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ONE DOLLAR

Soggy season breaks records

Peninsula, North Coast drenched with heavy rain

EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — If this winter on Washington's outer coast felt like living in the deep end of a swimming pool, it was for good reason: Eight-and-a-half feet of rain was recorded September through April at the Washington State University Long Beach Research and Extension Unit.

This was a new record in the 57 years since Washington State started its modern series of records here in 1960. This season's 102 inches beat the old record of 99 inches set in the winter of 1998-99. This year's total was 31.75 inches above the average of 70.67 inches, according to Dr. Kim Patten, Washington State extension professor.

April wasn't extraordinarily wet, Patten noted — 8.55 inches, compared to the average of 6.04 inches — and less than half the 17.77 inches that fell this March.

Astoria, meanwhile, experienced 171 days with rainfall from October through April, breaking a record of 166 set in 1894 and 1921, according to the National Weather Service station at the Astoria Regional Airport. Astoria had a total of 85.11 inches of rain, which was among the city's 10 wettest recorded years.

Long Beach's 102 inches from September through April dwarfed Astoria's total.

Because of the Willapa Hills and Coast Range to the east, high pressure systems that move through the area often rise, cool and condense, which creates more rain, said Gerald Macke, a meteorological technician with the National Weather Service.

In Naselle, where clouds are funneled up the valley and condense around the salmon hatchery's gauge, nearly 129.5 inches were recorded from September through April — almost 11 feet of rain. No word on whether this is a record, but it's bound to be close to one.

Port candidates clash at forum



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Candidates running for election to the Port of Astoria Commission debated the issues during a candidate forum Wednesday at Clatsop Community College.

Divides over airport bond, staff performance

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Candidates in the Port of Astoria Commission's three contested races faced off publicly for the first time Wednesday at the American Association of University Women's candidate forum at Clatsop Community College.

In one camp were Commissioner Stephen Fulton and newcomers Dick Hellberg and Pat O'Grady, political allies who have shared many of the same viewpoints and criticism of Port management. In the other were their opponents Commissioner James Campbell, Dirk Rohne and Frank Spence, who have presented a more positive view of the Port's direction.

Divisions between the two groups became clear when questions turned to the agency's finances, management and a \$1.96 million bond

measure to develop infrastructure at the Astoria Regional Airport and accommodate the move of air medevac service Life Flight Network.

Airport bond

The bond would improve infrastructure on about 10 acres at the southeastern corner of the airport's tarmac, making 6 to 8 adjacent acres of land shovel-ready for future development and building a pad for new potential hangars and for Life Flight, which has secured state financing for its own new hangar and crew quarters.

The location has been recommended by the Port's staff, Federal Aviation Administration and Life Flight. Despite the recommendations and their support of Life Flight, Fulton, Hellberg and O'Grady have all come out in opposition to the

See PORT, Page 7A

POSITION 1



James Campbell

POSITION 2



Stephen Fulton



Dick Hellberg



Dirk Rohne



Pat O'Grady



Frank Spence

POSITION 5

Astoria man gets 40 years in prison for abusing daughter

'I hate what you did,' teen girl says

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

An Astoria man was sentenced to 40 years in prison Wednesday after being convicted of sexually abusing his daughter.

Gregory Guy Tarvin, 62, reached a plea deal last week after originally being indicted on 48 counts of first-degree sex abuse, one count of first-degree sodomy and one count of unlawful sexual penetration. He pleaded guilty to 10 counts of first-degree sex abuse as part of the agreement.

Tarvin was arrested and indicted in January.

Just before Tarvin's arrest, an Astoria Police officer saw Tarvin's teenage daughter walking on the sidewalk while wearing her pajamas in subfreezing temperatures. The girl told the officer she was running away



Gregory Guy Tarvin

from home after a physical confrontation with her father. She later disclosed the abuse she had been facing.

The incidents for which Tarvin was convicted took place in a two-month span in 2015, though the original charges alleged that the abuse continued through May 2016. First-degree sex abuse carries a mandatory minimum sentence of six years, three months for each count.

Police received reports of the abuse in April 2016, but Tarvin's

daughter did not want to press charges or discuss the matter at the time.

Because the girl's mother, who was 17 years old at the time of her birth, was abusive toward her, Tarvin was given custody. She moved in with him at the Emerald Heights Apartments in July 2015, when the abuse began. The two slept in the same bed, where the girl would wake up multiple times each week to her father touching her inappropriately.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown read a transcript from a recorded conversation between Tarvin and his daughter.

The girl demanded that her father explain his actions. He told her he "had not the slightest idea" why he felt the need to commit the crimes, but that he did see her differently than other girls. Tarvin speculated that he might have been immature and afraid of losing her.

See SENTENCE, Page 7A



Bob Goldberg



Andy Davis



Grace Laman



Jenna Rickenbach



Jeanette Sampson



David Oser

Health center option splits school board candidates

Two contested races on Astoria School Board

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Four years ago, the Astoria School Board voted 3-2 against further pursuit of a school-based health center, a nationwide concept some argued would improve physical and mental health outcomes, and by extension, the academic performance of students.

The concept has not been revived, but has influenced two subsequent elections. The failed health center was still a clear dividing point in the two contested races for the school board on display Wednesday at the American Association of University Women's candidate forum.

Jenna Rickenbach, a stay-at-home mother, part-time employee with her family's company Rickenbach Construction and avid volunteer in the schools, was appointed in 2014 and elected in 2015. She is running for re-election against Bob Goldberg, a volunteer with KMUN radio and a former teacher.

Jeanette Sampson, a sales executive at a local radio station, was appointed in 2012 and elected in 2013. She is being challenged by recent Indiana transplant Andy Davis, a data analyst with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc.

See SCHOOL BOARD, Page 7A

College board candidates talk PAC, innovation

Forum featured two contested races

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College hosted the American Association of University Women's candidate forum Wednesday, which included the two contested races for the college's own board.

Pamela Mattson McDonald is an author, professional artist and former merchant marine who has taken the college's maritime sciences and business programs. She is challenging incumbent Patrick Wingard, a land use planner with the state who was appointed to the college board in 2012, for Zone 2, Position 2.

Mary Beth Cottle, a former K-12 instructor with a focus in bilingualism and a newcomer to Cannon Beach, is challenging Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, who was appointed in 2000 and is running for re-election a fifth time.

Robert Duehmig, deputy director of Oregon Health & Science University's Office of Rural Health, is running unopposed.

Performing Arts Center

The college board has been deciding what to do with the Performing Arts Center, a popular community rehearsal and performing space that no longer holds academic programs. The daily operations of the center are paid for by a coalition of

See COLLEGE BOARD, Page 7A

