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ONE DOLLAR

HOMECOMING

NEW LEWIS AND CLARK SUPERINTENDENT SEES 'MAGIC' IN PARKS



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park's new Superintendent Jon Burpee stands outside Fort Clatsop on Tuesday.

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

On a late summer Saturday in 1995, Jon Burpee visited Fort Vancouver in Vancouver, Washington. He had just earned his bachelor's degree in history at the University of Washington, and he was still figuring out what to do with it.

Burpee had visited the fort, as well as Fort Clatsop, with his parents when he was about 8 years old. He credits park rangers for bringing the history of these two places to life and igniting in him a lifelong passion for history. But on that summer day, the recent college graduate was not as impressed with the ranger who gave him a tour of the fort.

"It really depressed me because it's an amazing place," Burpee said. "It made me sad enough that I wanted to do something about it."

The very next day, Burpee signed up as a volunteer, beginning a decade-long career with the National Park Service that has carried him to parks and monuments across the country. Last week, Burpee, 44, began his latest chapter as the superintendent of Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

Burpee replaces former superintendent Scott Tucker, who transferred to become superintendent of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan last June. Following his departure, Marcus Koenen served as interim superintendent.

For Burpee, who grew up in Washington state and whose parents live in Longview, working at Lewis and Clark is a homecoming.

'A national park is at its best when it is of the community and not just a national park that happens to be in a community.'

Jon Burpee
Lewis and Clark National Historical Park's new superintendent

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park had a record number of visitors last year with 284,531 exploring the many trails and exhibits.

College vote on lawsuit invalid

Error likely leaves college in timber suit

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College will likely remain a plaintiff in Linn County's timber lawsuit against the state after a board member's vote was invalidated for being submitted by email.

The college board voted 4-3 Tuesday to opt out of the \$1.4 billion lawsuit. Chairwoman Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, Karen Burke and Robert Duehmig voted to stay in the lawsuit. Board members Patrick Wingard, Tessa Scheller and Anne Teaford-Cantor voted to opt out.

Esther Moberg, who was not at the meeting and was unable to attend via teleconference, submitted her vote to opt out in an email, which Monaghan counted and nobody at the meeting challenged.

The college said Wednesday that a concerned constituent contacted Burke and questioned the validity of Moberg's vote.

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Graduation rates inch upward

Mixed results in Clatsop County

The Associated Press
and The Daily Astorian

Oregon's high school graduation rate improved in 2016, but the results in Clatsop County were mixed.

Figures released by the state today show 74.8 percent of students earned a diploma in four years, a percentage-point increase from the year before.

Oregon regularly has one of the nation's lowest graduation rates, and the uptick still leaves it below the national average of 83 percent. The state has set an ambitious goal of attaining a 100 percent graduation rate by 2025.

At home

In Clatsop County, the Astoria School District's graduation rate dropped 1.97 percentage points, from 74.83 percent in the 2014-15 school year to 72.86 percent in 2015-16. Seaside School District's rate also fell by 1.03 points, from 75.41 percent in 2014-15 to 74.38 percent this past year.

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Clatsop County worries about flu readiness

Only a quarter have received shots locally

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

With the number of flu-related deaths in Oregon on the rise this flu season, Clatsop County Public Health officials are concerned that residents are not sufficiently prepared for outbreaks.

So far, only 26 percent of county residents have received flu shots, county immunization coordinator Nancy Mazzarella-Tisch said. "Clatsop

County is pretty embarrassingly low," she said.

The flu, which usually spreads across the United States from September through March, results in roughly 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths nationally each year. Since the only way to confirm that someone has what officials call an influenza-like illness is through a mouth swab, the county cannot count the exact number of cases in a given season. There have been at least 200 confirmed cases in the county so far, but there likely are many more people who have not been tested, Public Health Director Mike



E.J. Harris/EO Media Group

County Public Health officials are worried about preparations to combat the flu with only 26 percent immunized.

McNickle said.

So far, Oregon has documented at least 83 outbreaks,

defined as more than three flu cases in a confined group such as a retirement home or office

space. Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln and Tillamook counties combined saw three outbreaks earlier this month, but none since, according to Oregon Health Authority statistics. Since mid-December, the number of visits to emergency rooms in the four counties has steadily risen from roughly 1 percent of all visits to 5 percent last week, according to the state. There is no way to tell if the number of influenza-like illnesses has peaked yet for this season, Mazzarella-Tisch said.

So far, three elderly residents who have died in

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