AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Sanderlings stand along the shore of the Pacific Ocean in Ocean Shores, Wash.

Volunteers track dead birds as indicator of coast's health

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

OCEAN SHORES, Wash. — Barbara Patton scans the expansive beach on Washington's outer coast looking for telltale signs of dead seabirds: a feather sticking straight up, dark colors in the sand, unusual seaweed clumps that could mask a carcass.

Minutes into the nearly mile-long walk near her Ocean Shores home, she and her husband, Mike, encounter the first of three birds they'll find that morning.

Experience tells them it's a common murre. But the retired volunteers work through a protocol to identify the species: Eyes gone. Breast eaten. Feet pliable. They measure the wing, bill and other body parts, and photograph the bird, front and back.

All of that information is entered into a massive database kept by the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team, or COASST. The long-running citizen monitoring program at the University of Washington tracks dead seabirds as an indicator of the coastal environment's health.

"The data that the participants collect is invaluable," said Julia Parrish, associate dean of the university's college of environment and head of the program. "We can't get it remotely, with satellites, with drones."

Lately, the data has pointed to bigger and more frequent seabird die-offs.

"It's causing us to step back and say, 'Whoa, what's going on here?'" Parrish said. "For four years running, we've had unusual mortality events of marine birds from California to the Arctic Circle."

Seabirds spend most of their time feeding and living out at sea, coming to land to breed or nest. But more birds are dying and dying close to shore, Parrish said.

Researchers think warmer-than-usual ocean temperatures shook up the ecosystem, favoring warmer species and redistributing the seabirds' food.

City engineer to lead public works

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Astoria's city engineer will take over after Public Works Director Ken Cook retires at the end of the month.

Jeff Harrington's promotion was announced Thursday. His first day as Public Works director will be Dec. 1, overseeing the city's largest department.

"Jeff has been taking increased responsibility and leadership in the Public Works Department," City Manager Brett Estes said. "I am confident he has the talent, experience and personality to fill this challenging role."

Harrington's promotion leaves Estes with an open city engineer position to fill. The city also remains short two department heads, in the Community Development Department and the Police Department. Interim leaders currently fill these roles. A call for a first round of applications for the Community Development Department director position closes today.

Fire Chief Ted Ames retires at the end of the month but has offered to stay on as chief through March, providing Estes more time to find his replacement.

Harrington has been the city engineer for the past seven years and has stepped in as acting director of the department before. During his time with Astoria, he has led a variety of large projects, including the 17th Street Dock replacement, bridge replacement projects, the closure of the landfill and environmental cleanup at Heritage Square.

Public Works staff are involved in a range of capital improvement projects that include water, sewer, streets and stormwater.

"Those are challenges, and I just like challenges," Harrington said.

"I've been a city engineer for different cities, filled in for a lot of different public works directors over the years," he added. "With what experience I have behind me, I have a lot to offer in the bigger picture things."

Harrington began his time in Astoria as the city's interim city engineer in 2006 and again in 2008, before being hired on permanently in 2010. He also was a consulting engineer — and later a partner — at HLB and Associates in Gearhart, where he served as a contract city engineer for several cities in Clatsop County.

Mussel harvest reopens as toxin levels drop

The Daily Astorian

Portions of the Oregon Coast closed to mussel harvest because of the presence of a dangerous toxin have reopened.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced Thursday that recreational and commercial mussel harvesting from the South Jetty of the Columbia River to the north jetty of Yaquina Bay at Newport is open once again. Samples taken in the area indicate levels of the paralytic shellfish toxin have dropped below the alert level. The stretch of coast has been closed to mussel harvesting since mid-October.

Mussel harvesting is now open along the entire Oregon Coast again. Recreational harvest of bay clams is also open.

Razor clamming, however, only remains open from Cascade Head, north of Lincoln City, to the Columbia River. It remains closed south of Cascade Head to the Columbia Border due to elevated levels of the marine toxin domoic acid.

Arts Council in search of two to fill vacant seats

The Daily Astorian

The Arts Council of Clatsop County is seeking applications for two vacancies.

Members must be county residents or own a property, business or rent studio space. One seat is currently vacant and expires at the end of 2019 while the other runs from the beginning of 2018 through the end of 2021.

