

## Fundraiser helps Seaside robotics team gear up for upcoming contest

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — At Seaside High School, the robotics team gives students real-world experiences — but that comes along with real-world costs.

Each year, the program tries to raise at least \$20,000 to cover materials and the cost of traveling to competitions. The CYBORG Seagulls — the acronym stands for “Creative Young Brains Observing and Redefining Greatness” — got an early boost in fundraising this year as the recipient of a portion of proceeds from Lighthouse Christian Church’s bluegrass carnival in September.

Church secretary Dorene Sheldon said the barbecue is a long-standing tradition for the church. Live bluegrass music was added a few years back. This year the church expanded the event to include a carnival fundraiser “and then decided to share with the community,” Sheldon said.

Church staff asked Seaside High School administrators what would be a good program to adopt, and they men-

tioned the robotics program, Sheldon said. If the carnival fundraiser becomes an annual event, the church may choose a different school, organization or program to adopt next year, she said.

“We’re hoping to make it a tradition,” she added.

Once the proceeds from the carnival are calculated, they will be split between the church’s women’s ministry and outreach programs and the robotics team.

The carnival featured obstacle courses, a dunk tank, inflatable bouncers, bingo and a bake sale. Seaside students attended the fundraiser to represent the team, share information about the program and demonstrate three robots they created.

Other team members were busy the same weekend selling T-shirts and lending assistance with registration during the Seaside Cross Country Team’s annual 3-Course Challenge. In exchange for the help, the cross country team generally donates about \$1,000 to the robotics program.

With the addition of the two fundraisers, the robotics team is starting the year

off well, with about \$15,000, Brown said.

“Real-world projects have real-world costs, and that’s great that students get to work with real stuff, not just tape and string,” Brown said.

Since its creation six years ago, the Seaside program has grown from having a single robot to four full-sized robots and spare parts.

The program only recently started for the 2015-16 school year with an initial meeting two weeks ago. About 20 students showed interest. The team will solidify in the coming months, and January and February comprise the busiest part of the season for the team.

“The fall is kind of preparation and tune-up,” Brown said.

On Jan. 9, all teams participating in the FIRST Robotics Competition worldwide will receive this year’s competition design rules. Students then have six weeks to build their robot before heading to district tournaments. In past competitions, robots have been programmed to stack boxes, throw Frisbees and shoot baskets.

## Man sentenced for role in Astoria home invasion

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

One of the two masked-men who broke into an Astoria residence in April, pointed a gun at two men and stole items from the home was sentenced to nearly six years in prison Wednesday in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Joseph Vernon Armstrong, 31, of Tillamook, was sentenced to 70 months after pleading guilty to two counts of second-degree robbery. Other charges of assault, burglary, unlawful use of a weapon, theft and menacing were dropped as part of the plea agreement to avoid trial.

Armstrong and Anthony Victor Lane, 30, of St. Helens, entered the residence on the 300 block of Alameda Avenue wearing masks and demanded money and cellphones. While Armstrong was armed with a .40 caliber pistol, Lane had a baton that he used to beat the two men in the residence.

The assaulted men had significant head and body injuries. Two other women were injured in the residence from pepper spray that Lane and Armstrong used.

“Everybody who was in that

residence that day must have been terrified by what was happening,” Judge Paula Brownhill said. “I think prison is a really good place for you because you sound like a very dangerous person.”

Judge Brownhill asked Armstrong to describe what happened on that day in April.

“I entered a residence with another individual and demanded money and cellphones,” Armstrong said. “My co-defendant struck them on the head with a baton. He hit two people. I had no idea. I was just aiding Lane.”

Armstrong has a criminal history of burglaries in Tillamook County, including a pending burglary case.

He told the judge his use of drugs, mostly methamphetamine, has caused his behavior.

Before being sentenced, Armstrong offered an apology to the victims.

“I apology from the bottom of my heart. It was never intended for anybody to get hurt,” he said.



Joseph Armstrong

Judge Brownhill ordered Armstrong to have no contact with the victims and to pay about \$2,250 in restitution.

