

VISITORS FLOCK TO MUSCLE AND CHROME

Car buffs enjoy perfect weather at Seaside car show last weekend

The Daily Astorian

The 12th annual car show, put on by the Seaside Downtown Development Association and sponsored by NAPA Auto Parts, included a cruise down U.S. Highway 101.

Visitors take a peek at the engine.
R.J. MARX — The Daily Astorian



JEFF TER HAR — For The Daily Astorian
Engines were the stars of the show.



R.J. MARX — The Daily Astorian
A Chevelle on display.



R.J. MARX — The Daily Astorian
“Hoods up.”



Cars cruise downtown Seaside.

JEFF TER HAR — For The Daily Astorian

Some worry as crop production moves outside U.S.

Labor, regulation, water boost foreign competitors

By DAN WHEAT
EO Media Group

Ten years ago, Steve Scaroni looked south seven miles from his farm near El Centro, Calif., to Mexico and thought “why not farm there since it’s so hard getting legal workers here.”

One of the largest lettuce producers in the nation, Scaroni was dealing with labor shortages he knew would only worsen.

“Our workforce was aging and going to other industries. Without immigration reform there was no way to replace them,” he said.

Another large salad producer had moved to Mexico five years earlier and was “getting it done.”

In early 2006, he began renting fields, 1,500 miles to the south in the state of Guanajuato in central Mexico. It was where the other company had gone and the climate was great for year-round production.

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Warrenton Wal-Mart stuck in wetland litigation

Lawsuit could delay project

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Shoppers waiting for a new Wal-Mart at the southeast corner of Ensign Lane and U.S. Highway 101 in Warrenton could be waiting awhile.

The federal lawsuit filed in April by Clatsop Residents Against Wal-Mart against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers could delay groundbreaking at the North Coast Retail Center indefinitely.

In the lawsuit against the Corps, CRAW alleges the agency improperly permitted Wal-Mart to fill a wetland complex for its new store without adequately assessing environmental impacts and available alternatives. The lawsuit also alleges the Corps did not assess the cumulative impacts to wetlands already reduced by previous fill permits.

See WAL-MART, Page 10A

Food carts, marketplace to make debut this weekend

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Riverwalk FoodCarts and Marketplace, an effort six months in the making, will start in earnest this weekend at the corner of Sixth Street and Marine Drive.

Warren Bechtolt, whose family owns the property, said there will be a soft opening of the new community gathering spot about 10 a.m. Saturday, with a grand opening July 4.

It’s a soft opening, he said, because he’s not sure who will show up.

“It’s difficult to tie these folks down,” he said, adding two food vendors have confirmed so far, along with six craftspeople and two produce dealers. Most vendors, he added, will stay until 3 or 4 p.m. Saturday, while some might stay through Sunday.

“We’re not trying to compete

with Sunday Market,” Bechtolt said. “We’re trying to supplement them.”

Bechtolt said organizers, realizing there isn’t the population to have just a food cart pod, expanded the concept to a bazaar, craftspeople, produce and a swap meet, taking in vendors with antiques or other items to deal.

Bechtolt said his family looked at food carts in Bend and Portland, and hope to incorporate some of their elements into the RiverWalk Marketplace, such as a fire pit and a performance area. For now, he said, the plan is to continue through Christmas and sell trees at the marketplace for the holidays.

“If the local community supports it, and we can figure out how to weatherize it, we might do longer,” Bechtolt said, adding the marketplace needs a daily presence of food vendors to be successful.



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian
Riverwalk FoodCarts and Marketplace at the corner of Sixth Street and Marine Drive will hold a soft opening Saturday.

