

Money for gillnetters has never been tapped

Glitch may mean that \$500,000 might go dark

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A fund that was supposed to provide commercial fish-

ermen \$1.5 million to adjust to new regulations curtailing gillnetting in the Columbia River has never been tapped.

The Columbia River Fisheries Transition Fund, a 2013 creation of the Legislature, was supposed to set aside \$500,000 every two years to provide financial assistance to gillnetters through 2019.

The money was intended to help

fishermen buy replacement gear and offset economic harm due to the expected phasing out of gillnetting in the lower main stem of the Columbia.

The money has not been used yet, and after some of it was reverted back to the general fund due to an accounting error at the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Legislature is now poised to do away with the last

\$500,000 installment.

That leaves \$500,000, a third of the amount initially intended, and it's not immediately apparent whether gillnetters will end up applying for or receiving the money.

Point of contention

Gillnets are hung vertically and catch fish by the gills. Their use is a source of a longstanding dispute

between commercial fishermen and sports anglers.

But the issue has come to a head in recent years. These days, sportsfishers have rights to most — 70 to 80 percent — of the catches in the main stem of the Columbia, depending on the season. That's a fact most gillnetters resent.

See **GILLNETTERS**, Page 7A

THE BOMBARDMENT OF FORT STEVENS 75 YEARS LATER



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Historian David Lindstrom looks over the site where one of the guns at Battery Russell once sat. Find more photos of Fort Stevens online at DailyAstorian.com

FIRING LINE

Japanese attack on Fort Stevens is a footnote in military history

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

Today marks the 75th anniversary of the only foreign attack on a mainland United States military installation in the past 200 years, and it took place in Clatsop County.

Inside this frame, the 20 to 30 minute shelling of Fort Stevens from a Japanese submarine during World War II seems like a monumental moment in county and national history. But the attack did not cause any casualties or damage — save a baseball field backstop and some telephone cables. No strategic decisions were altered during the war because of it.

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U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

A shell crater resulting from Japanese shelling on Fort Stevens in 1942.

Oregon Promise helps graduate take next step

Student's college fund drained for parents' health costs

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Katherine Karna's parents had created a college fund to help pay for their daughter's dream of becoming a filmmaker. But Karna's plans changed when her father broke his neck and needed multiple surgeries, and her mother needed chemotherapy after being diagnosed

with cancer.

"I'm fine with it," she said, adding her parents are both doing better. "It was obviously the best idea. It was bit stressful, to all of a sudden have no money for college."

Instead of heading directly for Portland State University after graduating from Astoria High School last year, Karna attended Clatsop Community College, where last week she became one of the first five students locally using the Oregon Promise financial aid program to earn a degree or certificate.

See **GRADUATE**, Page 5A

Cormorants abandon East Sand Island home

Some believe eagles to blame for bird exodus

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Two dead birds and 14 cracked eggs are the only recent evidence that double-crested cormorants have tried to return to nesting grounds on East Sand Island since abandoning their nests there in May.

This is the second time in two years that the birds have abandoned the island

in the middle of their nesting season, disrupting plans by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to kill the birds to protect young salmon in the Columbia River.

See **CORMORANTS**, Page 5A



A month-old double-crested cormorant at the North Coast Wildlife Center. The Daily Astorian File Photo

