



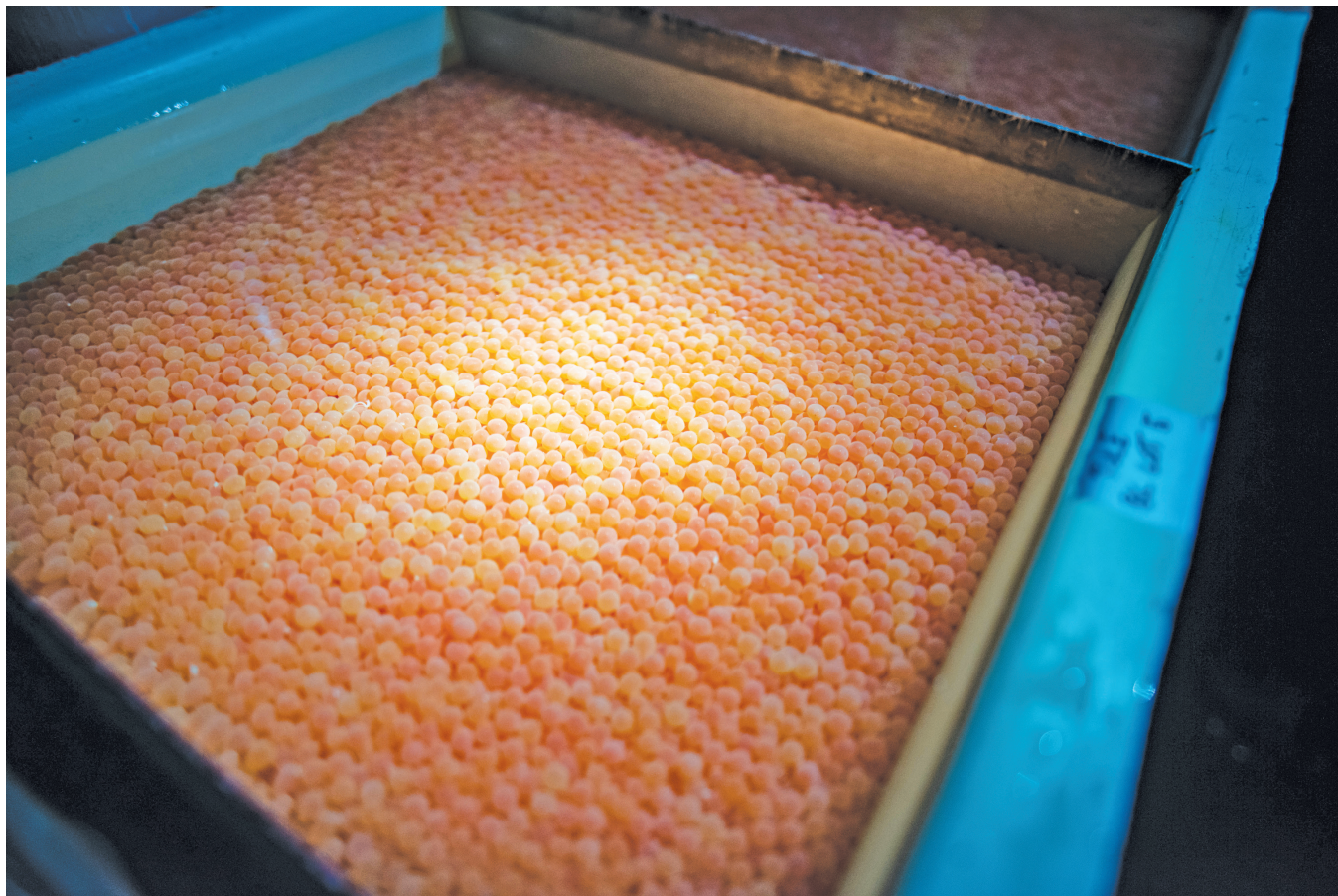
GUN PURCHASES ON PACE TO SET RECORD • INSIDE

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Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Millions of freshly-spawned salmon eggs are held in a dark room as the embryos develop in the wintertime. In the wild, these eggs would be hidden under a layer of gravel.

Federal funding boost could help hatcheries

Money needed to help sustain salmon work

By **LUCY KLEINER**
The Astorian

Right now, in a dark, damp building at the Big Creek Fish Hatchery, 1.8 million salmon eggs grow.

