

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 175

DailyAstorian.com // MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018

ONE DOLLAR

Legislature adjourns short session with a cooperative tone

Several bipartisan policy decisions

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon legislative leaders Saturday celebrated a 28-day policymaking session marked by some bipartisan legislation.

Democratic leaders launched the session Feb. 5 with lofty ambitions of universal health care and a cap-and-invest program. Adjourning Saturday lawmakers left the state Capitol having passed smaller policy advancements with consensus from the Republican minority in many instances.

“This session surprised me,” said state Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem. “I was worried that we were overcommitted,

doing too much, but we just adjourned eight days before the constitutional deadline.”

Lawmakers made a fix to the state’s domestic violence gun laws, passed some measures to push back on Trump administration policies and made changes to help fund affordable housing and shed light on pharmaceutical drug prices.

The Legislature’s short session — held in even-numbered years — was sold to voters in 2010 as a time to fix laws and adjust the state budget. In 2016, the Legislature used the short session to pass major policies such as an increase in minimum wage and limits on the use of coal power.

This time, lawmakers showed restraint as many of them prepared for re-election bids this year. The filing deadline for the May 15 primary is Tuesday.

See **SESSION**, Page 7A

Oregon Republicans downplay Trump, tout the issues

President should not be the focus of state races, some say

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Republican gubernatorial candidate Jeff Smith claims he’s got a winning strategy, one that he’s willing to share with his competitors: Don’t talk about President Donald Trump.

“I am working hard to convince them that the issue is not Donald Trump,” Smith said, standing in front of his booth at the 54th annual Dorchester Conference, the annual gathering of Oregon Republicans, in Salem on Saturday. “The issue is winning.”

Although Smith is lesser-known among the broad bench of Republicans seeking the GOP nomination for governor, he’s confident enough that he says he bet the campaign manager for fellow candidate Sam Carpenter — whose slogan is “Make Oregon Great Again”



Claire Withycombe/Capital Bureau
Former Trump campaign adviser and self-styled provocateur Roger Stone was the headline speaker at Saturday’s Dorchester Conference in Salem. He is shown with a conference attendee.

— \$100 that he beats Carpenter in the primary.

“Should I make it \$1,000?” he asked a reporter.

See **GOP**, Page 5A



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Eric Owen and Brooke Watkins with the Haystack Rock Awareness Program examine a dead bird during a survey near Cannon Beach.

‘Part of a bigger picture’

Citizen science programs integral to supporting coastal research

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — On a misty Friday morning, Eric Owen and Brooke Watkins of the Haystack Rock Awareness Program scanned the beach in search of dead birds.

For the most part it’s a quiet, slow endeavor, marked by long gazes into driftwood piles and debris. But when they found a northern fulmar — a common seabird — they began to identify feet, measure wingspans and take photos.

This monthly ritual is a part of the COASST survey, a program that relies on data taken by volunteers to study large-scale patterns in seabird populations on the West Coast. The Haystack Rock Awareness Program conducts similar surveys for sea stars and marine debris throughout the year.

Surveys like these play a small part in a growing trend in the science community to use citizen scientists as a way to gather massive amounts of data. Over the weekend, marine scientists and conservationists came to Cannon Beach for an annual Coast Conference, a region-wide event to discuss coastal science and stewardship.

Whether the presentation was about ocean debris, marine mammals, seabirds or ocean jellies, many relied on the data collection work of volunteers throughout the state. A database for citizen science programs called Citsci.org, which recorded only a few dozen groups 10



Eric Owen measures the wing of a dead bird during a survey.



Volunteers with the Haystack Rock Awareness Program recently conducted a survey of dead seabirds near Cannon Beach.

years ago, now has more than 500 groups registered across the country, with new ones registering every day.

Owen, the citizen science coordinator for Haystack Rock Awareness Program, said it’s invaluable to feel like being “a part of a bigger picture.”

See **SCIENCE**, Page 7A

New curator contextualizes county history

Vaughn helps bring region’s history to life

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Chelsea Vaughn was already delving deep into the history of post-World War I pageantry for her doctoral dissertation when a call came from an academic adviser that Clatsop County Historical Society needed a new curator.

She joined a five-person staff at the historical society maintaining the Clatsop County

EVERYDAY
people

Heritage Museum, Oregon Film Museum, Flavel House Museum and Uppertown Fire-fighter’s Museum.

From the Portland area, Vaughn earned her bachelor’s at Portland State University before attending the University of California, Riverside for her master’s and doctorate in museum work and public history. Her husband, Ryan Hume, teaches writing at Clatsop Community Col-

lege, and her daughter attends John Jacob Astor Elementary.

Vaughn became interested in history, the stories people have to tell and how those are conveyed to the public.

“Most people actually get their history from museums or other historic sites, rather than the classroom, at this point,” she said.

As a costumer, Vaughn has always enjoyed working with physical objects, she said. She maintains and catalogs artifacts coming into the historical society, many from historic



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Chelsea Vaughn is the new curator for the Clatsop County Historical Society.

See **VAUGHN**, Page 5A



7 29467 20121 7