



Rick Newton/For The Columbia Press

Historian Aaron Buda speaks before the historical society.

Speaker describes how Fort Stevens came to North Coast

Great Britain had an influence on when and how Fort Stevens was developed, according to a historian who spoke Nov. 10 at a meeting of the Warrenton-Hammond Historian Society.

U.S. military interests began looking for ways to protect the entrance to the Columbia in the 1820s, said Aaron Buda, who specializes in local military history. But development was thwarted by agreements in place with Britain.

Secretary of War Jefferson Davis got involved in the 1850s. By 1918, there were

2,625 men stationed here; about 2,000 were stationed at Fort Stevens during World War II.

The ferry Tourist No. 2, which county residents are trying to restore, was used to plant mines in the lower Columbia, providing protection during WW II.

Buda frequently posts photos and history of Northwest coastal defense installations on his Facebook page.



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Artist focuses on fire

Drought, dense forests and extreme weather exacerbated by climate change are contributing to catastrophic fires across the American West. The wildfire season is getting longer, and fires are becoming more intense and frequent.

Artist Bryan David Griffith found inspiration in fires to pose valuable questions through his works.

His exhibition, Rethinking Fire, opened last month at the High Desert Museum in Bend.

Dualities in nature – life and death, forest and fire – are at the heart of Griffith's artwork. The exhibition includes encaustic beeswax paintings, fire studies on paper, and large-scale burned wood sculptures.

In 2014, Griffith's home and studio were threatened by the Slide Fire in Sedo-



Artist Bryan David Griffith

na, Ariz. Coming out of the experience, he received a grant to study fire in the field with scientists as part of a group project called Fires of Change, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Joint Fire Science Consortium.

Rethinking Fire will be on display through Jan. 9.

Biden nominates Oregonian

Rebecca Jones Gaston, director of the Oregon Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Division, has been nominated by the Biden-Harris Administration to serve as Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

The agency is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and oversees federal programs that support social services.

"I'd like to thank Rebecca for the progress we have made during her tenure in stabilizing Oregon's child welfare system," Gov. Kate Brown said.

Gaston joined the state agency in 2019. Prior to that she served as director of the Social Services Administration at the Maryland Department of Human Services.

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