

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 100

WEEKEND EDITION // FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017

ONE DOLLAR

## State delays crab opener

Fishery traditionally opens on Dec. 1

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

The commercial Dungeness crab season is delayed along the entire Oregon Coast until at least Dec. 16 after tests showed crabs are too low in meat yield.

The fishery traditionally opens on Dec. 1, though in recent years it has been delayed by everything from price negotiations to elevated levels of marine toxins.

The season opener could be delayed even further, or the Oregon Coast could be split into two areas with different opening dates, depending on the results of a second round of crab quality testing slated to occur later this month or in early December.

See CRAB SEASON, Page 7A



The Daily Astorian

The commercial Dungeness crab season is delayed along the entire Oregon Coast until at least Dec. 16.

## The Harbor relocates downtown

Thrift store will remain in Norblad for now

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The Harbor, the region's advocacy group for victims of sexual and domestic violence, has moved its offices to the former Snow & Snow law firm at the corner of Eighth and Commercial streets.

Deja Vu, a thrift store supporting The Harbor, is still in the Norblad Building at the corner of 14th and Duane streets while the group finds a new location.

See THE HARBOR, Page 6A

## Treatment close to home

Astoria mother finds new opportunity at cancer center



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Kari Smith shows where her treatment sessions would begin at the Knight Cancer Collaborative in Astoria.

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian

Small-town assumptions about Astoria were always a barrier for Kari Smith as she sought cancer treatment.

Based on the experiences of family and friends decades earlier, she was advised to seek treatment in large cities, which typically house some of the world's best medical equipment.

"People had told me all of these horrible things about small-town doctors," Smith said. "Somebody one time told me that if I stayed here in Astoria to get treatment I would die."

The recent opening of Columbia Memorial Hospital and Oregon Health & Science University's Knight Cancer Collaborative has nixed that theory.

In 2013, when she was 36 years old, Smith felt a radiating pain in her chest and neck area. Her mother, grandmother, aunt and great-grandmother had all suffered from cancer, so she was concerned.

Several doctors told her not to be overly concerned, but the pain persisted. Eventually a surgeon in Portland found a lump in her chest following a mammogram and said a minor procedure would remove the cancer completely. She was skeptical.

"It didn't sound right," she said. "It sounded too easy."

Finally, another doctor was able to determine that the cancer had spread into



One of the main areas at the cancer center in Astoria provides patients receiving treatment with a scenic view of the Columbia River.

her lymph nodes. A double mastectomy and four rounds of chemotherapy later, Smith believed she had conquered the disease.

"They said, 'Yeah, start living your life and be happy,'" she said.

### Home life in shambles

But the pain returned last year, this time in a different area of her chest. She and her husband, Mike, a Clatsop County sheriff's sergeant, drove up to the Seat-

tle Cancer Care Alliance at the University of Washington Medical Center, considered one of the top cancer hospitals in the country.

Smith received high-quality care there, but the lengthy commute and time away from home wore on the family. Expenses racked up, her husband missed time at work and their children waited for their parents to come home.

See CANCER CENTER, Page 7A

**'MY HOME LIFE WAS IN SHAMBLES BECAUSE I WAS NEVER HOME. IT WAS REALLY HARD ON MY KIDS. THEY WOULD JUST CRY AND ASK ME, "WHY ARE YOU LEAVING AGAIN?"'**

Kari Smith | Astoria resident who now receives cancer treatment at the Knight Cancer Collaborative

## Students need grit, goals, college president says

A third of students are falling short

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

A typical community college is lucky to have half of incoming students still attending after one year, said Clatsop Community College President Christopher Breitmeyer. About 65 percent of students at the local college earn a degree or credential in six years, comparable to the rate at a four-year university.

"That still leaves, what, 30 percent of the folks are not making it," Breitmeyer said. "That's just not acceptable to me."

During a Columbia Forum speaker series Thursday, Breitmeyer argued that colleges need to focus more on building grit and providing the goals needed for students to persevere and finish.

Breitmeyer came to Clatsop from St. Charles Community College northwest of St. Louis, Missouri, where he was vice president of academic and student affairs, and before that the dean of math, science and health. His primary teaching

background is in biology.

The community college in Astoria serves a wide variety of students, from teenagers to seniors, from Talented and Gifted program students to those still learning to read or comprehend English. Many of the students are not academically ready for college or have backgrounds that provide them grit.

"The group that we're dealing with is so diverse, and not everyone is going to do well on a test," he said.

The college assesses the academic skills of new



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College President Christopher Breitmeyer argued for grit as a better determinant of success during a Columbia Forum speech.

See FORUM, Page 7A

