

SALMONBERRY HILL

HYBRID SCHOOL IN ASTORIA MARKS A FULL FIRST YEAR • WEEKEND BREAK • 1C

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INSIDE

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Clatsop County commissioners split over role



Illustration by Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

Salmon state of disaster sought

Oregon, California ask for federal help

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Oregon and California are calling for a federal disaster declaration of ocean salmon fisheries as fishermen endure yet another bad year.

In a letter to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross requesting an expedited declaration of a catastrophic regional fishery disaster, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and California Gov. Jerry Brown cite “anomalous oceanographic conditions” in 2016 and reduced fishing seasons. These conditions, in combination with others, have taken a huge economic toll on fishing communities, they write.

A disaster declaration — if approved by the federal government — would allow people and businesses that depend on salmon to request federal assistance. Kate Brown said federal assistance and ongoing efforts by states, tribes and local governments are critical to salmon recovery and the “long-term health and sustainability of our salmon fisheries and coastal communities.”

“Salmon are a vital component of Oregon and California’s natural resources and provide significant recreational, economic and aesthetic benefits to both states and Native American tribes,” she said in a statement.

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Alex Proimos/Creative Commons

Trawling nets

Two want board to be more involved

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Chairman Scott Lee opens every Clatsop County Board of Commissioners meeting with the same phrase, as Commissioners Kathleen Sullivan and Lianne Thompson sit to his left and Sarah Nebeker and Lisa Clement to his right.

“The Board of Commissioners is the governing body of Clatsop County,” he says. Commissioners, though, don’t seem to agree on exactly what that means.

Since the beginning of the year, deliberations at meetings have revealed a schism between commissioners over how many decisions they should be making and how much time they should spend researching and deliberating them. While Thompson and Sullivan argue they are not active enough in the county’s decision-making, the rest of the board views the county charter as a reasonable limitation to their abilities. As a result, discussions often center not only on the topics at hand, but also whether or not they have been properly examined.

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Commissioner Kathleen Sullivan, left, and Commissioner Lianne Thompson, right, listen to a presentation at a Board of Commissioners meeting held Wednesday.

‘It is made for us to rubber stamp. I have a great concern about this. This is why I’m making noise.’

Lianne Thompson

Clatsop County commissioner, speaking about a charter that was adopted in 1989 in a home-rule style, meaning residents decide how the county’s government is set up and operates

Cannon Beach city manager heads to Sisters

Kucera has worked on coast since 2014

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Brant Kucera, who has served as Cannon Beach’s city manager since 2014, has been named the new city manager of Sisters in Deschutes County.

Kucera topped a field of four candidates who visited Sisters for public gatherings and interviews, according to Joseph O’Neill, the city’s finance director. He was selected unanimously by the Sisters City Council Wednesday night.

“I felt it was time for a change of pace as far as my job goes,” Kucera said today. “Sisters is a small city but it’s growing fast and I find that opportunity really appealing to me.”

Kucera, 46, said he feels he has made a lot of “positive changes” at City Hall.

“I think that overall the direction of the city is positive, however there’s still,



Brant Kucera

Circus brings fun, controversy to the coast

Animal acts are controversial for some in the area

By AMY NILE
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — As big tops across America become bygone curiosities, some still relish the nostalgia of circuses, while others are rooting for their extinction.

For the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, the show simply must go on. It’s bringing the big top to the parking lot next to the Bolstad Beach approach Tuesday.

Performances scheduled for 5



Joseph Lee Novak/Wikimedia

The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus’ winter camp.

and 7:30 p.m. are expected to feature tightrope walkers, trapeze fliers, contortionists, clowns, fire-jugglers and unicyclists.

“It’s meant to be the old-time, good, old-fashioned big top,” Alana

Green, a circus spokeswoman, said. “It’s like walking back in time, experiencing something that’s joyful.”

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