

# the Astorian

147TH YEAR, NO. 40

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019

\$1.50

## Illnesses force Knappa to cancel school

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

Knappa High School and Hilda Lahti Elementary School closed Monday because of illnesses among students and teachers and to give custodial staff time to do a deep cleaning.

Superintendent Paulette Johnson described the illnesses as the flu or norovirus. She said on Monday that between 50 and 75 students and about 10 staffers were out sick.

"We were unable to fill all of the teacher openings and the health department suggested we deep clean and encourage folks to stay home," she said in a text message on Sunday. "Some of that occurred today with more planned for tomorrow."

"It started on Friday sending a large number of students home. We asked parents on Facebook to post if their children got ill over the weekend. The numbers increased yesterday and more today. So after informing the board of the situation the decision was made to close for tomorrow with classes resuming on Tuesday."

Parents were advised that students should be symptom-free of illness for 48 hours before they return to school.

The school district will run normal bus routes but is dealing with a couple of drivers out, which could affect transportation home from athletic practices, Johnson said.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Don Bohn is Clatsop County's new manager.

## COUNTY WELCOMES NEW MANAGER

### Bohn's focus is on relationships

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

County Commissioner Lianne Thompson brought jars of honey from her family trip in the Midwest to share with fellow commissioners and staff at a board meeting on Wednesday night.

The gifts were a personal touch, but given the salty relationships between the Board of Commissioners and the past few county managers, they were also a little symbolic.

"They sent us sweetness," Thompson said. "They sent me back with a gallon of Michigan honey to share with my colleagues to celebrate the sweet moment that our new county manager brings to us. May all your days here be as sweet as this honey."

"Cheers to Don Bohn."

Bohn, the former assistant county administrator in Washington County, is the county's 10th manager over the past two decades. He replaces Cameron Moore, who retired after less than three years on the job after clashes with some on the county commission.

Monica Steele, the county's budget director, served as interim county manager until Bohn started in mid-September.

"She's done a great job and I respect the job that she's done," Bohn said, saying he looks forward to working with Steele.

See Manager, Page A5

*'WHAT I AM HOPEFUL FOR, THOUGH, IS WE DON'T LOSE OUR CIVILITY AND WE DON'T GET TO A POINT WHERE WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER, WE SEE OUR DIFFERENCES, BUT NOT ALL OF OUR SIMILARITIES. I'M STILL OPTIMISTIC. I STILL FEEL VERY GOOD ABOUT WHERE WE'RE GENERALLY HEADED.'*

Don Bohn | county manager



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Diane Collier has staffed the Warrenton Visitor Center and Museum at the Youngs Bay Plaza since 2011. The center closed after her last shift Monday.

## Warrenton's museum closes

Town historian completes last shift

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

WARRENTON — The Warrenton Visitor Center and Museum at the Youngs Bay Plaza closed Monday after the last shift of volunteer Diane Collier, the city's unofficial historian.

Collier, 79, helped form the Warrenton-Hammond Historical Society three decades ago with her friend, Pat Williams. She has gathered a vast array of photos, books and other records documenting Warrenton and Hammond's history.

"My history in Warrenton goes back before white people," Collier said. "My great-great grandfather was the last chief of the Clatsop Indians."

The society operated a historical museum in the Lighthouse Park near the intersection of Harbor Drive and Main Avenue in downtown. The museum moved



Diane Collier, an unofficial historian of the Warrenton-Hammond region, traces her roots back to the Clatsop Indians.

to the Youngs Bay Plaza in 2011 after the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce stopped manning the visitor center.

Tracking the city's history has been an old person's game. The historical society disbanded quite some time ago, Collier said, and her corps of volunteers operating the visitor center dwindled to three.

The city owns the visitor center and leases the land from Atlas Investments, owners of the Youngs Bay Plaza. A clause in the lease requires the building be run as a visitor's center or removed.

See Museum, Page A5

## Local artists create gallery show from trash

Interesting display at Astoria Visual Arts

By LUCY KLEINER  
*The Astorian*

In the right-hand corner of the Astoria Visual Arts gallery, out of an arrangement of abandoned Styrofoam and a jumble of microplastic, tiny green plants grow. They're surrounded by trash — thick metal rods weave among them, a massive, rotting fishing net hangs from above, a plastic, flesh-colored hand protrudes from below.

But still, they grow.

This assortment of trash and life is artist Jessica Schleif's "Hope Garden."

"We are part of nature, and to be able to see nature forging through the cement, the tarmac, the places that we make that are devoid of nature, it gives me hopefulness," she said. "I wanted to create a small garden within the gallery that spoke to that feeling of hope that I saw."

Schleif is one of the three artists behind "Fugitive," a gallery show. The creative



Jesse Jones with a fish that washed up on the beach.

process brought Schleif, Dawn Stetzel and Jesse Jones together, and resulted in an art display made entirely of recycled trash found in the natural world.

See Artists, Page A6



Lucy Kleiner/The Astorian

Artists, from left, Jessica Schleif, Dawn Stetzel and Jesse Jones in front of a grid of single-use plastic trays used to sample water.



7 29467 20121 7