

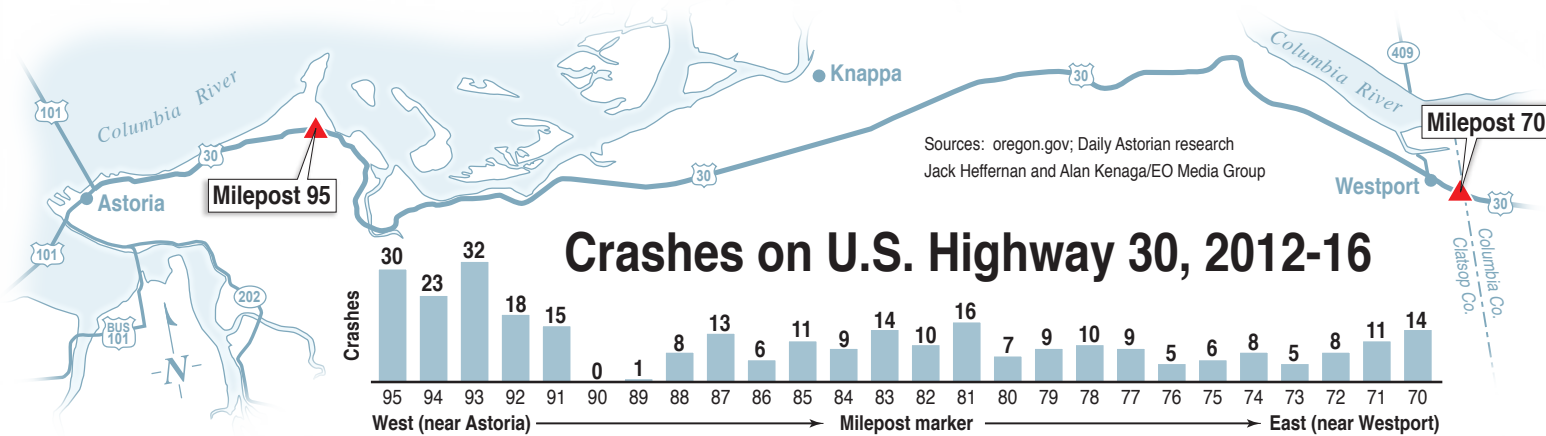


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ONE DOLLAR



Seaside scales back downtown association

Executive leaves, programs reviewed

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The Seaside Downtown Development Association announced a “heart-wrenching decision” Thursday, eliminating the role of its executive director and moving from offices on North Holladay Drive.

Further program or event cuts may follow for the non-profit in its 25th year representing businesses and merchants.

“We’re trying to figure out what our path is to future sustainability, to make sure we have enough money administratively to continue on,” said Darren Gooch, the board president. “We really want this organization to be viable for at least another 25-plus years.”

Program sponsorships have dropped steadily over the past decade, never fully recovering since

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Southern Oregon tribe sues to protect endangered fish

By JES BURNS
Oregon Public Broadcasting

A Southern Oregon tribe is accusing federal water managers of failing to keep Upper Klamath Lake full enough to ensure the continued survival of two endangered species of sucker fish that its people once depended on for subsistence.

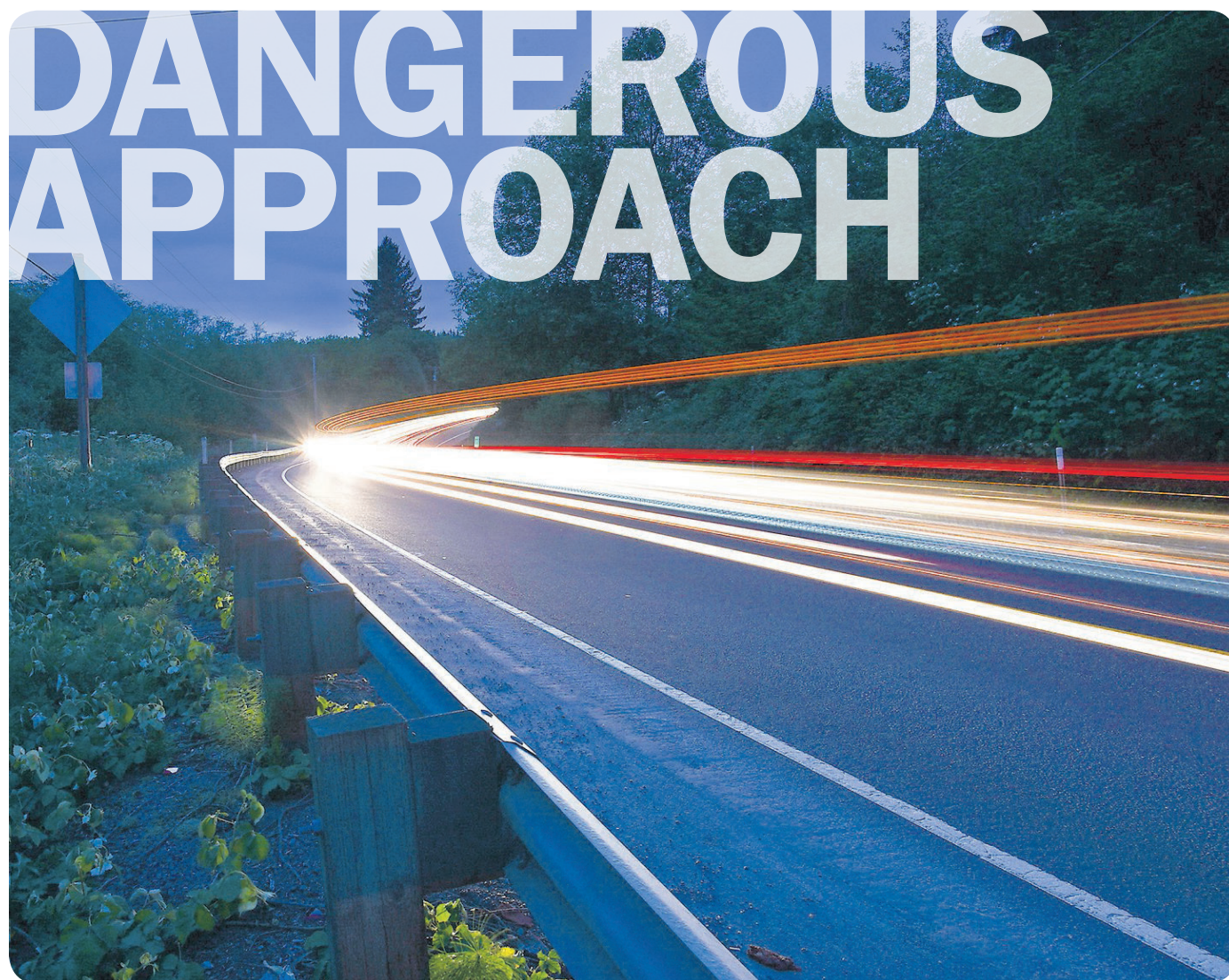
The Klamath Tribes leveled their claim in a lawsuit filed late Wednesday federal district court against the Bureau of Reclamation.

