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ONE DOLLAR

On Friday nights, one less light

Athletic directors disappointed by league changes

By **GARY HENLEY**
The Daily Astorian

Changes announced by the Oregon School Activities Association

this month will result in smaller leagues, less competition and scheduling nightmares, local high school athletic directors believe.

The OSAA plan realigns the six-class system, moving schools up or down to reflect enrollment. It takes effect at the beginning of the next school year.

The main point of contention is an unbalanced number of schools

from class to class — the 6A level has 53 schools, with just 33 at the 5A and 4A levels, 35 in 3A, 49 in 2A and 85 in 1A.

All Clatsop County high schools will remain at their current levels (Astoria and Seaside in 4A, Warrenton 3A, Knappa 2A and Jewell 1A).

See **CLASSES**, Page 7A



Local schools will remain in the same classifications, but league changes could be problematic.

Colin Murphey
The Daily Astorian



Revelers started Halloween fun early over the weekend with a zombie crawl and haunted house in downtown Astoria. Halloween is Tuesday. See more photos online at DailyAstorian.com

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Maritime museum taps Jones

City councilor, former Coast Guard commander

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Astoria City Councilor Bruce Jones has been hired as deputy director of the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Jones, a former Coast Guard commander who has been a trustee of the museum since 2014, replaces Dave Pearson, who recently left to be executive director of the World of Speed motorsports museum in Wilsonville.

The maritime museum, one of Astoria's main attractions, has built a reputation as one of the premier institutions of its kind in the U.S. It sits along the Columbia River near the 17th Street Dock and has been experiencing record attendance.

"I've loved the museum since we moved here, and I'm very passionate about our mission," Jones said.

Jones was speaking with the museum's executive director, Sam Johnson, two weeks ago about the future of the museum and whether to hire another deputy director. Johnson had originally planned to put off a decision until January.

"At the end of the conversation, he said that when he learned about the opening, that he'd like to be the next deputy director of the



Bruce Jones

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Coordinator boosts emergency management

Looks forward to children becoming Fighting Fishermen

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County has added a second full-time employee to its emergency management office. Vincent Aarts was hired as emergency management coordinator after spending four years at a similar post in Columbia County. He replaces Tom Manning and Bijan Fayyaz, who both worked part time.

Aarts spent his first couple of months studying the county's emergency operation plan and what

role he would play should the emergency operations center ever be activated.

"There's been a lot of learning," Aarts said. "Although I only came from over the hill in Columbia County, the hazard profile in Clatsop County is much different."

For instance, 5 inches of rain in one day in his former county constitutes a disaster. The same cannot be said in Clatsop County, where that precipitation level simply means a dicey morning winter commute.

Aarts, 45, was born in Illinois but moved to Indonesia when he was 8 years old. His father, a native of the

EVERYDAY people



Vincent Aarts

Netherlands along with his mother, worked for an engineering firm that serviced a booming oil industry in the country during the 1980s.

He returned to the U.S. to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in the 1990s and became a wildland firefighter. The 10 years of bodily wear and tear eventually compelled him to pursue a career path that was related, but easier on the knees.

"I was looking for something broader," he said. "I really enjoyed the work of responding to emergencies."

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Astoria fire chief to retire

Ames will stay through March as interim chief

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Astoria Fire Chief Ted Ames has announced his retirement.

Ames, who served as fire chief for the past five years, will retire at the end of November but will serve the fire department in an interim role through March.

Though Ames' announcement was not a surprise to city leaders, it does come at a time when Astoria is short a number of department heads. In addition to replacing Ames, City Manager Brett Estes must find a new police chief, a new public works director and a new community development director.



Ted Ames

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