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ONE DOLLAR

## WORST COULD BE OVER FOR RAZOR CLAMS

States keep close eye on a popular draw

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**  
*The Daily Astorian*

It's a mix of good news and bad news for razor clam populations in Oregon and Washington state this summer.

Fishery managers say after several years of strange ocean conditions and harmful algae blooms, there's a feeling that the worst is behind them for now.

But Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Bruce Buckmaster fielded concerns from original members of a shellfish task force earlier this year and will be asking his fellow commissioners to re-examine how the fishery operates in Oregon.

Near the end of June, staff with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife saw numerous small razor clams being dug up and either left behind on purpose or inadvertently discarded as people dug down in pursuit of larger clams. Under state rules, diggers must take the first 15 clams they dig no matter the size. Buckmaster was asked if a seasonal closure on Clatsop beaches could occur earlier, in June rather than in July, to give small clams more time to grow.

While Washington state opens portions of the coast to clam diggers on a case-by-case basis from October through May, Oregon's beaches are, for the most part, open year-round — barring emergency closures due to the presence of marine toxins like domoic acid. A seasonal closure also occurs on 18 miles of beach north of Tillamook Head in Clatsop County from mid-July through September to give young clams a chance to grow. This area receives the brunt of the state's digging activity and accounts for 95 percent of the clams harvested in Oregon.

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Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Valerie Miranda holds a razor clam dug up from the sand in order to study the species.



Valerie Miranda and Micah Rodgers with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife search for razor clams on the beaches near Fort Stevens State Park.

**"We just have to look at it."**

**Bruce Buckmaster**  
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioner



Staff with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife collect razor clams near Fort Stevens State Park.

SEASIDE

## Details released in fatal police shooting

Man allegedly refused to drop guns

By **JACK HEFFERNAN** and **BRENNA VISSER**  
*The Daily Astorian*

SEASIDE — The Seaside man who was shot and killed by police last week allegedly refused an order to drop two black powder pistols and appeared to be concealing one of the guns behind his back, authorities said today.

In the first detailed account of the July 24 shooting, Clatsop County Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said police first responded to the Seaside RV Park after a man was mauled by a dog and suffered serious injuries.

Officers left the scene but came back after a report from a neighbor that Cashus Dean Case, 44, armed himself and was seen waving the pistols. Case, who had helped the man who was attacked by dogs, allegedly threatened to kill the dogs.

See **SHOOTING**, Page 3A

## Astoria backs new co-op design

City Council rejects appeal from neighbors

By **EDWARD STRATTON**  
*The Daily Astorian*

The Astoria City Council tentatively approved plans for the Astoria Co-op Grocery's new store in Mill Pond after a three-hour public hearing Monday night about the building's configuration and traffic impacts.

City Councilors Tom Brownson, Cindy Price and Bruce Jones voted to deny an appeal by Mill Pond residents, who have taken issue with vehicle access to the store from Steam Whistle Way next to their properties. Mayor Arline LaMear supported the appeal. Councilor Zetty Nemlowill, the co-op's marketing director, recused herself.

The appeal packet, including voluminous testimony for and against the co-op project, was more than 300 pages. City Manager Brett Estes said there would be a revised set of city findings based on the additional testimony.

See **CO-OP**, Page 3A

## Crisis respite center still evaluating secure beds

An elusive promise made under pressure

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**  
*The Daily Astorian*

WARRENTON — Two years after promising secure beds to keep potentially dangerous mental health patients from walking away, the crisis respite center is still evaluating whether the option is needed and worth the cost.

The respite center found financial footing in residential mental health treatment and crisis care, a voluntary place for people after they leave the hospital or county jail but are not ready to go home.

The promise to have four of the 16 beds secure, made under political pressure before the respite center opened in July 2016, was put off as the financial model evolved.

Amy Baker, the executive director of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, which operates the respite center, is not convinced secure beds are necessary. The respite center was not designed for secure beds and the conversation at the time the promise was made did not draw out all of the obstacles.

"It's never going to be what people wanted. It's not going to be a police drop-off, and it's not going to be a psychiatric hospital that basically removes people from the community," Baker said.

People must be medically cleared by a hospital before they go to the respite center, a screening process that can help determine whether drug and alcohol abuse or physical ailments are fueling a mental health breakdown.

With secure beds — a Class 2 designation from the Oregon Health Authority — mental health patients could be locked at the respite center, but staff could not use seclusion, restraint



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The North Coast Crisis Respite Center in Warrenton has stabilized financially as a residential treatment center for mental health, but does not have secure beds.

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