

Congress passes bill to improve water quality in Columbia River

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
EO Media Group

Congress has passed a bill authorizing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish a competitive, voluntary grant program for environmental cleanup work in the Columbia River.

The Columbia River Restoration Act was included as part of the federal Water Resources Development Act of 2016, which lawmakers approved Friday.

Grants could help pay for projects that improve water quality in the basin, reduce pollution or clean up contaminated sites. Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Democrats, cheered the legislation, which was supported by a diverse group of environmental, tribal and industry groups.

"Nobody wants to worry that the water they are drink-

ing or fishing in or swimming in is tainted, but eight million inhabitants of the Columbia River Basin have had their health, safety and environment endangered by toxins in the river," Merkley said. "Now, Congress is finally doing something about it."

The Columbia River is the largest river in the Northwest, with a drainage basin roughly the size of France. It is historically the largest salmon-producing river system in the world, with annual returns peaking at around 16 million fish.

However, the basin is the only large aquatic ecosystem in the U.S. that receives no dedicated funding to clean up and monitor toxic chemicals. The EPA has identified numerous toxins in the basin, including arsenic, lead, pesticides and flame retardants. High levels of pollutants can

build up in the fatty tissue of fish and lamprey, which are consumed by people and can cause significant health problems and birth defects.

"Preserving and protecting the river is a must to ensure the river remains the clean and healthy lifeblood of our region," Wyden said.

The program does not add any new EPA regulations. The bill was supported by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission — representing the Umatilla, Yakama, Warm Springs and Nez Perce tribes — as well as the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and Salmon-Safe.

Local tribes also praised another bill contained within the Water Resources Development Act that will ensure the return of the Kennewick Man, or Ancient One, for a proper burial.

New fund helps removal of Western U.S. dams

A \$50 million grant for rivers

By **DAN WHEAT**
EO Media Group

Dam removal projects in Oregon, Washington state and California are receiving money from a new fund set up by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for dam removal and river restoration in the West.

The foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, marked its 50th anniversary in November by announcing a \$50 million grant to the Resources Legacy Fund to establish the new Open Rivers Fund.

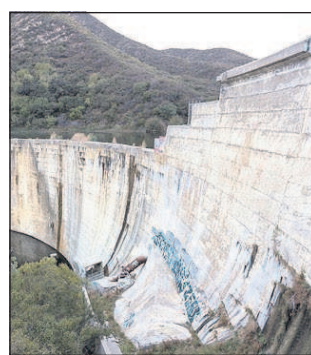
It is the largest fund dedicated to supporting local community efforts to remove obsolete dams and restore rivers.

During the next 10 years, the Open Rivers Fund will support dam removal, related river restoration and infrastructure modernization. There are more than 14,000 dams across the country identified by engineering experts as high hazard, according to the foundation.

"Once communities come together and agree to remove a dam, there is often little money available," said Larry Kramer, foundation president.

Open Rivers Fund inaugural grants are:

- \$215,000 to help with removal of a series of small dams and obstructions in Oregon's Rogue River basin.



Justin Clifton/Hewlett Foundation
Matilija Dam near Ventura, Calif., is 160 feet tall and is targeted for removal by the Open Rivers Fund.

gon's Rogue River basin.

- \$175,000 to help with removal of Matilija Dam in Ventura, California.

- \$75,000 to assist in removing Nelson Dam in Yakima, Washington.

Economic and environmental benefits have led to broad community support for the removals which help fish habitat, according to the foundation.

The Rogue River basin work builds on the removal of Gold Hill, Gold Ray and Savage Rapids dams, already accomplished and resulting in free flow of the river for more than 150 miles.

The new work addresses several other river impediments including removal of the 5.5-foot Beeson-Robinson diversion dam on Wagner Creek in the Bear Creek sub-basin, near Talent, Oregon. Beeson-Robinson serves 19

irrigators but blocks upstream fish movement. A diversion channel will serve the irrigators when the dam is removed.

Matilija Dam is 160 feet tall and has a 7,000 acre-foot reservoir with 90 percent filled with sediment on Matilija Creek, a tributary of Ventura River and 15.6 miles upriver from the Pacific Ocean, according to the Hewlett Foundation. The dam's sediment trapping contributes to ocean beach erosion and has made it ineffective for its original purpose as water storage for agriculture. The dam also blocks steelhead spawning habitat. Local groups have been working toward removal.

Nelson Dam on the Naches River near Yakima is 8 feet tall, 190 feet long and is owned by the city. Its diversion serves orchards and city residences.

Removal and consolidation with two downstream diversions into one new diversion structure will cost about \$8 million, mainly funded by city bonds and other grants, said Joel Freudenthal, senior natural resources specialist for Yakima County.

The changes will benefit fish and will increase diversion flow for irrigators from the 35 to 40 cubic feet per second range to about 57 cfs, Freudenthal said. The Naches-Cowiche Canal Co., which also receives water from the diversion, supports the project. Work will hopefully start in 2018, he said.

