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McClaine ousts Hunsinger in Port race

Commissioner was critical of agency management

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Commissioner Bill Hunsinger, who emerged as the primary critic of the Port of Astoria's leadership and financial management, lost his reelection bid on Tuesday to challenger Scott McClaine, a self-described set of fresh eyes.

McClaine received 63% of the vote to Hunsinger's 37%.

McClaine, a 28-year Coast Guard veteran who retired to Astoria and ran Clatsop Coin, quit his job as a security guard at the Port to run against Hunsinger.



Scott McClaine



Bill Hunsinger

He stressed the need for increased civility on the Port Commission, which has often been beset by infighting and drama — with Hunsinger usually at the center.

"The general public through property taxes and stuff, generates like 4 percent of the Port's budget," McClaine said. "We

ELECTION RESULTS

See full election results for Clatsop County online at: results.oregonvotes.gov

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College, school board, transit and park and rec district races

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does, he said.

Hunsinger, a commercial fisherman and former longshoreman, congratulated McClaine and thanked the public for his 12 years on the Port Commission.

He was consistently critical of Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, repeatedly calling for his ouster.

"All the commissioners should be recalled, except for Scott, because we're not doing our job," Hunsinger said. "I can't find anything the Port manager has done to help the Port of Astoria over the last 4 1/2 years."

Hunsinger's defeat in Position 3 leaves Commissioner Dirk Rohne as the commissioner most critical of Knight's performance.

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Prosecution, defense close arguments in murder trial

Jurors hear woman helped her boyfriend with crime

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Prosecutors trying to convict Adeena Copell in the murder of a Newport man in 2016 closed their arguments Tuesday, describing her actions in tandem with her boyfriend, Christian Wilkins, who pleaded guilty to the murder earlier this month.



Adeena Copell

Copell's defense painted her as subservient to a domineering partner and guilty of bad judgment, but not murder.

Howard Vinge, 71, was beaten to death inside his RV in September 2016. His body was dumped several days later down an embankment along U.S. Highway 30 east of Astoria.

Wilkins and Copell, who had lived with Vinge for about two months before his death, allegedly took his RV and sedan. They dumped the RV on U.S. Highway 26 in Hamlet after it broke down and drove the sedan to Arizona, where they were arrested.

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Jewell strips Superintendent Hunsaker of duties

Decision comes after investigation

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

JEWELL — The Jewell School Board on Monday stripped Superintendent Alice Hunsaker of the right to represent the school district after an investigation found she served without an administrator's license and failed to ensure completion of employee evaluations.

Bryan Swearingen, the school board's chairman, declined to comment on the specifics of the investigation until Hunsaker is issued a letter of discipline in her permanent file.

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Alice Hunsaker



EAGLE COUNTRY

Nick Myatt

A bald eagle sits perched on a tree branch.

Ranchers blame eagles for their livestock deaths

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

BROWNSMEAD — The large bald eagle flew so low over Ben Parker's head, he felt the wind from its wings.

"She comes right down overhead," he said.

The Brownsmead rancher suspects it is the same eagle that has been hunting his lambs this spring. He has lost four so far.

Longtime Clatsop County residents can still remember a time when it was rare to see a bald eagle. The raptors were once considered on the brink of extinction and were only removed from the federal Endangered Species Act list in Oregon in 2007.

Now? "It's basically almost an explosion," said Neal Maine, a Gear-



Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian
A lamb on Ben Parker's farm stays close to its mother.

hart-based wildlife photographer.

Bald eagles are found in nearly every county in Oregon and their numbers continue to rise across the country. With this eagle explosion comes a new challenge: How to coexist?

Predation of livestock by eagles is rare on the North Coast, according to state and federal reports. But the numbers are hard to tease out. Many people don't report predation, and even when they do, it's not always possi-



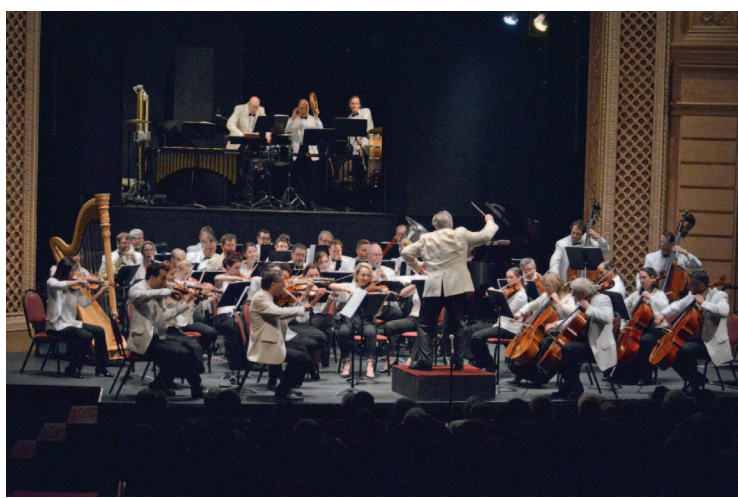
Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian
Ben Parker displays a lamb that he believes fell victim to a bird of prey.

ble to be certain an eagle is to blame.

"It gets a little murky," said Russell Hunter, a veterinarian who runs his practice out of Knappa and has helped investigate livestock deaths. "The predation is real and it's emotional and it's a little bit hard to determine how much of it is going on."

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Show goes on, but Astoria Music Festival pares down



Keith Clark conducts the Astoria Music Festival Orchestra in 2017.

Liberty Theatre likely not a venue

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Amid missed booking deadlines, fundraising woes and concerns that the 17-year-old Astoria Music Festival will go in jeopardy, the show will go on.

This week, the Liberty Theatre, historically the festival's largest venue, decided to fill slots at the end of June that had been kept open for the festival. The festival had already missed booking deadlines earlier this

year and lost out on other slots in mid-June. When Jennifer Crockett, the Liberty's executive director, met with festival organizers last week, there was still no program or plan, she said. The theater had to move on.

But Deac Guidi, the festival board president, said a pared-down version of the classical music series is still being planned for mid-June. The festival will focus more on its young artists' program this year. Concerts and performances will be held around Astoria, but at smaller venues, such as Peace

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Dwight Caswell/For The Astorian



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