They fill row after row of the rectangular man-made ponds, clustered together by the thousands. Employees work in the dark, using only dim headlights to prepare, sort and collect the orange eggs throughout the three-month growing process. Cold water, pulled directly from the creek that flows alongside the hatchery, rushes through the rows.

The lack of light and movement of water simulates what the cluster of eggs would experience if they were spawned in the shadows of Big Creek itself, which is important to the long-term survival of the fish.

It's spawning season for fall Chinook, and with the help of the fishery employees, over 4 million salmon will be released from hatcheries in Clatsop County next spring.

At Big Creek, the focus is getting through the season. Employees are up early, doing everything they can to make the process go smoothly and



Millions of coho salmon, spawned last October, swim in one of the hatchery's many ponds.

help the hatchery attain its production goal. The rate of success, however, depends on more than the gloved hands working with the eggs in the dark.

Conversations across the country in Washington, D.C., will also impact the future of hatcheries on the North Coast.

The U.S. Senate version of a federal spending bill for commerce, justice and science programs has the potential to increase funding for salmon

management and recovery. Part of that money would go toward the Mitchell Act, which has helped fund programs that mitigate the impact of water diversions on the Columbia River since 1938.

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley said the bill would help coastal Oregon, "from strengthening the coastal infrastructure to bolstering salmon recovery efforts ..."

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Tiny home motel project planned for Warrenton

Lamping describes it as 'miniresort'

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Astorian

WARRENTON — Lisa and Vernon Lamping are planning a tiny home motel along Harbor Drive.

Tiny Tel would include seven tiny homes on raised foundations surrounding a communal fire pit on a lot the Lampings own near the southeast corner of Harbor Drive and King Avenue.

"It would be like a miniresort," Lisa Lamping said.

The units, being made by Tiny Smart House in Albany, are 12 by 28 feet and include sleeping lofts, living rooms, kitchens and bathrooms. Four will include jacuzzis. One will be especially designed for disabled accessibility. Some will be pet-friendly. The units will be delivered early next year.

The couple had been trying to build townhouses on the lot, within a flood zone, but the idea didn't pan out, Lisa Lamping said. They were introduced to Nathan Light Watson, owner of Tiny Smart House, by Kevin Cronin, Warrenton's community development director.

Most of his work is residential and recreational in nature, Watson said, but tiny house hotels are popping up all over. He has worked on Tiny Tranquility, a tiny home and vintage RV park in Waldport, and The Hiatus tiny house neighborhood in Bend.

"I think it's something Warrenton needs," Watson said. "They don't have anything but Shilo (Inn) for renters and the (Fort Stevens) State Park, which is always full."

The Lampings' project won't add long-term rentals to the area's mix of housing. But Watson has advocated for tiny homes as part of the solution to the region's housing crunch.

Cronin has been trying to introduce policies that expand the mix of housing in Warrenton. "I think it's a brilliant concept," he said.

He noted a similar development called Sheltered Nook in Bay City, with six tiny homes arrayed around a central fire pit.

"You're serving an untapped market," Cronin said.

The Lampings recently closed down their company, Airport Crab Pot Co., and were looking for investments to help with their retirement. Tiny residential homes didn't appeal to her, Lisa Lamping said, but the area's higher-than-average occupancy rates presented an opportunity. Lisa Lamping is also involved with Clatsop News, a community news website.

"Our hope is to do this one and then do a partnership with the builder down in Depot Bay, and then three or four more down the coast," she said.

Energy healer shares insight through poetry

Kerchaert is a former actress

By **NICOLE BALES**
The Astorian

Aislinn Kerchaert can be found at her regular post behind her old typewriter at Astoria Sunday Market.

She greets people who approach her with a smile and instructs them to tell her a word, phrase or theme. Then she begins to type a poem inspired by the possibilities of the request.

After a couple of minutes, she faces her patron and offers to give a dramatic reading of the poem.

Kerchaert moved to Astoria from New Orleans. Her background is in writing and performing arts, but she

now primarily works as an energy healing practitioner and teaches classes at local businesses, including Designing Health and Yoga Gypsy Sally.

Kerchaert was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and grew up on the East Coast. She attended DePaul University's theater school in Chicago and began acting in storefront theaters.

After seeing that many plays are written by men, with roles for women that she considers sexist or misogynistic, she wrote her own one-woman show called "10 Cent Whore."

EVERYDAY
people



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

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Aislinn Kerchaert types a poem on an old typewriter at the Astoria Sunday Market.



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