Housing authority seeking applicants

The Daily Astorian

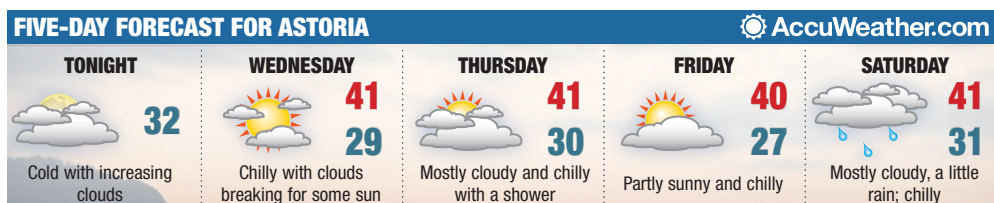
The Northwest Oregon Housing Authority Board of Commissioners is looking to fill an open seat.

The position is for a term ending Dec. 31, 2019.

The housing authority

owns and manages housing for low- and moderate-income people and administers various federal housing assistance programs in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties. The board normally meets once a month; the location rotates among the counties.

To apply, pick up an application form and return it to the Clatsop County Manager's Office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, Astoria, Ore., 97103. Forms are available at the County Manager's Office or on the county website www.co.clatsop.or.us.



ALMANAC
Astoria through Monday.

Temperatures

High/low	48°/38°
Normal high/low	49°/36°
Record high	61° in 2002
Record low	10° in 1919

Precipitation

Monday	0.31"
Month to date	5.57"
Normal month to date	4.03"
Year to date	82.07"
Normal year to date	61.65"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight	4:30 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday	7:51 a.m.
Moonrise today	4:52 p.m.
Moonset today	7:06 a.m.

Full Last New First

Dec 13 Dec 20 Dec 28 Jan 5

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: The Full "Frost" moon (4:05 p.m.) will be at its highest altitude of 63 degrees above the southern horizon for the year.

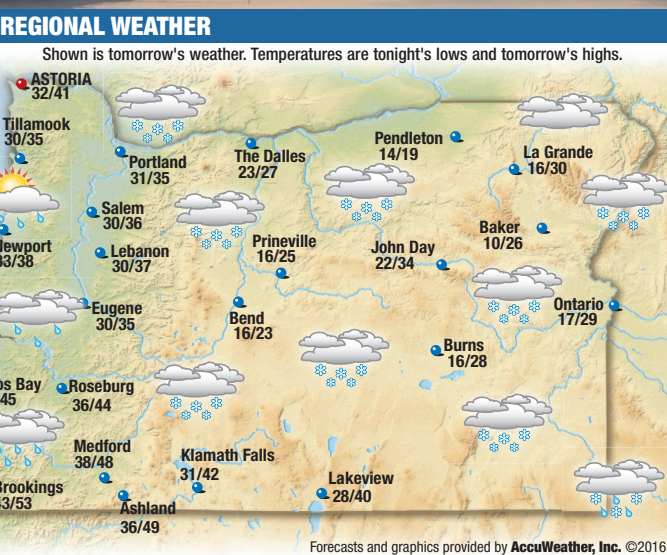
TOMORROW'S TIDES
Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
1:29 a.m.	8.6 ft.	7:00 a.m.	2.5 ft.
12:52 p.m.	10.6 ft.	7:58 p.m.	-1.5 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

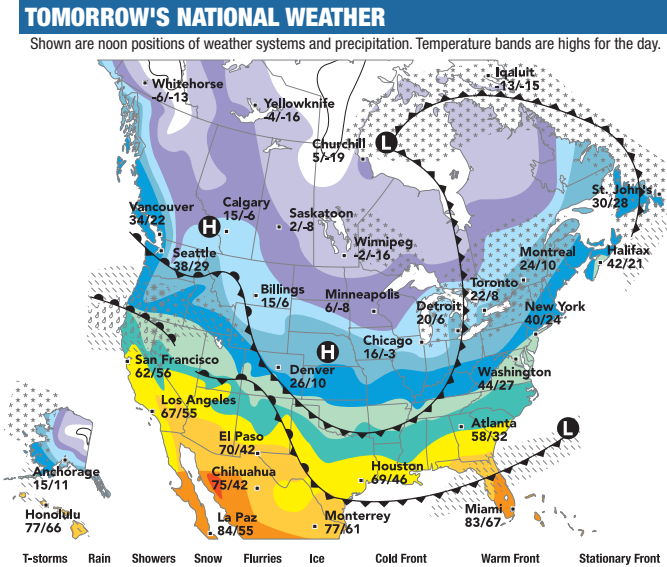
City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Allentown	60	45	r	58	32	pc	
Boston	40	30	pc	39	24	pc	
Chicago	17	2	pc	16	-3	pc	
Denver	42	14	c	26	10	c	
Des Moines	20	14	pc	20	4	s	
Detroit	30	8	sn	20	6	sf	
El Paso	70	44	pc	70	42	pc	
Fairbanks	-13	-20	c	-5	-13	s	
Honolulu	78	67	s	77	66	pc	
Indianapolis	33	9	sn	24	5	pc	
Kansas City	27	16	pc	29	14	s	
Las Vegas	64	48	pc	66	51	pc	
Los Angeles	66	53	pc	67	55	pc	
Memphis	52	33	pc	46	25	pc	
Miami	83	70	sh	83	67	pc	
Nashville	48	32	sh	43	20	pc	
New Orleans	74	58	t	64	46	pc	
New York	42	34	pc	40	24	pc	
Oklahoma City	42	23	pc	41	22	pc	
Philadelphia	43	33	c	42	25	pc	
St. Louis	37	16	pc	32	14	s	
Salt Lake City	42	29	c	42	41	sn	
San Francisco	59	53	c	62	56	r	
Seattle	40	28	s	38	29	pc	
Washington, DC	47	35	c	44	27	pc	

