

RV park off at Arcadia Beach

Owner looking to sell

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

ARCH CAPE — Plans for an RV park across from Arcadia Beach that drew ire from environmentalists and neighbors have been scrapped.

James Smejkal, the owner of the 17.6-acre parcel of forestland nestled next to U.S. Highway 101, wanted to build what he called “an upscale RV park,” mostly because it is one of the only types of development allowed with the land’s recreation management zoning.

But as the project moved forward, Smejkal faced logistical challenges like building proper roadways into the park, finding a nearby water source for infrastructure and doing construction without downing trees, Leonard Waggoner, Smejkal’s development consultant, said.

Now, Smejkal is looking to sell. “Mechanically, it just didn’t fit,” Waggoner said. “We would have had to build 1,000 feet of roadway for 15 or 20 units.”

Smejkal has faced roadblocks to development since he acquired the land in 2002 through a trade with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. In 2009, Smejkal tried to develop the property as housing, which was ultimately denied by the Clatsop County Planning Commission.

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Buoy 10 opens with lower forecast runs

Warmer ocean conditions blamed

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

The popular Buoy 10 salmon fishery began today on the Columbia River with modest fish run forecasts, new regulations and an effort to build the fishery up over time in upstream sections of the main stem.

Forecasters expect 375,500 adult Chinook salmon to enter the Columbia this fall, about 80 percent of last year’s return and half the recent 10-year average.

An estimated 213,600 adult coho salmon are expected to enter the river mouth, versus last year’s return of 235,700. An estimated 182,400 steelhead are expected upstream.

John North, an ocean salmon and Columbia program manager for the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the reduced runs are mostly based on warm ocean conditions. Warm river conditions affecting outward-migrating salmon in 2015 might have also affected those returning this year, he said.

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Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

People gathered at a rally Saturday in Astoria to protest a ballot measure that would repeal Oregon’s sanctuary law.

STATE OF UNCERTAINTY

Sanctuary law repeal could shift relationships with local law enforcement

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

A ballot measure in November to repeal Oregon’s sanctuary law could complicate local law enforcement’s relationship with the Hispanic community while repairing it with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The measure would overturn sanctuary protections — created in 1987 — that largely prohibit state and local police from enforcing federal immigration laws.

Many sheriffs welcome the opportunity to work more closely with ICE to detain undocumented inmates at county jails. Others in law enforcement, however, are concerned it could cause difficulty if Hispanics are more fearful of police.

A series of demonstrations across the state on Saturday — including one in Astoria — showed the opposition to the measure.

“I think safety is a concern for people,” said Andrea Gonzalez, of the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council. “I think it’s just another, kind of, scare tactic toward the immigrant community.”

Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin is a member of the Western States Sheriffs’ Association, which includes sheriffs from 15 states. The association expects to make a decision about whether to endorse the measure in the next few weeks.

Bergin supports the measure himself and believes others in the association will follow suit.

“I see pretty strong support, but we need to make sure to follow our rules and our guidelines,” the sheriff said. “We realize this is a good deal to rescind or revoke or repeal the sanctuary state law.”

Criticism from ICE

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has repeatedly criticized sheriff’s



Andrea Gonzalez, far right, speaks at a rally last weekend in Astoria against a ballot measure that would overturn the state’s sanctuary law.



Demonstrators hold up signs in Astoria supporting Oregon’s sanctuary law.

offices in the state — including Clatsop County — for not adhering to requests to detain and alert the agency about undocumented immigrants who are arrested.

Bergin has said he is worried about potential civil rights lawsuits, citing the state sanctuary law. He hopes voters will agree to change the law and that his office

will have a more fluid relationship with ICE.

“It hampers us and doesn’t allow us to work with the federal government,” Bergin said. “We’re looking for the bad people.”

Bergin would not direct his deputies to ask people they encounter during traffic stops or on the street for proof of citizenship, he said.

“That’s ludicrous,” he said. “Can you imagine how much that would clog up our system?”

Like Bergin, others in local law enforcement do not seem eager to verify citizenship.

The Astoria Police Department’s workload is already full, Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said. Some people, however, regardless of their immigration status, are reluctant to report crimes to police out of fear of retaliation.

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At county fair, new attractions — and a llama



Hannah Sievert/The Daily Astorian

Clay Sovince meets ‘Daisy,’ a llama, at the Clatsop County Fair on Tuesday.

Organizers hope for renewed interest

By **HANNAH SIEVERT**
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County Fair opened on Tuesday with signature rides, funnel cakes and 4-H competitions, along with a few changes, thanks to new manager John Lewis.

The fair will have monster truck rides, an antique tractor section and extreme jeep races on Saturday for the first time. Lewis hopes the attractions will cultivate renewed interest in the fair by locals.

“A lot of people that I know personally save up and go to the Tillamook fair the week after us, because they have all of this stuff,” Lewis said. “I want to bring some of that here, so the

people who live here want to come here, not save up to go to another fair.”

Entertainment highlights include country music on Friday night featuring Briana Renea and Diamond Rio. Wednesday’s attendees can receive a free whole hog roast dinner. Thursday is Military Appreciation Day, and veterans will be admitted for \$3.

Many locals come to the fair for the 4-H exhibits, where young people show off the animals they’ve helped raise, including pigs, goats, chickens, cows, sheep, rabbits and horses.

“We’re one big family,” said Ashley Sisley, 12, who has been in 4-H for two years and works with dairy cows and pigs.

Some young people who live in cities are able to participate in 4-H by pairing with a 4-H leader who has the resources to raise animals.

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