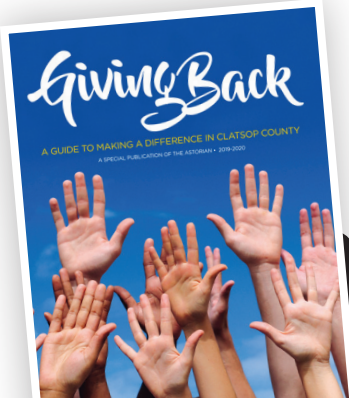




A GUIDE TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE
IN CLATSOP COUNTY **»INSIDE**

The Astorian

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KNAPPA FOOTBALL CLOSING IN ON
FIRST STATE TITLE SINCE '08 **SPORTS • A8**

WARRENTON'S FOOTBALL SEASON
ENDS WITH PLAYOFF LOSS **SPORTS • A8**



Biologist Adrian Tuohy, a project manager for the Wild Fish Conservancy, tends to a fish trap.

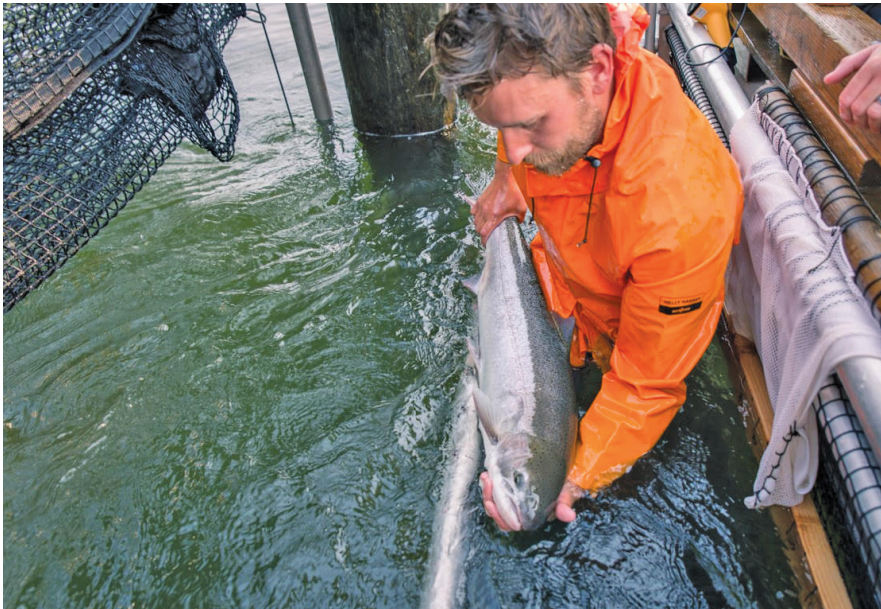
Researchers hope fish trap will be safer for wild fish

An experiment on the river

By EMILY LINDBLOM
For The Astorian

Fish traps have been outlawed in the Pacific Northwest for decades, but researchers plan to test an experimental trap in the Columbia River in hopes that it will be safer for wild fish than traditional fishing methods.

Adrian Tuohy, a biologist and project manager for the Wild Fish Conservancy, said the proposed fish trap, also called a pound net, would be put in the Oregon side of the river so biologists can monitor how many fish are in the river and how many wild fish survive after being released.



Biologist Aaron Jorgenson from the Wild Fish Conservancy holds a fish in a fish trap.

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Group seeks bathrooms for everyone in Astoria

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Astoria's Homelessness Solutions Task Force led to the installment of port-a-potties several years ago along the Astoria Riverwalk near Ninth and 16th streets to avoid public urination and defecation. The bathrooms have largely avoided the feared vandalism but are often avoided by tourists and taxpayers.

A bathroom task force of city, tourism and downtown leaders met with the Astoria City Council Thursday and reached a partial consensus on the most cost-effective ways to further increase availability for all, from education and public-private partnerships to a possible Portland Loo or two on the Riverwalk.

David Reid, executive director of the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, argued there are three different groups that the city is trying to serve with bathrooms: tourists, taxpayers and the homeless.

"Port-a-potties, I guess, addresses the unhoused population to an extent," he said. "But taxpayers are not going to go in there, and visitors are not going in there."

Much of the perceived lack of permanent bathrooms downtown is about improving signage, Reid said.

The city includes several brick-and-mortar bathroom options, some better-marked than others. They include bathrooms at the Astoria Transit Center at Ninth Street and Marine Drive; Clatsop County Courthouse at Eighth and Commercial streets; Astoria Public Library at 10th and Commercial streets; Astoria City Hall at 11th and Duane streets; the Astoria Public Restrooms near 12th and Exchange streets; and the Astoria Aquatic Center at 20th Street and Marine Drive.

Tim Williams, parks and recreation director in Astoria, said the Allen family, owners of Pier 11, offered to open the building's bathrooms to the public in exchange for city maintenance. The waterfront business complex has seen foot traffic hurt by the ongoing street-end bridge replacement project. Mayor Bruce Jones warned to the idea of the city covering maintenance costs in exchange for business owners opening their restrooms to the public.

See Bathrooms, Page A6

New librarian hopes to expand Warrenton library programs

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Family and friends have driven Kelly Knudsen's story from bartending and waitressing in Wisconsin to teaching and now running libraries in Oregon.

Knudsen recently relocated from Portland to the North Coast and took over as director of the Warrenton Community Library from Nettie-Lee Calog, who officially retired last week.

Knudsen, 44, started out life as a young single mother working in the service sector until her mid-20s.

"I had a son when I was really young," she said. "I was working like bartending jobs and waitressing jobs, and I just wasn't getting anywhere."

A friend of Knudsen's suffered a traumatic brain injury after a car crash and

See Knudsen, Page A6



Kelly Knudsen



Water district dismisses property owner concerns at Cove Beach

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The Falcon Cove Beach Water District on Saturday dismissed ongoing concerns property owners have raised about a lack of transparency.

The water district's operator, Charles Dice, referred to those raising the concerns as a "very small group of what I call, 'disgruntled property owners.'" He said the group has been propagating misinformation and false narratives about the water district.

About 15 people attended the board meeting, which was hosted at Dice's residence in Cove Beach. The board sat around the kitchen table with Dice at the head of the table. Home and property owners sat in chairs circled around the kitchen table.

The board discussed the immediate plan for a moratorium as well as their progress on a long-range plan to determine how many homes the water district can support.

Last December, the board voted for a six-month moratorium after reporting water production had been at record low levels for the past several years during the late summer months.

They extended the moratorium for another six months in June so the board could continue to look at long-term options to protect the water supply. The water district plans to vote to extend the moratorium again in December.

However, some residents and property



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Residents and property owners at Cove Beach are upset by the lack of transparency of the Falcon Cove Beach Water District.

owners believe the moratorium is being used to limit development. While the moratorium is in effect property owners have to come up with another water source to obtain a development permit from Clatsop County.

Each home is required to document a water source that will provide 250 gallons a day.

The county accepts several types of alternate water supply systems, including rain catchment. But the alternatives can increase building costs, leaving some property owners in limbo as they are unclear how long the moratorium will be in place.

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