

## A snowy day on the North Coast

The Daily Astorian

**R**esidents on the North Coast awoke to a light snow on Saturday. The winter weather did not produce much accumulation, but cold temperatures created icy conditions for motorists.



A deer takes a stroll in the snow in Astoria.

Katie Frankowicz/The Daily Astorian



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian



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Katie Frankowicz/The Daily Astorian



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**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Roads were slick with snow for most of Saturday morning in parts of Astoria.

A mix of snow and ice in Astoria on Saturday.

Icy roads were a challenge for some drivers.

Snow blankets the Astoria Column and surrounding area for a brief time Saturday morning.

## County school enrollment outpaces state's rate

Driven by growth in Warrenton and Seaside

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

School enrollment in Clatsop County has grown nearly twice as fast as the state over the past five years, driven mainly by increases in Warrenton and Seaside, while Astoria slowly shrinks.

Enrollment, reported at 5,226 students in the fall, has increased by 5 percent over the past five years. The state has expanded from 567,100 students five years ago to 581,700 this fall, a 2.6 percent growth rate.

After surpassing 1,900 students for the first time since 2013, Astoria shrank by nearly 2 percent to 1,881 students this fall. The school district's enrollment has fallen nearly 3 percent since its last high point of 1,937 in 2010.

Craig Hoppes, the school superintendent in Astoria, sees the lack of housing and living-wage jobs as some of the biggest factors in enrollment, along with yearly influx and departure of Coast Guard families.

"I can tell you from a staff standpoint, based on now versus how it was 15 years ago, we have more staff that live outside Astoria than in Astoria," he said.

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## Drag Queen Story Hour goes on with city support

A small protest outside

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

Despite worrying messages about violent protests, a Drag Queen Story Hour at the Astoria Library proceeded calmly on Saturday morning, with over 100 adults and children in attendance.

The event's primary critic, Miles Rudduck of Warrenton, stood outside during the reading with three other men.

Earlier in the week, Rudduck announced on social media that he planned to peacefully protest, but also indicated to library staff and Astoria police that violent protests could be possible from others, according to Police Chief Geoff Spalding.

But no violent protests erupted and attendance surpassed a similar reading last summer.

"It's fine, everything went well," Jimmy Pearson, the library's director, said. "Everyone seems to be happy."

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## New parks director takes helm in Astoria



Katie Frankowicz/The Daily Astorian

Tim Williams was hired in December to take over the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department.

Williams has a range of experience

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

**T**im Williams looked into several different majors in college: psychology, international business ... Then one day he saw another student walk by with a jack-o'-lantern carved at a program offered by the local parks and recreation department.

It feels kind of silly to admit now, he says, sitting



in the office of the Astoria Parks and Recreation Department after his first few weeks on the job as the new director, but that pumpkin caught his interest.

He had long been involved in sports as a player and a coach throughout his childhood and into his early adult years, but there was something about that encounter, the real-

ization of the many programs parks and recreation might offer besides sports, that made him look more closely at a career.

Williams was hired in December to replace Angela Cosby as director. Cosby had led the department through a difficult transition to a budget that truly reflected the costs of operations. There had been program cuts and staff had weathered months of uncertainty.

"This was going to be the year of stability," City

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