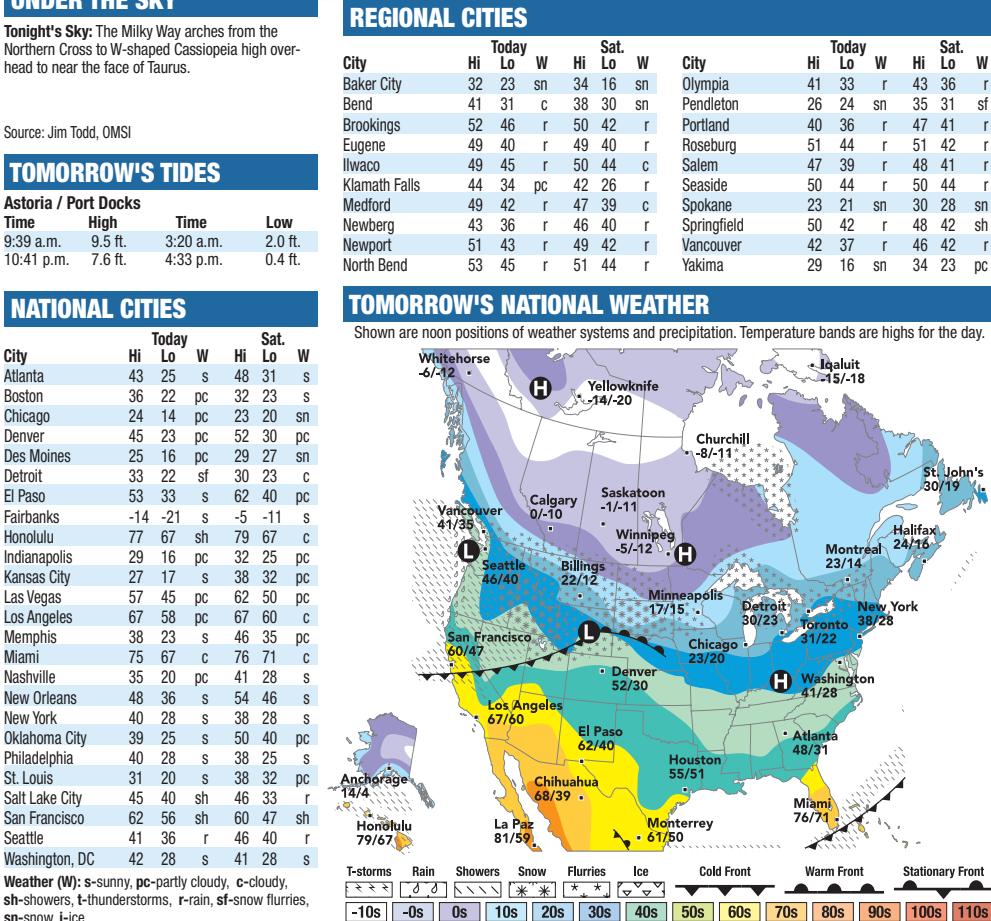
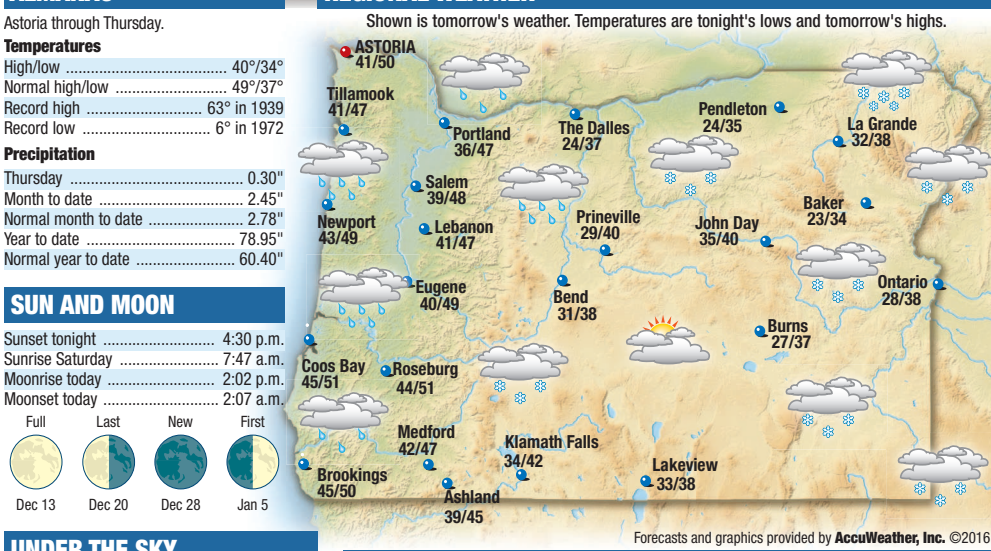
The Mail Tribune reported that wild turkeys flying into Pacific Power Lines have been

responsible for four morning outages in the last month, each time cutting off power for more than 1,600 residents and businesses.

Pacific Power spokesman Monte Mendenhall says the outages are definitely caused by the turkeys, though it's unclear how the utility will resolve the issue.

Unlike in rural areas, it is illegal to shoot or hunt within Medford's city limits. Trapping turkeys is thought to be difficult and time consuming.

State wildlife biologists say the power outages are a new symptom of the old problem of people feeding turkeys well enough to establish urban flocks.



ON THE RECORD

DUII arrests
• At 10:38 p.m. Wednesday, the Warrenton Police Department arrested Eugene Barrow, 55, of Warrenton, for driving under the influence of intoxicants and reckless driving on the 900 block of Northwest Warrenton Drive. His blood

alcohol level was measured at 0.13, according to the police report.

• At 9:33 p.m. Thursday, Clatsop County Sheriff's Office arrested Jeffrey Martini, 54, of Astoria, for driving under the influence of intoxicants on U.S. Highway 30.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY
Warrenton-Hammond School District Finance Committee, noon, district office, 820 S.W. Cedar Ave.
Knappa School Board, 5:30 p.m., Knappa High School library,

41535 Old U.S. Highway 30.
Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.
Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

LOTTERIES

OREGON
Thursday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 5-2-4-2
4 p.m.: 1-3-3-8
7 p.m.: 7-9-2-1
10 p.m.: 6-7-1-2
WASHINGTON
Thursday's Daily Game:
7-8-6
Thursday's Keno: 05-09-12-15-16-22-25-26-29-34-35-37-39-40-49-58-59-66-73-80
Thursday's Match 4: 07-18-21-24

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The Daily Astorian
Established July 1, 1873 (USPS 035-000)

Published daily, except Saturday and Sunday, by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

www.dailystorian.com
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Circulation in advance: 503-325-3211
Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

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