



Above: Norwegian folk musicians Bjorn Odde and Ole Nilssen perform all three days of the 2019 festival.
Right: The 2018 Running of the Trolls.
Bottom left: The Viking encampment includes sparring and sword fights.
Bottom right: A couple gets in the Scandinavian spirit at the 2018 festival.
Photos courtesy Astoria Scandinavian Festival

Celebrate Scandinavian style *Festival could bring out the Viking in you*



The Columbia Press

Velkommen til Clatsop Fylke!

That's how a Norwegian might welcome you to the 52nd annual Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, which kicks off today and runs through the weekend.

With April's Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival, and the Regatta in August, "Scandi fest" is the top of the triangle in the county's summer celebrations trifecta.

"It's a fabulous event," said Judi Lampi, publicity director. "We try really hard to keep it authentic with Scandinavian traditions."

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If you go

Scandinavian Midsummer Festival
When: 2-11 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday
Where: Clatsop County Fairgrounds, 92937 Walluski Loop, Astoria
Admission: \$8 adults, \$3 children 6-12. Parking \$2.
More info: astoriascanfest.org

Port of Astoria chief resigns

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Port of Astoria Executive Director Jim Knight chose to resign Tuesday instead of face an inevitable firing.

During a closed-door session, Knight verbally gave the five publicly elected directors his resignation effective immediately and agreed to sign a mutual release of claims, which means neither entity will sue the other.

At a special meeting Tuesday evening, the board unanimously approved the resignation.

Then the board voted 4-1 to approve the release and settlement agreement and ignored Commissioner Bill Hunsinger, who'd phoned in for the meeting from Alaska, when he attempted to speak in opposition to the settlement.

Details of the agreement were obtained by The Columbia Press through a public records request Wednesday. Knight will receive \$221,005 and has 21 days to sign. The sum was calculated as \$145,406 for alleged emotional distress damages, \$33,600 for alleged economic damages and \$42,000 for attorney fees and costs. Knight also will get health insurance for six months, unpaid vacation and sick leave benefits.

The panel also named Finance Director Will Isom to serve as interim director, with a search for a new chief executive to begin immediately.

Knight did not attend the open session.

"The only thing I would say at the end of the day is that I'm so very grateful for the opportunity to have served our community," Knight said Wednesday. "I'm very proud of our accomplishments and hope for the best for the port."

He wasn't sure whether he'd retire or take a job elsewhere.

"I still feel pretty young, I'm in great health and my brain is still intact after 4

How far we've come: Clatsop County turns 175 this week

By CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

Clatsop County is officially 175 years old Saturday.

While many like to think of our rural area as one of the loveliest spots on earth, there are more reasons Clatsop County is noteworthy.

We're at the confluence of two magnificent waters: Columbia, the largest river in the West, and the Pacific, the world's largest ocean.

The region's earliest residents, the Chinook, Clatsop and Kathlamet people, had an abundant and self-suf-

ficient lifestyle with all the salmon, shellfish, deer, elk and other natural resources from which today's residents continue to benefit.

Lewis and Clark slept here. Two years after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase added 827,000 square miles to the United States, President Thomas Jefferson sent the captains and their team off to explore the new land and the expedition ended its westward journey here.

There are 61 buildings and sites on the National Register of Historic Places, one of them an Indian site dating to the 1100s. There are three sites in

the Warrenton area: Fort Stevens, the Daniel Warren House on Skipanon Drive and the Goodwin-Wilkinson Farmhouse west of Cullaby Lake.

Clatsop County is the only location in the continental United States attacked during World War II and it happened 77 years ago today on June 21, 1942.

During the War of 1812, Astoria was briefly owned by the British, who renamed it Fort George (yes, that's how the popular brewery got its name).

Clatsop County popularized America's love of salmon in the 1870s when dozens of canneries sprung up along

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