

OUR COAST

M A G A Z I N E

OUR ANNUAL DIVE INTO COASTAL LIVING FEATURES STORIES ON U.S. HIGHWAY 101, THE GARDEN OF SURGING WAVES, VINYL RECORDS AND ART FROM NOEL THOMAS • **INSIDE**

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 187

DailyAstorian.com // WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

ONE DOLLAR

FLOOD CONTROL

Residents grumble about demands

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County may make alterations to land use rules this year that would affect several hundred property owners in flood-prone areas, citing new federal insurance requirements.

The county has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program since the 1970s. For residents to remain eligible for the 50-year-old program that guards against flood losses, the Federal Emergency

See **FLOOD CONTROL**, Page 4A

College to propose \$3 tuition hike

Enrollment and fee revenue is down

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The Clatsop Community College Board, facing lackluster enrollment and funding, will consider a \$3-per-credit tuition hike next month.

"None of us feel like increasing tuition is something that we want to do," College President Christopher Breitmeyer said Tuesday. "We'd rather not do it. But we think at this time it's necessary, given where we are

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3A

MORE INSIDE

College to go tobacco-free by fall
Page 3A

Farms to salmon swamps



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Scott Thompson, owner of Blackberry Bog Farm near Svensen, looks out over his property near the habitat restoration project.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce is planning to restore several areas of wetlands near Svensen, including two parcels along either side of Bear Creek, which runs north from Svensen Slough.

Project to bring back 60 acres of habitat

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

SVENSEN — The southern banks along Svensen Slough, a side channel of the Columbia River, have transformed over time from historic spruce swamp into fields diked off by European settlers for farming.

Clatsop County and three private property owners along Bear, Mary's and Ferris creeks, all tributaries of the slough, have partnered with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce and Bonneville Power Administration to bring more than 60 acres of the swamp back for salmon and wildlife habitat.

Nearly 80 percent of estuarine habitat along the Lower Columbia has been

See **HABITAT**, Page 7A

Knappa looks at ways to curb school shootings



Jack Heffernan/The Daily Astorian
Superintendent Paulette Johnson speaks during a forum Tuesday on school safety.

Forum comes three weeks after threat at school

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

KNAPPA — During a Knappa School District safety forum Tuesday, Wendy Montgomery, a sixth-grade teacher at Hilda Lahti Elementary, explained to the crowd of concerned parents some of the complexities of school shootings.

For instance, the shooter would likely target classroom windows rather than entering front doors, forcing teachers to be creative.

Despite extensive training, nothing is foolproof.

"Please remember teachers are human and yes, we want to guarantee your child's safety. But I'm scared standing here. You can see my voice fluttering," Montgomery said. "So when a shooter is there, I'm going to do my darnedest to get your kid to safety, but please don't hold us 100 percent accountable if we make a mistake or, you know, we jump in front of a bullet and your child is shot anyway."

The forum at the Knappa High School gymnasium came three weeks after a student at the school threatened to grab a gun, return to campus and shoot himself. It also took place about a month after 17

people were killed in a Florida high school shooting. Hours before the forum, a student shot two classmates at a Maryland high school before eventually being killed by a school resource officer.

Recent arguments about how to avoid more school shootings have ranged from limiting access to guns to arming teachers.

Superintendent Paulette Johnson began the forum by explaining school training, policies about communicating with the public, safety and security resources and partnerships with local police. In addition to leading safety drills, for instance, faculty are assigned certain tasks

See **KNAPPA**, Page 3A



7 29467 20121 7