



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Astoria School District counselor Meche Brownlow, center, and Astoria High School Senior Bella Marincovich, right, arrange students into a single-file line during a kindergarten readiness camp Monday at John Jacob Astor Elementary School.

## Cannon Beach pitches charter school, again

Turned down twice, academy fans work to answer concerns

By DANI PALMER  
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — A crowd of roughly 50 spilled into the hall from the Seaside School District 10 Tuesday evening for a hearing on a proposed charter school in Cannon Beach. The Cannon Beach Academy would serve students from kindergarten to fifth grade.

The district issued two previous denials to the academy in 2014, citing lack of an adequate location and secure start-up funds.

With these questions addressed by Ryan Hull, president of the academy's board of directors, many Cannon Beach residents at the meeting said they hoped for a different outcome.

Real estate agent Alaina Giguere said Cannon Beach needs a school to attract young families to the area. "It is vital to the strength and viability of Cannon Beach that we have a school there," she said.

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## LEARNING TO LEARN

Kindergartners go to school early — to learn how to be at school

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Leading a group of 5-year-olds around John Jacob Astor Elementary School Monday, counselor Meche Brownlow intones the pride of being an Astor Navigator, memorialized in a school anthem she created to help encourage good behavior in students.

"If you're an Astor Navigator, clap your hands," sings Brownlow, stopping periodically to check if the kids have held a straight line and raise their hands before asking questions.

Through a grant from the Northwest Regional Education Service District, Brownlow and her assistants are running kids through the gamut of social skills, from sharing toys and being kind to raising hands and staying in line.

"It's to prepare incoming kindergartners and their families for school; to get them ready not academically, per se, but socially," Brownlow said.

### Pilot points

Brownlow uses songs, plays and other ploys to entertain kids in the camp, while imparting the behaviors of a good student.

Astoria High School senior Bella Marincovich, volunteering with the camp for her senior project, creates posters Tuesday depicting the three rules of Astor Elementary: Be respectful; be responsible and be safe. Following the rules helps students earn Pilot Points, a carrot used by Astor to encourage good behavior in students.

Marincovich, interested in being a teacher herself, said during lunch Monday she overheard students talking excitedly about their food and everything else school-related, and remembered her own excitement as a kindergartner at the newness of the school experience.

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Teaching assistant Annette Macareno practices writing names with future kindergartners, while others practice their motor skills during a kindergarten readiness camp Monday.

**'It's to prepare incoming kindergartners and their families for school; to get them ready not academically, per se, but socially.'**

— Meche Brownlow  
counselor

## Riverwalk Inn may finally get new operator

Hunsinger, Knight spar over perceived lack of transparency

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria is negotiating with Mark Hollander, a hotelier with relationships with the Marriott and other prominent brands, on a short-term lease to operate the Astoria Riverwalk Inn.

Hollander, the president of Hollander Hospitality of Bellingham, Wash., has said he wants to bring a Marriott to Astoria and potentially redevelop about 6 acres of Port property in Uniontown.

After a contentious meeting Tuesday, Port commissioners unanimously passed a motion to keep negotiations going with Hollander for a short-term lease,

with no time limit, while having Port staff create a request for proposals for the hotel's long-term operation.

Details of the Port Commission's consensus that

Hollander would be the new operator for the Riverwalk Inn — reached at a closed executive session in late July — spilled out at Tuesday's meeting.

Commissioner Bill Hunsinger, who said he had received a backlash from the public over a perceived lack of transparency regarding the hotel, brought forth letters and business proposals from Astoria native and Seattle businessman William Orr and another new interested party Tuesday.



Bill Hunsinger

## Conservationists fight worrisome weed

Tansy ragwort can threaten livestock

By MCKINLEY SMITH  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Beneath the sun-yellow blossoms of invasive tansy ragwort plants that coat the field south of Seaside, a revolution is taking place. Millions of native plants are growing within and around the clumps of tansy ragwort. They're small now, but they're getting bigger.

"Underneath this canopy ... is many, many millions of alder," said Melissa Reich, the stewardship director for North Coast Land Conservancy.

Tansy ragwort is an invasive species that produces alkaloids, which can



McKinley Smith/The Daily Astorian

Tansy ragwort is an invasive species that can grow abundantly in disturbed areas.

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