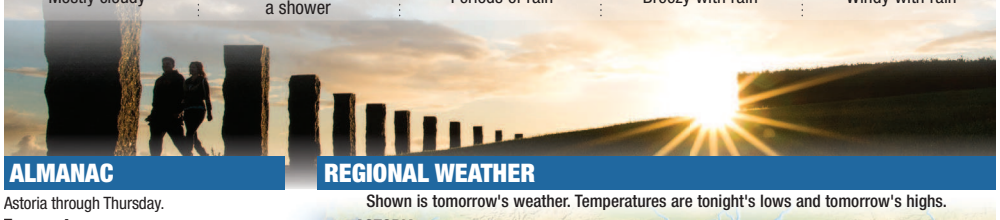
The committee, formed in 2014, conducts arts advocacy in the county. Its biggest project so far was a recent participation in a national study on arts' impact on the economy. The study concluded that arts haul in more than $13 million to the county.

Applications can be found online at www.co.clatsop.or.us, at the Clatsop County Manager's Office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410 or by calling 503-325-1000. The county Board of Commissioners will make the final appointment.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

AccuWeather.com

TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
43	55 / 48	54 / 44	52 / 45	52 / 43
Mostly cloudy	A thick cloud cover with a shower	Periods of rain	Breezy with rain	Windy with rain



ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.

Temperatures

High/low	56°/45°
Normal high/low	55°/41°
Record high	73° in 1907
Record low	29° in 1978

Precipitation

Thursday	0.18"
Month to date	1.97"
Normal month to date	2.91"
Year to date	64.12"
Normal year to date	49.13"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight	4:49 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday	7:11 a.m.
Moonrise today	11:44 p.m.
Moonset today	1:25 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Nov 10	Nov 18	Nov 26	Dec 3

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: High in the northeast, Cassiopeia, the queen, looks more like the letter M or W.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES

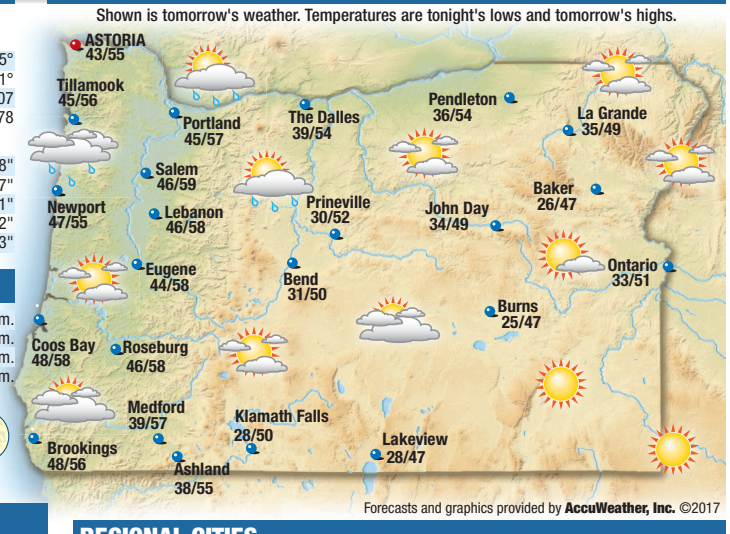
Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
7:39 a.m.	7.8 ft.	1:01 a.m.	0.4 ft.
7:16 p.m.	7.4 ft.	1:32 p.m.	2.8 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi	Today Lo	Today W	Sat. Hi	Sat. Lo	Sat. W
Atlanta	65	39	s	56	40	s
Boston	39	21	s	39	26	s
Chicago	32	26	pc	39	34	c
Denver	58	32	pc	57	29	s
Des Moines	35	29	pc	42	32	c
Detroit	30	22	s	38	30	c
El Paso	75	51	s	79	51	pc
Fairbanks	19	5	c	12	7	c
Honolulu	87	76	pc	86	75	sh
Indianapolis	36	23	s	42	32	pc
Kansas City	38	32	pc	46	37	c
Las Vegas	77	53	pc	74	52	pc
Los Angeles	71	57	pc	72	57	pc
Memphis	55	33	s	62	46	pc
Miami	87	76	pc	84	76	sh
Nashville	51	30	s	61	42	pc
New Orleans	69	54	s	73	61	pc
New York	39	24	s	38	30	s
Oklahoma City	59	44	pc	60	46	c
Philadelphia	39	22	s	41	30	s
St. Louis	41	28	s	51	41	pc
Salt Lake City	56	38	pc	55	35	pc
San Francisco	66	52	pc	64	51	pc
Seattle	51	42	c	54	46	r
Washington, DC	46	25	s	42	33	s

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice.



Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.

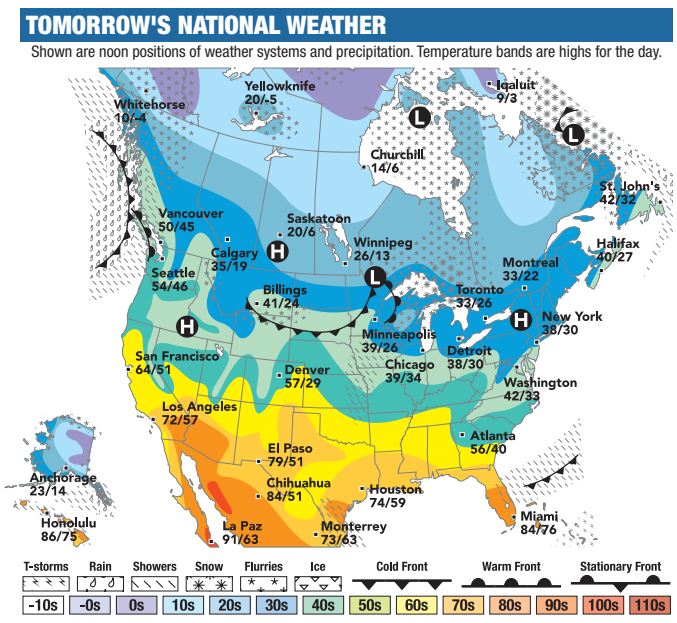
Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2017

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi	Today Lo	Today W	Sat. Hi	Sat. Lo	Sat. W
Baker City	46	26	sh	47	33	pc
Bend	48	31	sh	50	35	pc
Brookings	54	48	r	55	50	c
Eugene	54	44	r	58	44	pc
Ilwaco	53	45	r	54	50	sh
Klamath Falls	49	28	sh	50	30	pc
Medford	55	39	r	57	40	c
Newberg	54	45	r	57	47	pc
Newport	54	47	r	55	49	c
North Bend	57	47	r	59	49	c
Olympia	49	38	c	54	43	r
Pendleton	48	36	sh	54	39	pc
Portland	54	45	r	57	46	pc
Roseburg	54	46	r	58	47	pc
Salem	55	46	r	59	46	pc
Seaside	54	44	r	55	49	c
Spokane	41	35	sh	44	35	pc
Springfield	54	45	r	58	47	pc
Vancouver	53	45	r	56	47	pc
Yakima	46	34	sh	48	37	c

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



DEATHS

Nov. 10, 2017

WALKER, Gloria Alice, 75, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Nov. 9, 2017

CARPENTER, Renee M. Odegard, 51, of Gearhart, died in Gearhart. Hughes-Ransom Mortuaries & Crematory of Astoria/Seaside is in charge of the arrangements.

PALO, Vicki A., 57, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

BIRTH

Oct. 26, 2017

HARBAUGH, Johnnie, and HARRIS, William, of Long Beach, Washington, a boy, Kaydn William Harbaugh-Harris, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Charity Harris and Roberta Hardy, both of Long Beach.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business.

Cannon Beach Rural Fire Department Board, 6 p.m., Fire-Rescue Main Station, 188 Sunset Ave.

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Thursday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 9-3-4-9
4 p.m.: 2-5-1-2
7 p.m.: 5-3-1-5
10 p.m.: 9-2-1-5

Thursday's Lucky Lines: 01-06-12-15-17-24-25-29
Estimated jackpot: $16,000

WASHINGTON

Thursday's Daily Game: 9-0-3

Thursday's Keno: 03-04-09-15-24-27-31-37-40-41-43-48-50-53-62-68-70-71-73-76

Thursday's Match 4: 14-16-17-22

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The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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