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ONE DOLLAR

Pacific Ocean still reeling from several rough years

Researchers notice changes in birds, fish

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Not long into a survey cruise off the Oregon Coast in June, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fisheries biologist Jen Zamon began to wonder, "Where are all the birds?"

Two seabird species in particular make up the vast majority of the birds she expects to see on these near shore research trips: common murre, a diving bird related to puffins, and sooty shearwaters, a relative of the albatross that migrates from New Zealand.

But now long stretches of time would pass between sightings.

"This seems really weird," she thought. "Is it just me?"

Researchers also lowered a net 90 feet

across and down to a depth of 60 feet to sample what was in the water. This net can, and does, catch anything: schools of anchovy, sardines, jellyfish. This time, it kept coming up almost empty: a single jellyfish, one salmon. In Alaska, a group conducting similar research had yet to snag a spring Chinook salmon at a time when such landings would be routine.

The ocean seemed like a desert.

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EO Media Group

A sea lion rests on Buoy 10, which marks the westward boundary of the popular fishing season that opens Tuesday.

KRATOM: LEGAL AND BOOMING



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Kratom is being sold in pill form in several dispensaries in the area. The product is relatively new to the local market.

Pills can act like an opiate

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

In large doses, the pills can mimic the effects of opiates. In small ones, and depending on the strain, the drug can be similar to coffee or ibuprofen.

Kratom, a natural product originating from a coffee plant in Southeast Asia, is being sold

at marijuana dispensaries, convenience stores and smoke shops across Clatsop County. Southeast Asians have consumed the plant for hundreds of years, but it has only become popular in the United States over the past couple of years.

Medicinal users have pointed to the lack of prescription drug availability as a reason for the spike. Recreational users have touted it as an alternative to more powerful opiates.

Widespread backlash forced the U.S. Drug

Enforcement Agency to reverse its decision last year to list kratom as a Schedule I drug, like heroin and cocaine, meaning its possession and consumption would have been illegal.

"I was really excited when I found out we were going to sell it," said Taylor Florance, who works at Nature's Choice Alternative Medicine marijuana dispensary on Marine

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Hi-tech help in cancer battle

Hospital gets \$3M particle accelerator

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The most expensive piece of medical equipment in Clatsop County is being installed at Columbia Memorial Hospital's new Knight Cancer Collaborative, a partnership with Oregon Health & Science University.

The Versa HD, a \$3 million linear particle accelerator used for radiation treatment, was recently shipped in crates to Astoria from a factory in Crawley, England. The accelerator is made by Swedish medical supply company Elekta.

Linear accelerators deliver high-energy beams of radiation to patients to kill tumor cells. The faster the treatment, the less potential for damage to surrounding, healthy tissue and the less time a patient has to remain still.

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Natural Grocers health food chain is coming to Warrenton



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Alegis Construction is renovating several vacant storefronts in the Youngs Bay Plaza to accommodate a new location of Colorado-based Natural Grocers.

Organic chain hopes to open store in March

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Natural Grocers, a national health food chain, hopes to open a new store at the Youngs Bay Plaza in Warrenton in March.

Work began recently renovating several vacant storefronts in the plaza between Ross Dress for Less and Pizza Hut.

"We believe that the Warrenton market is a great match for our type of store," said



Submitted Photo

Natural Grocers, which is opening a new store at the Youngs Bay Plaza in Warrenton, has more than 140 locations nationwide, including nine others in Oregon.

Kemper Isely, co-president of the company, "and currently the market area does not have a grocery store that sells only organic produce, only pasture-based dairy products, only

free-range eggs, and educates customers about nutrition so that they can make informed decisions on how to eat and take care of their bodies."

Natural Grocers' move into Warrenton comes shortly after the Astoria Co-op Grocery announced it will relocate to a new, larger location on Marine Drive.

Warrenton Planning Director Skip Urling said Atlas Investments, which owns the Youngs Bay Plaza, submitted building permits in the spring for a 13,500-square-foot store. The store will occupy several recently vacated storefronts in the 40-year-old plaza. Shoe

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