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Clatsop schools look to combat absenteeism



Students visit their lockers at Astoria High School this morning before heading off to the first class of the school year. Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Missing school undermines chances of graduation

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

As students return to school this week, educators are searching for ways to combat absenteeism — a nagging issue that hampers learning and consistently places Oregon near the bottom nationally.

On average, more than one-fifth of students in Clatsop County were chronically absent in the 2015-16 school year, according to the most recent data from the state Department of Education.

Students are counted as chronically absent if they miss at least 10 percent of school days, out of 180 days in a given year. More than 100,000 students in Oregon fit the definition in the 2015-16 school year, including more than 1,000 in Clatsop County.

In the 2015-16 school year, 17.6 percent of students in the Astoria School District were chronically absent, along with 18.5 percent in Warrenton-

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Warrenton-Hammond School District Superintendent Mark Jeffery greets students on their first day of the year at Warrenton Grade School today. Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

BY THE NUMBERS

10	17.6	18.5	26.7	22.3	24.5
the percentage of school days during which a student must be absent to be counted as chronically absent	the percentage of students in the Astoria School District who were chronically absent in the 2015-16 school year	the percentage of students in Warrenton-Hammond who were chronically absent in the 2015-16 school year	the percentage of students in Seaside who were chronically absent in the 2015-16 school year	the percentage of students in Knappa who were chronically absent in the 2015-16 school year	the percentage of students in Jewell who were chronically absent in the 2015-16 school year

Dual river patrols

Sheriff, Coast Guard fish for violators

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Sheriff's Deputy Wes Humphries guided a 25-foot 2016 River Wild along the Columbia River east of Tongue Point on Saturday morning. Like many others on the river for the Buoy 10 fishing season, he was on the lookout. "So this is where they've been hiding," he said.

Humphries, another sheriff's deputy and two Coast Guard marine enforcement specialists were not looking for fish — they were looking for fishermen.

Crews such as this one have patrolled the Columbia River in search of safety violations since 2013. Especially during peak boating times such as Buoy 10, the agencies conduct dual patrols on a sheriff's office boat. Though created in response to

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Fires scorch Oregon

Smoke and ash seen on the North Coast

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

SALEM — Much of Oregon was wrapped in a haze of smoke Monday as dozens of wildfires burned in the state, with one blaze forcing part of an interstate highway to be closed.

In the Willamette National Forest alone, 16 fires covering 71 square miles were burning, officials said. Campfires were banned and a third of the forest was off limits, the forest service said.

Smoke and ash from the wildfires reached the North Coast, which so far has been spared from a serious fire.

In southwest Oregon, evacuations were ordered in a rural area near Cave Junction because of a fire. The size of the blaze was unknown because heavy smoke has kept infrared mapping flights grounded, fire managers said.

"Smoke levels are creating unpleasant and unhealthy conditions across much of southwest Oregon," the Joint Information Center said in a statement.

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In their shoes



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
An artillery unit on the Union side participates in a Civil War battle re-enactment at Fort Stevens on Saturday.



Hundreds of Civil War re-enactors took to the battlefield over the weekend at Fort Stevens State Park. Fort Stevens was constructed in 1865 to protect the Columbia River from Confederate forces. See more photos from the re-enactment online at DailyAstorian.com