

# the Astorian

149TH YEAR, NO. 2

WEEKEND EDITION // SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2021

\$1.50



## At the wildlife center, an otter pup finds her way

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian  
Patrick Hogan, the wildlife rehabilitation coordinator at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast, checks on the river otter pup.

### Rescued after an accident near Deer Island

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Astorian

There's no way around it. The otter pup has just eaten a herring on her own — gobbled it up — and now she has that look on her face, one any parent would recognize, that blend of intense yet Zen-like concentration.

She's pooping. But because she's a river otter, it's a little bit adorable. Maybe. "She's just a big baby," said Pat-

rick Hogan, the wildlife rehabilitation coordinator at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast in Olney.

The pup, with her whiskery face and expressive eyes, combines the intelligence and curiosity of a raccoon with her own growing, slippery strength. She is tiny right now — Hogan can hold her in two gloved hands — but she's already incredibly nimble and strong. The more she grows, the harder she will be to handle.

River otters are common in Ore-

gon and Washington state — unlike their larger cousins, the sea otters, which were considered locally extinct in the Pacific Northwest for decades and have not been successfully reintroduced to Oregon's coastal waters.

When visitors to the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park near Warrenton tell staff they've just seen a sea otter, they've actually seen a river otter, said Carla Cole, the natural resources project manager at the park.

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## Hospital, university reach a milestone

Providers transfer under OHSU umbrella

By EMILY LINDBLOM  
The Astorian

Columbia Memorial Hospital has reached a milestone in its partnership with Oregon Health & Science University.

On Thursday, the two partners formed CMH-OHSU Health, in which 28 providers in Astoria, Warrenton and Seaside transitioned to employment under OHSU. These providers, who were previously employed by Columbia Memorial Hospital, will continue seeing their same patients.

Seventeen OHSU employees were already working at the Astoria hospital, so now they will also work under the CMH-OHSU Health brand.

Erik Thorsen, the CEO of Columbia Memorial, said all those providers are now part of one system.

"We have common practices, it's efficient and they have a common employer," Thorsen said. "They're now all connected to their respective department at OHSU."

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## Deaths show ocean dangers

Huge crowds expected on holiday weekend

By GRIFFIN REILLY  
The Astorian

Emergency officials refer to them as the deadliest days of the year.

Hundreds of thousands of people, including many unfamiliar with the risks, come to the coast during the summer months. A historic heat wave and the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions have drawn huge numbers as the Fourth of July weekend approaches.

Beachgoers are urged to exercise caution and be aware of their own limitations in the water.

"We're not used to this weather," Clatsop County Emergency Manager

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## Hotel's donation helps Nordic park reach goal

Cannery Pier contributes \$100,000 to project

By ETHAN MYERS  
The Astorian

After six years of fundraising, the Astoria Nordic Heritage Park has reached its goal of \$1.5 million and will move forward to the construction stage.

"This wouldn't have happened without the community and the support of the city," said Judi Lampi, who leads the park committee.

A \$100,000 donation by Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa pushed the

fundraising drive over the top.

Linh DePledge, the hotel's general manager, advocated for the partnership with the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association, the nonprofit responsible for overseeing the project, because she believes the park will honor the city's roots.

"It's about remembering Astoria's heritage and community," DePledge said in a statement.

Cannery Pier is owned by Vesta Hospitality, based in Vancouver, Washington.

"We wanted to support a local cause or organization that needs support and also aligns without our history," she said at an event Friday announcing the donation at the park's site off Marine Drive between 15th and 16th streets. "Being from Uniontown and thinking about

the people who helped construct our building and pass through our doors, we were happy to help them get across the finish line."

The heritage association reached its fundraising goal thanks to a long list of contributors, including over 400 individual donors, 14 foundations, 11 corporations and two government agencies.

A \$250,000 donation from Tony Larson and Shelly Tack in April moved the fundraising total close to the target. Larson and Tack, a couple from Sweet Home with ties to Astoria, donated the gift with a personalized inscription on the park's entrance.

Construction on the park will start this fall and is projected to take four to six months to complete.

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Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association

The Astoria Nordic Heritage Park is planned along Marine Drive downtown.

