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ONE DOLLAR

This is Evelyn

The Astoria chicken is a frizzled satin showgirl



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Brent Rueff holds up Evelyn, a chicken in the running for Miss Flock-Tober.

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

You know those photo contests that pop up on social media — the kind where you see everyone hitting “like” on a picture of some random baby — and you think, “My baby is so much cuter.” And then you send off a picture to prove it to the world?

Just trade the baby for a chicken and that’s more or less why Brent Rueff of Astoria decided to send a picture of his hen, Evelyn, to the nationwide Purina “Miss Flock-Tober” contest.

Because Evelyn — with her blue ears, naked neck and startling explosion of gray feathers on top of her head — is cuter than most chickens. And the world needs to know.

So far, the world has validated Rueff’s belief.

Evelyn won the title “Miss Fancy Feathers” earlier this month. She is in the running for the title of “Miss Flock-Tober,” and the grand prize, a year’s supply of Purina poultry feed.

Rueff, a registered nurse at Columbia Memorial Hospital, and his husband, Ryan Ewing, a web developer, started their back-



Brent Rueff checks on a group of chickens in the backyard of his home.

MORE ONLINE

Watch video of the chickens at bit.ly/astoria-chickens

yard flock about a year ago, not long after they moved to Astoria. Rueff’s grandmother and great-grandmother both raised chickens, but the flock — also known as “the girls” — was Ewing’s first real exposure to chickens, even though he’d long had an interest in urban farming.

Now he and Rueff care for 16

chickens in the backyard of their home on the South Slope. They have standard hens, breeds like Speckled Sussex or Welsummer that are known for their egg laying, the children’s book picture of a chicken. Then there are the satins and silkies.

“OK, it’s kind of a weird thing,” Rueff said, picking up Evelyn and thinking briefly about how to describe her and her sisters.

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Judge orders EPA to protect salmon

Warmer water is lethal for fish

By LYNDA V. MAPES
Seattle Times

SEATTLE — A federal judge has ordered protection for salmon in the Columbia River basin from warm water temperatures that have been lethal to salmon and steelhead as the climate changes.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District at Seattle in a 16-page ruling Wednesday ordered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect salmon and steelhead from dangerously warm water temperatures in the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

Climate change has exacerbated a long-standing problem with water temperature in reservoirs behind hydropower dams on the rivers, increasing the number days in which temperatures exceed what can be tolerated by salmon and steelhead, which are cold-water species. In 2015, 250,000 adult sockeye salmon died when the Columbia and Snake rivers became too warm.

Hot water pushed survival rates for critically endangered Snake River sockeye to only 4 percent in 2015.

“Because of today’s victory, EPA will finally write a comprehensive plan to deal with dams’ impact on water temperature and salmon survival,” said Brett Vandenhuevel, executive director of Columbia Riverkeeper, one of the plaintiffs in the suit.

The suit was brought by multiple conservation and fishermen’s groups.

The court found that the EPA has failed to undertake its mandatory duty to enforce and ensure a temperature daily maximum, just as it must also enforce other types of water-quality parameters under the Clean Water Act. Federal Judge Ricardo Martinez ordered the agency to issue a temperature standard for the river.

The ruling was celebrated by fishermen hurt by diminished salmon runs on the Columbia and Snake, once the biggest in the world. “Our livelihoods depend on healthy salmon runs,” said Glen Spain, Northwest Regional Director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations. “It is simply unacceptable to let hot water kill otherwise-healthy adult salmon before they can spawn. We’re glad EPA will finally do its job.”

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Schools prepare as shelters in a storm

State pushes school resiliency

By BRENN A VISSER
The Daily Astorian

With construction underway in Seaside to build schools outside the tsunami inundation zone and a bond on the ballot in Warrenton in November to do the same, preparing schools for a disaster is in the limelight.

But as schools look for opportunities to relocate to higher ground to be safer in an earthquake and tsunami,



administrators will face a new task: how to prepare to be a community’s default shelter when disaster strikes.

Schools are at the center of the state’s emergency planning strategy. The state has emphasized making aging school buildings more earthquake resilient, with pro-

grams like the seismic retrofit grant, which has awarded more than \$225 million to bring schools up to building code standards.

While schools are traditionally expected to serve as shelters, an analysis by the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission found there has been little to no planning by school districts for how schools would be used following a Cascadia Subduction Zone quake.

“People have a lot of assumptions that schools

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Construction crews work on the new campus in Seaside.



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