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Alex Hanson sleds down Coxcomb Hill with her two sons, Byron Hanson, center, and Henry Hanson, today in Astoria. Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

College weighs timber lawsuit

Decision coming later over class action

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College's board of directors met in executive session Tuesday with lawyers representing Linn County in the \$1.4 billion class action timber lawsuit against the state. The college will hold a special meeting Jan. 24 to decide whether the school should remain involved.



Christopher Breitmeyer

"The point of them was to give information on the lawsuit, not to say for or against," said college President Christopher Breitmeyer of the executive session, which was closed to the public and the news media but discussed near the end of Tuesday's board meeting.

Linn County filed the lawsuit last year, claiming the state was required to

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Slip slidin' at play

Snow blankets the North Coast

The Daily Astorian

A flurry of snow Tuesday night and this morning blanketed parts of Clatsop County and left hundreds of students in Astoria and Knappa with a snow day.

The National Weather Service expected snow through 10 a.m. today, with accumulation of less than 1/2 inch. The temperature was expected to increase to a high of 35 degrees, with mostly sunny skies.

The snow closed Astoria, Knappa and Jewell school districts, along with Clatsop Community College. Seaside School District delayed classes by two hours, and the Northwest Regional Service Center canceled morning preschool.

The Way to Wellville Community Forum, scheduled for tonight, has been canceled.

UPS reports that there will be no pickups or deliveries today in Clatsop County and many other areas in Oregon, Washington, California and Nevada.

As of 9 a.m., the state Department of Transportation did not report any major accidents on regional highways. The sunset summit reporting station on U.S. Highway 26 near the intersection with Oregon Highway 47 reported 2 inches of packed snow. Drivers were required to carry chains or traction tires.

Tonight is expected to be partly cloudy, with a low of 30 degrees. The National Weather Service forecasted a sunny Thursday, with patches of freezing fog Thursday night and Friday morning. The forecast becomes cloudy Friday and Saturday, before switching to rain Saturday night and Sunday.



Henry Hanson climbs up toward the Astoria Column as snow falls this morning.

Dam will not be used for mitigation

Mayor Kujala said flood control is concern

By ERICK BENGEL
and DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Mayor Mark Kujala and Commissioner Rick Newton said Tuesday night that the Eighth Street Dam would be used for flood control, not as wetlands mitigation for a future development project, if the city takes control.

The dam is the focus of an ongoing property dispute between the city and the Skipanon Water Control District, which has operated the dam since the federal government built it in 1963. The city claims the water district forfeited a city easement when the district removed the tide gates and ceased to operate the structure as intended.

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College pulls away from Performing Arts Center

PAC is home to art groups, fellowship

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College debuted the Performing Arts Center 40 years ago as an extension of the main campus, with classes and other programs at the former church turned community center. At the college board's Tuesday meeting, President Christopher Breitmeyer signaled a shift away from the center as a college asset.

"Moving forward with our strategic planning, it doesn't look like that's going to be a major portion of that," Breitmeyer said. "We don't necessarily see a return to college programming at that venue."

Breitmeyer said events that had been held in the arts center, such as the end-of-year presentations by the federal TRIO student support program run through the college, would migrate to the new Patriot Hall, expected to open in May. College board members did not comment Tuesday on the center. Breitmeyer said the college will meet this week with the Partners for the PAC, a coalition of performance art

groups that has paid for the operation of the center for more than four years, about the next steps. He said the yearly lease agreement with the group, which is up this month, will continue into the near future.

"But ultimately, I don't think we'll be probably holding any college events in the future going forward at the PAC," Breitmeyer said.

A busy place

Starting Friday at the arts center is "All in the Timing," a five-part comedy benefit play for Partners for the PAC.

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College will no longer hold educational events at the Performing Arts Center, located at 16th Street and Franklin Avenue in Astoria. The arts center is also used by members of Partners for the PAC, a coalition of performance art groups that pays for the operation and maintenance of the building.

