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ONE DOLLAR



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Patricia Raine and Jim Cavanaugh dance on Thursday during the Seaside Jazz Festival kickoff party at the Elks Lodge in Seaside.

Highs, lows on the coast

Economy examined at Columbia Forum

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

During Thursday's Columbia Forum, regional economists Erik Knoder and Josh Lehner explained why the North Coast's beauty and proximity to Portland can be both a charm and a challenge economically.



Erik Knoder

Lehner works for the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, providing an outlook for the state government. Knoder provides regional economic data for Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Lincoln counties.



Josh Lehner

"There's only so much coastline in America," Lehner said. "And so if you want to live on the ocean, you better go to one of these places that have it. And so, the prices get bid up."

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JUMP, JIVE AND WAIL IN SEASIDE

JAZZ FESTIVAL SWINGS INTO TOWN

By **R.J. MARX**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The audience for Dave Bennett and the Speed Kings at the Seaside Elks Lodge Thursday night was ready to dance. As soon as the group launched into their rockabilly jazz set, the crowd erupted and flocked to the floor.

Bennett brought the dancers to a frenzy with Chuck Berry's "Roll Over Beethoven," before heading into the Jerry Lee Lewis hit "High School Confidential" and "Crazy Arms" by Ray Price.

This was just another Seaside Jazz Festival night, an annual event featuring 14 bands through Sunday at venues throughout town.

Opening night

Drummer Hal Smith from Searcy, Arkansas, and Gino Meregillano from San Diego, California, joined leader Bennett and bassist Joe Jazdzewski onstage for the Seaside festival's debut night.

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Jazz enthusiasts take to the dance floor Thursday at the Seaside Jazz Festival at the Elks Lodge in Seaside.

Astoria will miss two city stalwarts

Yuill, Williams retire from administrative posts

By **ERICK BENGEL**
The Daily Astorian

Astoria will lose two longtime employees to retirement next week: Julie Yuill, executive assistant to the city manager; and Sherri Williams, administrative assistant to the community development department.

Yuill, a native-born Astorian who lives in Warrenton, joined the city more than 31 years ago, a period that spans three mayors and six city managers. And Williams, hired in 1993, has worked under four community development directors.

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Q&A

Real estate, psychology in Miss Oregon's future

Mather returned to Astoria High

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

In July, Alexis Mather became the first Miss Oregon from Astoria High School and the first from Clatsop County since Knappa's Margie Huhta in 1969.

Mather's reign ends July 1, when she will crown the next Miss Oregon at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center.

Now 21 years old and a junior at Portland State Uni-

versity, Mather returned to her alma mater Thursday to speak about her experiences, receive awards and snap photos with students and staff.

Q: How does it feel coming back to Astoria High School as the first alumni to win?

It feels surreal, because I remember sitting in the seats and just watching people come back, and thinking about maybe being there one day. So now to finally be here, it's just incredible.

Q: How did you get into pageants?

My mother took me to go watch Miss Oregon when I

was 10, and I just remember being in awe and amazed by it. I always kind of remembered that. When I turned 13, I was interested in doing it and gave it a shot and fell in love with it.

Q: What was the journey like, getting to Miss Oregon?

I started at age 13 as a teen, and then I had my first title as Miss Clatsop County at 18 years old. Then I was Miss Mount Hood, and I was Miss Clatsop County again. Then I was Miss Portland, and here I am as Miss Oregon. It definitely took a few tries, but I think that



Alexis Mather, the only Miss Oregon from Astoria High School, returned to her alma mater Thursday, where she spoke about her experience, took pictures with students and received an Oregon plaque engraved with her tiara.

Edward Stratton
The Daily Astorian

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