

# SCRATCHPAD

## Ready to tell the Columbia-Pacific's stories

By **ALYSSA EVANS**  
COAST WEEKEND EDITOR



At 7 years old, I published both my first book and newspaper. The feat took some scheming, as I had to convince my best friend Taylor to help me out with both.

Our book featured a tale of two princesses who were best friends, and cleverly named Alyssa and Taylor.

The newspaper only made it to my front porch, with a readership consisting of two subscribers: my parents, Byron and Kathy. And true to the heart of a second grader, there were more comics and jokes than hard news.

It would take me over 10 years before I realized I wanted a career in journalism.

In the summer of 2014, I started classes at Western Washington University with the intention to later become a high school English teacher. Two days into my first quarter, I listened to fellow students talk about the grades and subjects they were excited to teach. It was then when I knew teaching wasn't the path for me.

Soon after enrolling in Western's introductory journalism courses, I found myself telling stories for the school's student newspaper, The Western Front. Under the guidance of then-editor-in-chief Brenna Visser (a former Astorian reporter and current Bend Bulletin reporter) I found a passion for telling community-driven stories.

The impact was longlasting. While at Western, I worked as editor-in-chief of The Western Front and Klipsun Magazine. I also edited the academic journal Occam's Razor. Outside the classroom, I

reported for The Lynden Tribune and The Northern Light.

I graduated from Western in June 2018 with bachelor's degrees in journalism and sociology. When I found a job listing for the sister newspaper Brenna had joined after graduating a year ahead of me, I knew it was the right fit.

In July 2018, I joined the Chinook Observer's reporting staff, where I regularly covered city government and education. From late-night city council meetings to interviews with student clubs, I found

myself captivated by stories on the Long Beach Peninsula.

I look forward to continuing highlighting stories of the peninsula, while expanding my outreach to the Oregon Coast, which I've recently started calling home.

As editor of Coast Weekend, I plan to continue documenting the places, people and events that make this region one of a kind. I hope you join me in this goal, whether by writing or sending story ideas.

You can reach me at [aevans@dailyastorian.com](mailto:aevans@dailyastorian.com) or 971-704-1721.

## our coast weekend

ON THE COVER

A customer talks to an employee at The Winery at Manzanita. The business features a full tasting room and espresso bar. PHOTO BY LUCY KLEINER



### STAFF AND CONTRIBUTORS

#### COAST WEEKEND EDITOR

ALYSSA EVANS

#### CALENDAR COORDINATOR

BREE ELLIOTT

#### CONTRIBUTORS

DAVID CAMPICHE

LUCY KLEINER

EMILY LINDBLOM

BARBARA LLOYD McMICHAEL

LUKE WHITTAKER

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Phone: 503.325.3211 Ext. 217 or 800.781.3211

Fax: 503.325.6573

E-mail: [editor@coastweekend.com](mailto:editor@coastweekend.com)

Address: P.O.Box 210 • 949 Exchange St. Astoria, OR 97103