



# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 49

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

## The fast and the curious



Kyla Hernandez, 2, smiles as she drives her Doc McStuffins-themed toy car while her mom, Chelsea, left, watches during the Go Baby Go event. The Go Baby Go program provides modified, ride-on cars to young children with disabilities so they can move around independently and socialize with their peers.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

### Program helps children build motor, social skills

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

It didn't take long for 2-year-old Kyla Hernandez to find her pink, Doc McStuffins-themed car inside Astoria's Clatsop Service Center Friday. Nor did it take long for Kyla to make a run for the convertible, climb in behind the wheel, buckle her seatbelt and take off, bopping the steering wheel as she zoomed across the room, shouting and smiling with excitement.

Kyla's part of a new effort, called Go Baby Go, that puts children with developmental disabilities in the driver's seat of small electric cars, a proven method to build both their motor and social skills.

She and five other kids received free ride-on cars Friday, after they were assembled and modified to be hand-accelerated by a volunteer corps that included family, friends, high school and college students and educators.

Riley Ricks, a student at Astoria High School, adopted Go Baby Go as his senior project.



Amanda Lowenberg, left, works on the seatbelt of a small BMW toy car for her 1-year-old son Mason.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Cynthia Barlow, an early childhood specialist with the Northwest Regional Education Service District in Astoria, secured a grant from the Wheel to Walk Foundation in Portland that bought four of the cars. Norm Stutznecker, owner of Pacific Coast Medical Supply, paid for three others.

**Closing the gap**  
"The mission of our lab is to

give children with disabilities the opportunities to be troublemakers like their peers," said Sam Logan, an associate professor at Oregon State University's College of Public Health and Human Sciences. He traveled Friday to Astoria, hoping to create another community hub for Go Baby Go.

Logan started at Oregon State last fall. With him came Go Baby Go, an effort started by University

of Delaware professor Cole Galloway. Logan headed the program in Delaware before moving to Oregon.

He first pointed out the obvious disparity in physical and social mobility between babies and toddlers with disabilities and their peers. A powered wheelchair for such young children, he added, can

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### Ranchers fault land management, firefighting tactics in fires

By DAN WHEAT  
and SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

JOHN DAY — The 105,000-acre Canyon Creek Complex fire south of John Day has burned a massive swath through grazing allotments in the Malheur National Forest, leaving ranchers worried about how they will find enough grazing land and hay to make it through the fast-approaching fall and winter.

It's the main concern of ranchers around the West who are reeling from wildfires.

"It's burned right through the heart of quite a few allotments," said Seneca rancher Alec Oliver, president of the Grant County Stockgrowers.

The fire — the largest in Oregon this year — tore through the Canyon Creek area, where it burned at least 43 homes and blackened grazing land.

"A lot of hay was lost up through that area," Oliver said. "There are a lot of (grazing) permittees up there and ... a lot of summer ground was lost this year. (They) are going to have to find somewhere else to go next year."

As large wildfires become more the norm in Western states, ranchers who are forced to watch their livelihoods go up in smoke argue that mismanagement of federal and state lands is an underlying cause and that it's time for government policies to change.

A little over 2.8 million acres have burned in 122 fires in Oregon, Washington state, Idaho and California this season, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

#### Fuel loads add up

At the Haeberle Ranch, between the towns of Okanogan and Conconully in north central Washington state, Rod Haeberle, 66, and his daughter, Nicole Kuchenbuch, 36, and son-in-law Casey Kuchenbuch,

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### Accused kidnapper seeks access to texts

Social media records may be at heart of kidnapping case

By DANI PALMER  
EO Media Group

Russell Wayne Deviney's attorney said Friday he is still waiting on evidence that may very well "change the nature of the case" involving the accused kidnapper and rapist.

Deviney, 48, of Everett, Wash., appeared before Clatsop County Circuit Judge Paula Brownhill on Friday morning in a gray, striped jumpsuit and shackles for a status check. Both the defense and District Attorney's Office are being delayed by a lack of evidence, including surveillance footage from a Wal-Mart in Sallance.

Deviney allegedly kidnapped a 15-year-old girl in Sanger, Calif., in May before leaving her and his 2004 Nissan pickup at the McDonald's in Astoria two days later. A nationwide felony warrant was issued for Deviney's arrest.

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### Andrew Fick: He's a runner's coach

Astoria's cross-country coach leads — and runs — by example

There's a famous quote about cross-country coaches that goes something like this:

"It's the easiest job in the world. All you do is blow a whistle and your kids run off into the woods."

Well, it isn't always that easy for a cross country coach. Sometimes they run with their athletes.

"I try to run with them every single day," said Andrew Fick, the new cross country coach at Astoria High School. "Being out on the road, keeping an eye on things and making sure everyone is working hard. It's been good, and every day is a little different.

"A lot of people think, 'you just go out there and run



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

Andrew Fick, left, with a few of his runners in the recent Astoria Fall Sports Day team pictures.

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