

CORONAVIRUS



A sea lion hangs out on the pilings beneath Buoy Beer Co.

Photos by
Hailey Hoffman/
The Astorian

NEW STUDY

SEA LIONS TAKE BIG BITE OUT OF EARLY SALMON RUNS

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Early runs of wild spring Chinook salmon returning to the Columbia River are bearing the brunt of sea lion attacks, a new study suggests.

The fish arrive in early spring before sea lions have left for summer breeding grounds and when the pinniped population is especially high at the river's mouth. These salmon see higher mortality rates compared to later runs and the numbers have started to climb even over prior years, corresponding with a growing number of sea lions recorded near Astoria.

The study, published Sunday by researchers with the University of Washington and the National Marine Fisheries Service, looked at the relationship between distinct Chinook salmon populations listed under the Endangered Species Act and sea lions on the river using several different data sets, including information about the sea lions hauling out in Astoria.

What researchers discovered was not necessarily surprising, but it was good information to confirm, said lead author Mark Sorel, with Northwest Fisheries Science Center and the University of Washington.



Sea lions gather at the East Mooring Basin.

A line to orcas

Study authors draw a line from the pressure created by a growing sea lion population and predation on salmon to possible negative outcomes for other mammals that rely on a diet of Chinook salmon: endangered orcas. But

the study also comes on the heels of increased sea lion management actions by state and federal fisheries managers.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates several

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'WE'VE GOT A LOT OF CHANGES COMING UP THAT ARE NOT ENTIRELY STRAIGHTFORWARD TO PREDICT.'

Sarah Converse | an associate professor at the University of Washington

County shifts juvenile contract to Yamhill

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Next year, Clatsop County will send youth in custody to Yamhill County Juvenile Detention in McMinnville.

The county has contracted with Cowlitz County, Washington, but that contract will expire at the end of the year as the county shifts to Yamhill County.

Kelly Braaten, the county's juvenile director, said the juvenile detention facility in Cowlitz County is the closest. However, he said, there are several challenges that come with using the out-of-state facility.

Some of those challenges, Braaten said, include the inability of the Oregon Department of Human Services to conduct business in the Longview facility. He said youth have to be picked up and brought back to Oregon for the Department of Human Services to conduct interviews.

He said another challenge is the lack of video capabilities at the facility for youth to virtually attend court hearings. Probation counselors often have to drive to Cowlitz County several times a month so youth can appear by video using their technology.

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Manzanita pastor describes virus experience

Krane recovers after being hospitalized

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Rick Krane, the pastor at Covenant Community Church in Manzanita, said he has been erring on the side of caution through the coronavirus pandemic, so when he tested positive for the virus in August, he tried to trace back where he might have been exposed.

The Nehalem man suspects it may have been while he was shopping with his wife, Jean, in Warrenton.

Krane's symptoms became worrisome, especially given his underlying health conditions.

He developed a fever and was having trouble breathing when his wife took him to Adventist Health Tillamook. From there, he was taken to Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland, where he was hospitalized for more than a month.

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New life for Seaside phone booth

Brechlin collects unique relics

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian



SEASIDE — If you've noticed something missing near the Budget Inn, you're right.

A phone booth had been stationed at the corner of Beach Drive and Avenue E for 35 years. With its departure in August, the last phone

booth in the city is gone.

Dale Brechlin, a maintenance worker at the Comfort Inn, is the new owner. He's set up the phone booth, made in 1985, in his driveway.

His wife, Jane, also fell in love with it.

"She even wanted to bring it in the house and set it up," Brechlin said.

Brechlin retired in 2005 after a career in the credit card industry.

He and his wife hit the road to travel the country in their RV until 2007, when he started managing a KOA campground in Mount Rushmore and later in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Then they came to the North Coast to take over the Warrenton KOA.

The Brechlins bought their home on Oregon Street in 2012 when it was an 880-square-foot cottage.

"We put a huge addition on and it's now 3,100 square feet," Brechlin said.

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R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Dale Brechlin and his phone booth that stood for 35 years in front of the Budget Inn in Seaside.



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