

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

144TH YEAR, NO. 234

DailyAstorian.com // WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2017

ONE DOLLAR



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A solitary salmon boat floats on Youngs Bay at the start of the fishing season in late April. Columbia River fishing is in doubt.

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

**S**pring is over on the Columbia River — for now. A lower-than-expected count of returning spring Chinook salmon at Bonneville Dam delayed or closed a number of fisheries in Oregon and Washington state last week and now an updated forecast has cut the total predicted run size almost in half. As of today, even fishery managers in Idaho, who were waiting to see if more salmon would begin to pass fish counters at Bonneville Dam, decided to close the Clearwater and Salmon rivers to spring Chinook fishing. Fishery managers at the mouth of the Columbia River aren't quite ready to give up on spring and start planning for summer, however.

They theorize that low temperatures and high river flows — thanks to a healthy snowpack in the mountains and record rain fall elsewhere — have kept fish waiting below Bonneville Dam. What's less clear is if the run of spring Chinook — originally forecast at 160,000 fish, now downgraded to 83,000 — is actually going to come in as low as the new forecast predicts.

"I still think that our run size is going to be much better than everybody is talking about," said Ron Roler, a Columbia River fishery manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The warmer and relatively drier weather this week could encourage fish to start swimming upstream, he said. Unfortunately, it could also melt more snow, adding more water to an already swollen river and causing temperatures to drop again.

### Going forward

The salmon in the river right now are spring fish, and they'll remain spring fish until June 15. Then on June 16, they, along with the other runs that start to show up at this time, are all summer fish.

See SALMON, Page 7A



ABOVE: Salmon fisherman Martin Rice prepares to launch his boat at the start of the season in late April in Astoria. BELOW: Terry Millbrooke hoses down his boat after the first night of salmon fishing in Youngs Bay in late April.



## Cannon Beach tests time limits on parking

Downtown streets will have a three-hour cap

By BRENNA VISSER  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — In an attempt to create more downtown parking, Cannon Beach plans to impose time limits along a section of Hemlock Street starting next week.

Residents and tourists will see three-hour parking limit signs on Hemlock Street between First and Third avenues, as well as on First, Second and Third streets between Hemlock and Spruce.

The City Council this month decided to move forward with the pilot program to see whether or not timed parking increases turnover in parking spots. This in turn would help the city reach the goal of creating 50 new spots by the end of 2018.

This pilot area was chosen after a parking study contracted by the city surveyed the two busiest days of spring break, and found that Hemlock Street is the first to fill up — sometimes as early as 9 a.m., City Planner Mark Barnes said.

"Part of the congestion comes from a number of cars cruising Hemlock trying to find parking," Barnes said. "If you can increase turnover, you'll get more people in spaces rather than going around in circles."

See PARKING, Page 7A

## Three vie for Warrenton appointment

Vacancy opened after Balensifer moved up

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

Three men have applied to be Warrenton's next city commissioner, filling a seat left empty when Henry Balensifer was appointed to take on the role of mayor after former Mayor Mark Kujala resigned.

The city received applications from Mark Baldwin, a former commissioner and owner of a local construction business; Paul Mitchell, who, in addition to working as the community outreach manager for Columbia Memorial Hospital, serves on the city's budget committee and Planning Commission; and newcomer Ronald LeChurch, a retired mechanical engineer who moved to Warrenton seven years ago.

Warrenton residents will not elect this new commissioner — the City Commission will appoint one of the three candidates to serve out the rest of Balensifer's term — so the city held a meet-and-greet Tuesday night to give residents a chance to meet the

See WARRENTON, Page 7A

## Housing crunch in mind, Seaside OKs zone change

Property could yield 40 units

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Citing a lack of affordable housing, the Seaside City Council has granted approval of a zone change on a 3.75-acre property located between North Wahanna Road and the wetlands along Stanley Lake for a housing project.

"We, as a council, spent two days of public goal-setting, and we need additional housing in this community," City Councilor Dana Phillips



said at a meeting Monday. City Councilor Seth Morrisey said there were similar apartment complexes on Wahanna already, and attempts to expand the city's urban growth boundary had been pushed back. "Anytime we can expand anywhere we try to increase den-

sity or place housing there's going to be people who aren't going to like where it's at," he said.

Property owner James Folk pointed to the lack of rentals in Clatsop County. "There is a huge, significant need for housing, and this will definitely accommodate a lot of that," he said after the meeting.

### Wetlands protected

During public hearings, neighbors expressed concern about discrepancies in the property survey, traffic on Wahanna Road, affordability and impacts on the envi-

ronment. Neighbors said the units would be priced too high for those in low- or minimum-wage jobs to fill the need for affordable housing. Donna Lyons of Warrenton, whose mother's property borders the property, questioned the feasibility of providing workforce housing at the prevailing wages in the community.

At a February Planning Commission meeting, Folk said units would rent for between \$800 and \$1,300 a month. A total of 104 residents could live in the five-

building complex.

Folk said he is permitted 20 housing units per acre, and would abide by whatever numbers a survey would determine. The last survey, prepared in 1990, is under revision. Folk said he expected a new survey will show 1.9 acres of buildable land.

The traffic impacts, even in the worst-case scenario, would be minimal, he said, that impacts would not even require a state Department of Transportation study.



James Folk

See SEASIDE, Page 7A