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	24	10	pc	26	18	sn	
Bend	28	16	c	23	19	sn	
Brookings	50	43	c	52	41	r	
Eugene	41	30	c	35	30	sn	
Ilwaco	44	34	pc	41	33	pc	
Klamath Falls	40	31	c	42	34	sn	
Medford	46	38	c	48	39	r	
Newberg	40	30	c	34	27	sn	
Newport	46	33	c	38	33	r	
North Bend	48	38	c	46	38	r	
Olympia	40	25	s	36	25	pc	
Pendleton	23	14	c	19	15	sn	
Portland	42	31	c	35	29	sn	
Roseburg	42	36	c	44	38	r	
Salem	42	30	c	36	29	sn	
Seaside	45	34	pc	40	32	pc	
Spokane	18	2	s	19	14	c	
Springfield	40	31	c	38	32	i	
Vancouver	41	30	c	34	29	sn	
Yakima	32	14	pc	28	17	pc	



OBITUARIES

Sandra L. Watters

Seaside

Sept. 1, 1943 — Dec. 2, 2016

Sandra L. Watters passed on Dec. 2, 2016, in Seaside, Oregon. She was born on Sept. 1, 1943, in Portland, Oregon, to Donald and Ida Sessler. She grew up and attended Jefferson High School, where she started her volunteer career at the hospital with "Youth for Christ." She went on to, and retired from, AT&T, and also worked as a caregiver for many years in the Clatsop County area.

She continued giving as member of the Elks, American Legion, Moose and the Eagles, providing many hours of volunteer work to all.



Sandra Watters

She is survived by her sons Dan Dougherty and Ted Urieck; two granddaughters, Athena Dougherty and Shyanne Dougherty; grandson Parker; great-grandchildren Raven and Kaylani; and her longtime boyfriend, Frank Hoge.

She was very loving and caring and will be truly missed.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Seaside is in charge of arrangements. Please visit www.hughes-ransom.com to share memories and sign the guest book.

DEATHS

Dec. 11, 2016

McKINNEY, Steven Michael, 35, of Astoria, died in Seaside. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Seaside is in charge of the arrangements. Visit www.hughes-ransom.com to share memories and sign the guest book.

Dec. 12, 2016

WAYRYNEN, Larry, 72, of Astoria, died in Portland. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 Highway 101 Business.

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District Board, 10 a.m., OSU Seafood Lab Center, Conference Room 231, 2001 Marine Drive.

Clatsop County Housing

Authority Board, 5 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St., Astoria.

Astoria School Board, 6:15 p.m., study session, 7:30 p.m., regular meeting, Capt. Robert Gray School third-floor boardroom, 785 Alameda Ave.

Warrenton-Hammond School Board, 7 p.m., Warrenton Grade School multipurpose room, 820 S.W. Cedar Ave.

Wickiup Water District Board, 6:30 p.m., 92648 Svensen Market Road, Svensen.

BIRTH

Dec. 3, 2016

ALLEN, Nikole and Daniel, of New Haven, Connecticut, a boy, Lucas Gebre Allen, born at St. Raphael Yale-New Haven Hospital. Grandparents are Karl and Janet Engel of Florence, and Denise Allen and Steve and Karen Allen, all of Astoria. Great-grandparents are Rosemary Bosch of Woodland, Washington, and Bunny Engel of Lynnwood, Washington.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Monday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 3-6-7-9
4 p.m.: 8-1-7-1
7 p.m.: 5-8-6-2
10 p.m.: 7-9-8-8

Monday's Megabucks:
8-21-23-29-41-44
Estimated jackpot: \$2.4 million

WASHINGTON

Monday's Daily Game:
8-2-7
Monday's Hit 5: 02-28-33-38-39
Estimated jackpot: \$170,000
Monday's Keno: 01-20-24-32-33-42-45-47-48-49-51-54-56-58-59-68-73-74-76-80
Monday's Lotto: 06-10-31-34-41-45
Estimated jackpot: \$1 million
Monday's Match 4: 09-15-22-24

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

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