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ONE DOLLAR

NFL's Poyer brings message to hometown

Astorian returns to talk to students

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

If he had a choice, Jordan Poyer probably would have traded places with members of the New England

Patriots yesterday, as the AFC champions prepare to play the Seattle Seahawks in Sunday's Super Bowl XLIX.

But the season's over for the Cleveland Browns, Poyer's current team.

So instead of answering questions from the media throng in Arizona, Poyer found himself talking to hundreds of grade school, middle

school and high school students in Astoria.

The former Clatsop County resident and current defensive back for the Browns returned for a visit and offered up some of his best advice to area kids, as he made a tour through the Astoria School District Thursday.

Believe it or not, speaking to young kids is just as rewarding for

Poyer as playing the game.

Besides, the Browns will get their shot at the Seahawks next season.

Poyer's visit was well-received at the high school, and "I heard it was really well-received at the middle school," said Astoria High Principal Lynn Jackson. "They were still trying to get kids to wind down a little."

"It was nice to see Jordan not forgetting Astoria," he said. "It's

just cool to see him maintaining his roots, and acknowledging the teachers and coaches who have worked with him and made a difference in his life."

Poyer said, "It was unreal ... coach (Howard) Rub announced my name and kids started screaming my name ... it was pretty cool."

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Homeless connect at annual event



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Kallie Linder, from Salon Boheme, cuts Mark Jenkin's hair during the Project Homeless Connect event at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center Thursday. Services at the event included free health checks, haircuts, help with housing and obtaining identification, such as birth certificates.

Haircuts, health checks, housing help offered

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — More than 100 of Clatsop County's homeless and near homeless population wove through rows of service booths set up in the Seaside Civic and Convention Center Thursday for the sixth annual Project Homeless Connect.

Volunteers for Homeless Connect, sponsored by the nonprofit Clatsop Community Action, guided each person through color-coordinated areas of the convention center.

Red-colored booths were for health services; yellow booths were for family and education; green was for housing, employment, identification, legal and transportation assistance; blue was for food and haircuts. A total of 52 agencies attended the event.

See **HOMELESS**, Page 10A



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

People are led by yellow-shirt clad volunteers as they visit booths in the housing and employment section of the Project Homeless Connect event in Seaside Thursday. More than 100 people came to the event, down from 200 last year.

Numbers shed light on DUII outcomes

Circuit Court, Municipal Court data provide context to lengthy debate

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Data compiled by the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office and Astoria on drunken-driving prosecutions over the past five years provide a new window into the long simmering dispute over whether the city should assign the cases to Circuit Court or Municipal Court.

MORE INSIDE

See a graphic detailing data on DUII prosecutions in Clatsop County from 2010 to 2014 on **Page 7A**.

The Astoria City Council voted earlier this month to shift misdemeanor DUII prosecutions to Circuit Court, like other cities in Clatsop County. District Attorney Josh Marquis had filed a legal challenge against the city to claim jurisdiction, but the debate, which bubbled up as a policy question for more than a decade, was often shaped by anecdotal examples of how cases fared in Circuit Court and Municipal Court.

The Daily Astorian, through public-records requests, asked the district attorney and the city this month to document DUII prosecutions from 2010 to 2014, a five-year period that tracked the district attorney's legal clash with the city.

Of the 1,152 DUII cases in Circuit Court that ended in conviction, dismissal or diversion, 504 (44 percent) were convictions; 166 (14 percent) were dismissals; and 482 (42 percent) were diversions.

Of the 146 DUII cases in Municipal Court that ended in conviction, dismissal or diversion, 41 (28 percent) were convictions; 25 (17 percent) were dismissals; and 80 (55 percent) were diversions.

See **DUII**, Page 7A

New definition ups Oregon's grad numbers

Only Seaside and Jewell exceed state graduation rate

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Oregon had nowhere to go but up after posting the nation's worst four-year graduation rate (68.7 percent) for the class of 2013, according to the U.S. Department of Education. It ranked 49th, as Idaho was unable to report its graduation rate.

The 2014 national comparison hasn't been published yet, but Oregon improved its

Clatsop County high school completion rates, 2013-14*

Students who earned a diploma, extended diploma or GED equivalent.

School district	General public	Economically disadvantaged	Underserved race/ethnicity
Astoria	111 or 68.1%	41 or 53.3%	7 or 58.3%
Seaside	91 or 77.1%	42 or 76.4%	14 or 70%
Warrenton-Hammond	49 or 74.2%	24 or 66.7%	4 or 66.7%
Knappa	28 or 68.3%	2 or 50%	1 or 25%
Jewell	11 or 100%	—	—

*Cohort population adjusted for transfers.
Source: Oregon Dept. of Education

Daily Astorian graphic

four-year graduation rate to 72 percent, according to data released Thursday by the Oregon Department of Education. In Clatsop County, only Jewell and Seaside schools — the

two schools that don't rely on state funding — posted higher graduation rates than the state average.

The state also measures high school completion, in-

cluding regular, modified and extended diplomas; and GED certificates. The state posted a 76.4 percent completion rate for the class of 2014. Only Warrenton-Hammond School District posted a higher completion rate than the state average.

Local results included:

- A 65.64 percent graduation rate for students in Astoria School District. Its completion rate was 68.1 percent, with four students earning GED certificates.
- A 76.27 percent graduation rate for students in Seaside School District. The district also had one student earn a GED certificate, increasing its completion rate for the same year to 77.1 percent.

- A 66.67 percent graduation rate in the Warrenton-Hammond School District. With five of its students earning GED certificates, Warrenton's completion rate was 74.2 percent.
- A 65.9 percent graduation rate in Knappa School District. With one student earning a GED certificate, Knappa's completion rate was 68.3 percent.
- A 100 percent graduation rate in Jewell School District, where the class of 2014 included 11 students.

Moving up

The rocky 3.3 percent increase in the state's graduation

See **GRADS**, Page 7A

