



A HELPING HAND

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Hundreds of pounds of mulch was shoveled by volunteers into wheelbarrows before being transported down a hill at Tapiola Park in Astoria on Tuesday to expand the footprint of the playground to include a playhouse.

Hispanic community volunteers to clean up Tapiola Park playground

By COLIN MURPHEY
The Daily Astorian

The playground at Tapiola Park received a makeover on Tuesday.

Volunteers organized by the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council and the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department cleaned up debris around the park and expanded the footprint of the playground.

The new landscaping connects a playhouse that was separated from the rest of the playground.

Jorge Gutierrez, the council's executive director, said the effort came about after the Astoria City Council adopted an inclusivity resolution in March recognizing the contributions of the Hispanic community.

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Volunteers in Astoria on Tuesday, seen through the windows of a playhouse, spread mulch on a new patch of the playground at Tapiola Park. The event was a joint venture between the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department and the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council.

Wanted: Long-term rentals in Seaside

City could develop downtown buildings

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Members of the Planning Commission and City Council agree there is a shortage of long-term and workforce rentals in the city. They convened Tuesday night in a joint workshop to discuss ways to make rentals more available.

"The scarcity is driving people who want a two-bedroom into a one-bedroom, and people into a one-bedroom into a hotel room," Planning Commissioner David Posalski said. "It's people in all areas from professionals to minimum-wage workers who can't find a place to live."

Planning Commission Vice Chairman Bill Carpenter suggested modifications to off-street parking, with a reduction of parking requirements for certain apartment units.



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Charter crews suspected of 'high-grading' prized halibut

Disposing of small ones can harm fishery

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

ILWACO, Wash. — Pacific Salmon Charters got an unexpected publicity boost earlier this month, when the crew of the Pacific Dream rescued passengers from a sunken boat. Last week, the company received not-so-welcome attention from state and federal game wardens.

Officers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife served a search warrant Thursday at the Pacific Salmon office at the Port of Ilwaco.

MORE INSIDE

Steelhead runs hit lowest number in decades.

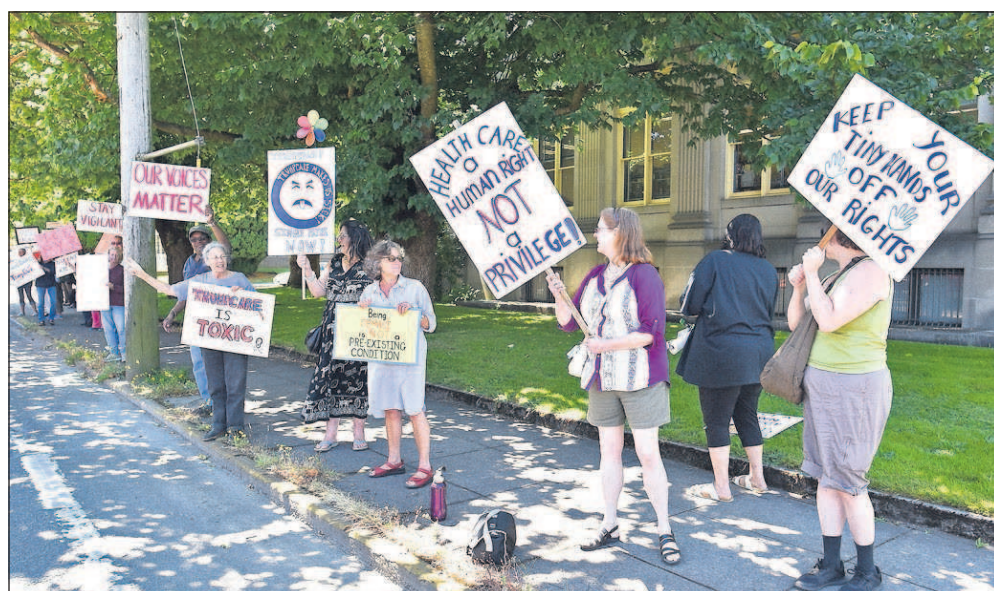
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According to the warrant, Pacific Salmon crews are suspected of habitually "high-grading," or catching more than the legal limit of fish, and keeping only the most desirable specimens. Investigators say they have evidence that Pacific Salmon crews high-graded on at least two trips during the short spring halibut season.

Pacific Salmon Charters is owned by Milton Gudgell, of Ilwaco, a veteran fisherman who has often been active on fisheries

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Republicans stumble on Obamacare repeal



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Republicans in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday dropped legislation to repeal and replace the federal Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, throwing the future of health care into uncertainty. The GOP drafts of the bill had been unpopular nationally. Demonstrators from the group, Indivisible North Coast Oregon, gathered in downtown Astoria Tuesday afternoon for a rally to protest the Trump administration on health care.