Water quality in the lake is generally poor and that can be exacerbated in drought years like the one we’re in.

“The lake levels are very important for providing habitat — water quality refuge habitat — for adult fish,” said Klamath Tribes scientist Mark Buettner.

Buettner said while the current sucker population continues to reproduce, very few of those young fish make it past the first year of life. This means the population of surviving sucker fish is aging and it’s feared the reproductive capacity of the fish will eventually start to decline, making

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Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Vehicles traveling along a curve east of Astoria on Highway 30 leave trails of light in this long-exposure photo.

Accidents on U.S. Highway 30 are more prevalent near eastern Astoria

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Many people familiar with the eastern entrance to Astoria experienced a nagging sense of remorse in late April.

Doug Morgan, 54, of Knappa, was killed while driving westbound on U.S. Highway 30 when a Chevrolet Tahoe crossed the centerline and collided head-on with his Toyota Prius.

The crash took place at milepost 94 just east of Tongue Point. It reminded Mikayla Morton, 18, of Knappa, of another fatal crash at the milepost just a few years earlier, prompting her to write a letter to the editor warning people about that specific spot.

“That accident hit all of us hard,” Morton said. “It just hit even more because two people from Knappa died.”

U.S. Hwy 30

By the numbers, 2012-16
(For mileposts 70-95)

- 26 miles
- 298 accidents
- 5 accidents/month on average
- 253 injuries
- 4 injuries/month on average
- 9 deaths

Source: Daily Astorian research

‘I wouldn’t so much blame it on the roadway as much as I would driving behavior.’

Andrew J. Merila
Oregon State Police Lt.

A five-year snapshot of crash statistics reveals her instinct to be correct. Out of the 26 miles on Highway 30 between Westport and Alderbrook, the 5-mile stretch approaching eastern Astoria is easily the most dangerous for drivers.

From 2012 through 2016, 298 accidents occurred in those 26 miles, causing 253 injuries and nine deaths, according to state Department of Transportation data. The 5 miles near Astoria account for 36 percent of those accidents, 42 percent of injuries and three deaths.

Save for some minor tweaks to the road, the onus is on drivers to minimize danger, officials say.

“People drive that road daily without any issues,” Oregon State Police Lt. Andrew J. Merila said. “I wouldn’t so much blame it on the roadway as much as I would driving behavior.”

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Liberty Theatre seeks \$5 million to modernize

Campaign is an investment in a modern venue

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Liberty Theatre will embark on a multi-year capital campaign to raise up to \$5 million to modernize performance spaces and the theatergoing experience.

The Commercial Street landmark underwent a \$6 million renovation between 1999 and 2006. But the theater’s offerings are still hampered by outdated equipment, from the original 1925 curtain system and rudimentary lighting to an undersized stage and inadequate backstage.

The theater recently hired lighting and architecture consultant Schuler Shook to investigate the building’s needs to become a modern venue. They came back with \$5 million worth of improvements.

The capital campaign will start in November with a gala and auction at the theater. Theater boosters are hoping to chip away at the \$5 million wish list over several years, said Christine Lolich, president of the theater’s board. The restoration of the building took about six years.

Jennifer Crockett, the theater’s director, called the capital campaign the second phase of the theater’s restoration. The first phase saved the building, while the second is about supporting the stage and operations by upgrading the lighting, rigging, curtains, backstage, changing rooms, box office and concessions area, she said.

The \$5 million also includes making the building more energy efficient by switching to



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Jennifer Crockett, director of the Liberty Theatre, shows a tour group the condition of the curtains on the stage.

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