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ONE DOLLAR

Ocean conditions appear to be improving

Waters are cooler and more productive

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

The ocean is still warmer than normal, but things appear to be looking up in West Coast waters — for now.

An annual status report on ecosystems in the California Current by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found there are indications the ocean waters off California, Oregon and Washington state are cooler and more productive than they were during a marine heat wave that began in 2014 with a mass of warm water nicknamed “the Blob” and persisted through 2016.

Fish landings and revenue rebounded strongly in 2017 compared to 2016, with record hake landings and increases in crab leading the way, along with a bump in squid. Landings in other fisheries, however, did not see the same boost.

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Razor clamming shut down by toxin
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Rep. Mitchell hears calls for more money

Lawmaker appeared at a town hall on Sunday

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

State Rep. Tiffany Mitchell faced calls during a town hall at Clatsop Community College on Sunday to push her colleagues for more education funding and taxes on corporations.

Mitchell's town hall came as the state Legislature is crafting a two-year budget. The budget of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, released last week, includes nearly \$8.9 billion for K-12 education, an 8 percent increase and enough to cover service levels.



Tiffany Mitchell

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CREATIVE LIBERTIES

CLASSROOMS EXPERIMENT WITH PLASTIC ART



Katie Frankowicz/The Daily Astorian

Bronson Brim examines a piece of plastic during an art project with his class from Simply Kids Preschool in Astoria.

Material salvaged from the beach

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Bronson Brim examined the broken wedge of black plastic a friend handed him.

“What’s this?” the preschooler asked, turning it over so the letters “DVD” were suddenly visible, stamped on one side.

“A shark fin for you!” his friend exclaimed.

Because — indeed — the former DVD tray was broken into the approximate shape of a shark fin. Brim turned back to an old window on the table in front of him and considered where to place the fin.

He and his classmates from Simply Kids Preschool in Astoria collaborated with the Bumble Art Studio’s preschool program last week to cre-



Colorful plastic pieces, some familiar, are sorted by color in buckets and used in art murals in Bumble Art Studio’s preschool classroom in Astoria.

ate murals on windows using odds and ends of plastic that washed up on local beaches.

The art is part of a larger Trash Talk Project created by the Haystack Rock Awareness Program in an effort to educate the public about the issues of plastic pollution in marine envi-

ronments and to keep the plastic from ending up in landfills.

In the program, discarded, ocean-warped plastic becomes wearable jewelry, art or even window murals encased in resin.

The plastic the preschoolers sorted through was collected during the Haystack Rock Awareness Program’s marine debris surveys in Cannon Beach and from local beach cleanups.

Familiar items surfaced as the children sifted through buckets of plastic, on the hunt for the perfect pieces and colors to fill in a design of a bee buzzing among flowers and honeycombs on their windows. There were old soap bubble wands, bucket handles, a pink spoon, milk caps.

“By tying in the items that they recognize with the concept that it’s marine debris that we picked up off the beach — maybe even things they recognize from their own visits to the beach — next time they go, they’ll be

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Ballet director comes back to her roots

Sundstrom began dancing in Astoria

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

Lisa Sundstrom, who directs the training company of the Oregon Ballet Theatre, didn’t always love ballet.

In fact, when she was first taking classes her mom signed her up for in Astoria as a kid, she didn’t like it very much at all. She was shy, and wasn’t a huge fan of leotards and tights.

“It made me feel exposed,” she said.

But as she progressed,



Sundstrom began connecting with and taking more of an interest in dancing.

Before she knew it, she was spending all of her free time in the studio, traveling to summer intensives and eventually attending ballet school in California. She was on track to become a professional ballerina.

“I felt like I was with my people for the first time,” Sundstrom said of going to

ballet school her senior year of high school. “I never fit in with Astoria. I always felt like I was different, going to the studio every day while everyone else was playing sports.”

Astoria was the beginning of that dream. So it was particularly special for Sundstrom, who is now the director of OBT2, the theater’s training company, to come back to her roots on Saturday to collaborate with the studio that trained her.

Over the weekend, OBT2, composed of dancers who are on the cusp of a



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Lisa Sundstrom, the director of OBT2, grew up in Astoria.

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