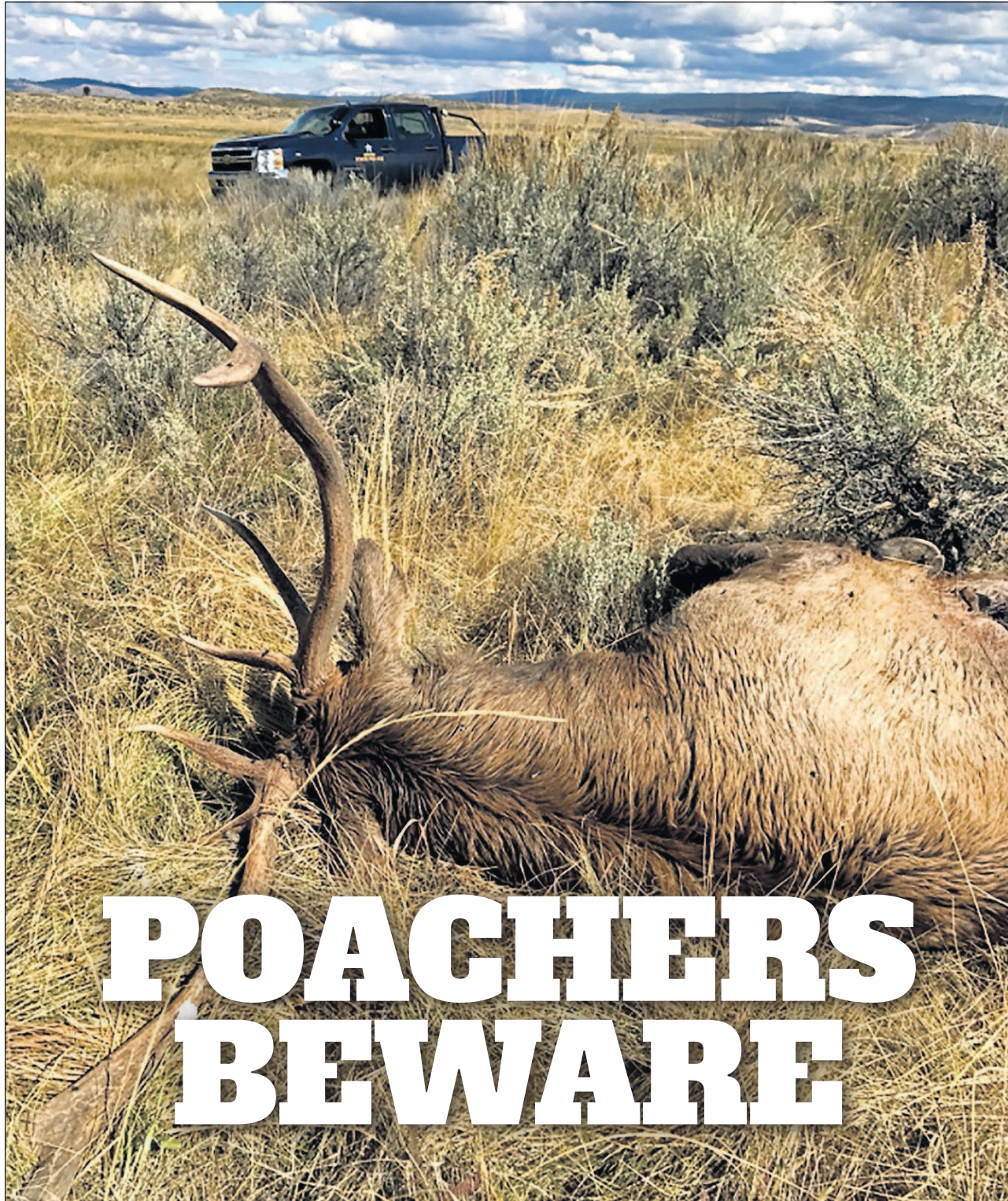


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ONE DOLLAR



POACHERS BEWARE

Authorities are cracking down on poaching in Oregon.

Photos by Oregon State Police

Informant campaign had banner year

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A statewide campaign that encourages people to inform on poachers just had the most robust year in its 32-year history.

