

## BACKYARD BIRD COUNT LANDS IN CLATSOP COUNTY



Photos by Katie Frankowicz/The Daily Astorian

Naturalist Mike Patterson and park volunteer Rosemary McGrath turn their binoculars to the trees to identify a bird during a birding walk at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Saturday. The walk was part of the annual Great Backyard Bird Count.

### Bird watching celebrated at Fort Clatsop

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

Here's a birding lesson: Your ears are just as important as your eyes.

On a birding walk at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Saturday morning, naturalist Mike Patterson stopped often to listen. The sounds of birds socializing and hunting often caught his attention before he even saw a flutter in the trees or the underbrush. There was the distinctive "dee-dee-dee" of black-capped chickadees. The harsh squawking complaints of a great blue heron.

The birding walk was one of several events the national park hosted over the weekend as part of the 22nd annual Great Backyard Bird Count, the first online citizen-science project with the purpose of collecting data on wild birds around the globe.

The park provided a number of bird-related exhibits and activities at the visitor's center over the weekend. A number of pink plastic flamingos — sorry, "great pink herons," perhaps a subspecies of the more common great blue heron — also made an appearance along trails in the park.

During the annual bird count, people around the world count the birds they see in their area and post the information online, providing important information about the abundance and distribution of



ABOVE: Park volunteer Rosemary McGrath goes over the bird species seen during a birding walk on Saturday at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park as part of the 22nd annual Great Backyard Bird Count. RIGHT: Park staff at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park tucked plastic pink flamingos at intervals along trails through the park, referring to them jokingly as 'great pink herons.'

bird species.

In Clatsop County, people submitted sightings of dozens of different birds, cataloguing a total of 99 species as of Sunday afternoon, according to the bird count's website.

The settling ponds in Cannon



Beach proved to be a popular spot for sightings, along with Fort Clatsop's Netul River Trail, the route Patterson took on Saturday.

## Washington may limit vaccine exemptions

Measles outbreak climbs to 61 cases

By RACHEL LA CORTE  
Associated Press

Washington state lawmakers have advanced a measure that would remove parents' ability to claim a personal or philosophical exemption to vaccinating their school-age children for measles as the Pacific Northwest struggles with an outbreak of the contagious virus.

The state House Health Care and Wellness Committee approved House Bill 1638 on a 10-5 vote on Friday. The full House could vote on it in the coming weeks.

The legislation comes amid an outbreak that has sickened 61 people in the Pacific Northwest and led Washington Gov. Jay Inslee to declare a state of emergency.

Of the cases confirmed in Clark County, 54 were not immunized against measles. Immunization status couldn't be verified for five cases, and two cases involved a child who had received only a single dose of the MMR vaccine.

The majority of confirmed Clark County cases — 44 — involve children between the ages of 1 and 10.

Washington is among 17 states, including Oregon, that allow some type of non-medical vaccine exemption for "personal, moral or other beliefs," according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Washington now allows vaccination exemptions for children at public or private schools or licensed day care centers based on medical, religious and personal or philosophical beliefs. Unless an

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## Soul food, pizza come to food cart pod

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The food cart pod on 11th and Duane streets has added some soul, with wood-fired pizza on the way.

Jordan Wilson is serving up all the soul food standards — chicken and waffle sandwiches, po' boys, shrimp and grits and other Southern staples — out of his black cart wedged on 11th Street between Roll & Bowl and Sasquatch Sandwich.

Wilson, originally from Seattle, worked as a chef around Portland before recently relocating to Manzanita with his fiancé, a Cannon Beach native. Over the summer, he built out the inside of his food cart, opening last week.

His background in Portland includes stints at Ex Novo Brewing and the 100-plus taproom Henry's 12th Street Tavern on Burnside Street.

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## Intern finds direction at Haystack Rock

A success story from Clatsop Works

By BRENNIA VISSER  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Ellison Randall didn't anticipate she would someday be pursuing environmental activism.

Ever since she was little, the 18-year-old Astoria native has had her sights set on becoming a veterinarian. A self-proclaimed animal lover, in high school she would spend her free time volunteering at animal shel-



ters and the Wildlife Center of the North Coast.

But then life took a detour. Right before her senior year, Randall left Astoria High School to work through some personal issues.

Later that year, she decided to enroll at Clatsop Community College to study for her GED, which she received by the end of

the school year.

"(That experience) was a big boost to my confidence ... to know I can do stuff, even if it's not the normal way," Randall said.

While at the college, Randall was also introduced to Clatsop Works, a countywide paid internship program. She asked if there were any opportunities to work with animals or the environment. Around the same time, the Haystack Rock Awareness Program had just applied to be a hosting employer.



Rita Goldfarb

Ellison Randall is a lead interpreter for the Haystack Rock Awareness Program.

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