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**Patty Skinner**  
Astoria Library's retiring senior library assistant

## FOR CHILDREN, A NEED TO READ

**CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN RETIRES AFTER WORKING FOR 17 YEARS WITH THE ASTORIA LIBRARY**



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Senior Library Assistant Patty Skinner will retire this week after working 17 years with the Astoria Library.

By **ERICK BENGEL**  
The Daily Astorian

One way to turn young children into good readers: Teach them to enjoy books before they actually start reading.

Patty Skinner has made that her mission at the Astoria Library for 17 years. As a senior library assistant, she has led the Preschool Story Time sessions, developed children's reading programs and served as a resource for parents aiming to get their kids hooked on books.

This week is Skinner's last at the library. A retirement open house in Skinner's honor will be held 5 p.m. Thursday at the library.

"I have such mixed feelings, because I'm going to miss so many people — the staff, the parents and, of course, the kids," she said.

Skinner, who also did administrative work at the library, said she hasn't decided how she will spend retirement, but she knows it will involve children.

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Patty Skinner, senior library assistant, shows her library pins on her name tag Tuesday at the Astoria Library. Each pin signifies five years of service with the library.

## Warrenton turns to Corps in dam fight

City Commission declares emergency

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**  
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Declaring an emergency risk to public safety and property, the Warrenton City Commission on Tuesday night voted to ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to review whether the Eighth Street Dam should be restored for flood control.

The city wants the Army Corps to investigate if the Skipanon Water Control District improperly removed tide gates on the dam and whether the devices should be reinstalled.

The resolution, approved unanimously by the City Commission, is a shift in the city's strategy. The city was preparing to sue the water district to take control of the dam for flood control, and had given the water district until Tuesday to respond.

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## College may ban smoking on campus

Prohibition could be in place by late winter

By **EDWARD STRATTON**  
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College could go tobacco-free by spring term.

President Christopher Breitmeyer said he is drafting a no-smoking policy after the college council, a group of college faculty, staff and students used to address major issues on campus, voted to move ahead.

"The goal of our policy is to change the culture on campus to one where students, faculty and staff do not smoke on our campus," Breitmeyer said. "We will step up efforts to educate people about the consequences of smoking and secondhand smoke. We do not expect this to be an overnight change and we will be sensitive in how we implement this policy."

Breitmeyer said the first reading could happen in January, with adoption in late winter or early spring.

**Smoking survey**

Breitmeyer said some of the impetus

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**Christopher Breitmeyer**

## Local retailers rejoice robust seasonal sales

Others hope December picks up

By **LUKE WHITTAKER**  
EO Media Group

Nor rain, ice, snow or lingering election anxiety can curb sales and optimism leading into the homestretch of the holiday shopping season for retailers across Clatsop County.

"The last two days of snow have been a challenge but we're on par," said Tom Leiner, co-owner of Pat's Pantry, a "spices and more" store

in Astoria last week.

"December is typically our biggest month for sales." The store has been busy preparing gift packs featuring their freshly ground spices, a convenient way for out-of-towners to take a taste home.

"The bulk of our sales, probably 80 percent, are from Seattle and Portland," Leiner said. "We're still in the high-growth mode."

In a clothing store in Cannon Beach, a similar occurrence is taking place.

"It seems like our customer base continues to grow," said Vange Alderman, sales associate at Dena's Shop on the Corner, a women's cloth-

ing boutique. "We're seeing a new influx coming into town from Portland and Seattle — everywhere," Alderman said, "November turned out to be very strong in spite of the tornado, power failures and all the bad weather."

But not everyone felt the weather was necessarily bad for business.

"It doesn't matter if the weather is bad or not — there are people who come down specifically when there are storms," said Mary Laplante Krettler, owner of Commercial Street Antiques and Collectibles in Astoria. "People will

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Luke Whittaker/EO Media Group

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