



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 196

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018

ONE DOLLAR

Court sides with salmon

Army Corps must spill more water over dams

By STEVEN DUBOIS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A federal appeals court on Monday affirmed an order to spill more water over Columbia and Snake river dams to help protect salmon and steelhead and aid their migration to the sea.

The decision came after U.S. District Court Judge Michael Simon of Oregon ruled last spring that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must spill more water through spillways rather than turbines that pose a danger to the fish.

He sided with conservationists who say allowing extra water to flow between April and mid-June will help young salmon.

The Army Corps, National Marine Fisheries Service and another federal agency appealed Simon's ruling.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Monday that Simon rightly concluded that the salmon and steelhead are imperiled and will remain so without further conservation efforts.

The judges also pointed to decades of studies that show higher spill volumes lead to increased survival rates.

"At best, federal defendants establish uncertainty about the benefits of increased spill, but the existence of scientific uncertainty does not render the district court's findings clearly erroneous," Chief Judge Sidney Thomas wrote in the opinion.

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Astoria backs rural grant for homeless youth

Federal money for outreach programs

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council has thrown its support behind a federal grant to help homeless youth.

Clatsop Community Action and the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care plan to apply for money through the youth homelessness demonstration program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The groups have not outlined a specific project yet, but they are looking to pull from \$43 million that has been set aside to serve homeless youth.

The federal money will be available to 11 communities across the country, five of which must be rural. A community can apply for between \$1 million and \$15 million.

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LAND CONSERVANCY RESTORES CLEAR LAKE



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Eric Owen shows Vernon Montgomery and Eric Halperin how to plant trees at the Clear Lake wetland restoration site.

A WETLAND RETURNS IN WARRENTON

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Faced with a heart transplant and not knowing what might happen next, a Warrenton resident set in motion a land transfer that has resulted in restored wetland habitat not far from downtown.

The North Coast Land Conservancy acquired the Clear Lake property in 2013 from Rod Gramson. It was the last lake in Warrenton that hadn't already been conserved or developed.

In the years since, the organization has excavated a sand dune and removed ditches that drained the surrounding wetland. The water is back, and so are the plants, helped along by infusions of seedlings planted by hand. Elk roam through, ducks cackle from behind long grasses, tree frogs are everywhere and someone even spotted a great horned owl.

Last week, staff and volunteers with the land conservancy finished the last active push to bring the land back to what it was before human development began to encroach and transform it. Eric Owen, a land steward, headed up the effort, planting more than 3,000 native plants at the 47-acre property, from elderberry and sedges to Sitka spruce and salal to place the wetland on a good trajectory.

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Above: Eric Halperin tamps down the dirt around a newly planted tree near Clear Lake as Vernon Montgomery prepares to do the same in the background.



Right: Eric Owen, center, with the North Coast Land Conservancy demonstrates to volunteers the proper way to plant seedlings.

Local activist, advocate begins state House campaign



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Tiffany Mitchell, center, stands with supporters Monday during a kickoff to her state House campaign at Buoy Beer Co.

Mitchell running for Boone's seat

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

When Melissa Ousley dropped out of the state House race to replace retiring state Rep. Deborah Boone, Tiffany Mitchell said she felt like there was no longer a candidate quite representing her views.

So Mitchell became the third to file in the Democratic primary in May for state House District 32, along with Tillamook County Commissioner Tim Josi and local attorney John Orr. She kicked her campaign off Monday amid a packed taproom at Buoy Beer Co.

"When she dropped out of the

race, I felt this void that really needed to be represented," Mitchell said of Ousley. "I listened to the other two candidates, and it's not that they're not good people. They just didn't represent my values or the values of so many other people that I had talked to that had also expressed that same regret that Melissa dropped out."

Mitchell is a case management coordinator for the state Department of Human Services who moved to Oregon from Utah in 2015 with her husband, who works for Pacific Power. She is an organizer with progressive activist group Indivisible North Coast Oregon and has focused her campaign on broader social policies such as affordable housing, health care, reproductive health, sta-

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