The Turn in Poachers fund — a collaboration between the Oregon Hunters Association, Oregon State Police and state Department of Fish and Wildlife — rewarded \$24,200 in 50 cases last year. That's more than double the average amount, according to the hunter's association. The number of cases typically ranges from 20 to 35 in a given year.

Clatsop County had one reward case in 2017. An informant received \$500 for information about an elk shot in an area where hunting is not allowed. Poaching issues in the county mainly center on Roosevelt Elk and blacktail

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The program known as Turn in Poachers saw an uptick in rewards last year.

State House moves to keep guns from abusers

Vote to close the 'boyfriend loophole'

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The state House passed a bill Thursday to keep domestic abusers and stalkers from having firearms.

House Bill 4145 would close the so-called "boyfriend loophole" in state law that omitted stalkers and domestic abusers who are not a spouse, former spouse, live-in partner or co-parent from the gun ban.

The 37-23 vote came one day after a mass shooting at a Florida high school revived the national debate over gun control.

"I believe from the bottom of my heart this bill will save lives in Oregon," said state Rep. Jeff Barker, D-Aloha.

The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Floor debate over the bill drew out emotional speeches and revelations about personal experiences from lawmakers. Barker, a former police officer, recounted responding to a gruesome scene in which a young mother had attempted to protect herself from her abuser and had her hand blown off before being killed.

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State Rep. Jeff Barker

Experienced planners seek city community development post

Finalists are from Utah and Texas

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Two experienced planners are vying to become Astoria's community development director.

They talked with city leaders and residents at an informal meet-and-greet Thursday night and will spend Friday interviewing with other department heads, a citizen panel and City Manager Brett Estes.

Estes had narrowed down the pool of applicants to three people, but one person removed their name from consideration. The two remaining finalists are Amy Weiser, the community services director for Moab, Utah, and Kelly Violette, executive director of the Tomball Economic Development Corporation in Tomball, Texas.

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Kelly Violette



Amy Weiser

Sea star wasting unusually high at Haystack Rock

Findings could be a worrisome indicator

By BRENN A VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — A wasting disease is again plaguing sea stars at Haystack Rock — and it's not clear why.

A survey in January found that 64 of the 247 sea stars monitored had symptoms. The spread of the disease in the sea star population — 26 percent — is higher than other locations on the West Coast.

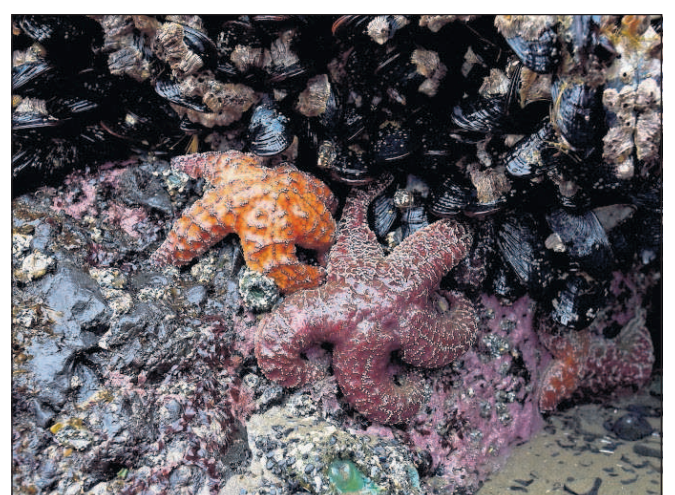
The disease was first spotted in Washington state's Olympic National Park in June 2013, and then shortly after on the coast from Alaska to Southern California. It didn't appear at Haystack Rock until 2014, where a summer survey

showed more than 70 percent of the population was affected. The population bounced back in 2015 when there was a sharp increase in the birth of baby sea stars.

"What we're seeing is essentially a population still struggling to persist through this epidemic and only just beginning to recover," said Eric Owen, the citizen science coordinator at the Haystack Rock Awareness Program.

How and where the wasting disease strikes has always been patchy, said Sarah Gravem, a postdoctoral student at Oregon State University who has studied the disease since the first outbreak. Part of what makes the disease so hard to research is its untraditional way of spreading.

"The reason it is so hard to understand is because the virus is in the water, and it can move so easily," Gravem said. "It can survive



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Sea stars at Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach have been hit hard by a wasting disease.

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