“They were all very much affected by what happened. A couple of them went to the doctor to get medical attention,” Chief Deputy Dis-

trict Attorney Ron Brown said. The judge also recommended that Armstrong be housed in a different prison than Lane.

Lane is scheduled for a sentencing hearing Oct. 8. He is expected to plead guilty to first-degree robbery. He faces 90 months, or more than seven years, in prison.

Four other people were involved in the home invasion.

Two lookouts — Tasha H. Van Dolah and Kevin John Morse — and a getaway car driver Amanda Maye Preston were each sentenced to three years probation.

Leticia Vivian Westfall, another alleged lookout, is due back in court later this month on charges of hindering prosecution.

## State offers seismic grants for local agencies

The Daily Astorian

Business Oregon, the state’s economic development agency, has opened applications for \$50 million in earthquake safety grants available to Oregon school districts.

“We cannot predict when the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami will occur, or if it will in our lifetimes,” Gov. Kate Brown said in a release Wednesday. “While planning for such an unknown is difficult, it is critical that we invest in our schools now. Building resilience to an extreme earthquake not only protects life, it helps communities recover from disaster more quickly and efficiently.”

### Great ShakeOut drill set for earthquake preparedness

The Daily Astorian

Oregonians are encouraged to participate in the world’s largest earthquake drill, the Great ShakeOut, at 10:15 a.m. on Oct. 15.

Approximately 385,000 Oregonians have already registered for this year’s drill.

Because Oregon faces both inland earthquakes and the Cascadia Subduction Zone off the Oregon Coast, the state Office of Emergency Management encourages participation in the drill.

“Participating in the drill is something you can do to protect yourself and your fami-

ly,” Althea Rizzo, the office’s geologic hazard coordinator, said in a release. “Oregonians should strive to be self-sufficient for at least two weeks after a major earthquake.”

The office is promoting the Great Oregon ShakeOut through the Twitter hashtag #ORShakeOut.

The grants are the first part of a \$205 million program the state Legislature approved earlier this year to renovate existing schools and

emergency services buildings to be more seismically stable.

Business Oregon’s Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program will accept applications until

Dec. 31. The funding will be awarded by a grant committee next year based on criteria

that includes a cost-benefit analysis and an evaluation of the building’s importance to the community it serves. The grants are limited to \$1.5 million per project, and no local match is required.

In 2016, Business Oregon’s infrastructure division will accept another round of applications for the remaining \$155 million, with \$125 million for schools and \$30 million for emergency services buildings.

Since 2009, the state has awarded \$58 million in seismic rehabilitation grants to 77 projects across Oregon, including the \$1.5 million Astoria used to renovate its public safety building in 2012.

**Fresh FIRE**  
SPECIAL GUEST: [Photo of a man]  
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1365 S. Main Ave.  
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**OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>-7<sup>TH</sup>**  
SUNDAY 10:30AM AND 6:30PM  
MON-WED 6:30PM  
Space is limited. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call the church office at 503-861-1712.

## Trial set for Seaside man accused of sodomy

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

A trial has been set in January for a Seaside man accused of sodomizing and sexually abusing a young girl multiple times between 2008 and 2010.

Ronald F. Flores, 49, was charged in April with two counts of first-degree sodomy and two counts of first-degree sex abuse. Both charges are felonies.

Flores appeared in Clatsop County Circuit Court Wednesday for a brief hearing, when Judge Philip Nelson set a three-

day trial to begin in late January.

According to the indictment filed against Flores, he is accused of “unlawfully and knowingly, by forcible compulsion, engaging in deviate sexual intercourse,” with the girl, who was under the age of 12.

He is also accused of forcibly touching the girl’s buttock while she was under the age of 14.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said the crimes were reported within the statute of limitations, which extends 12 years after the sexual abuse

is initially reported to the Oregon Department of Human Services or law enforcement.

Flores remains in custody on \$500,000 bail.

**Chicken Burritos**  
and Green Salad  
Friday Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
4 pm ‘til gone  
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## FT Site Lead – System of Care Wraparound Project

Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc.

This position directs and provides assistance in the implementation of the SOC Wraparound Project to Wraparound Care Coordinators for the Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization (CPCCO) Region (Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook Counties). Requires the ability to provide supervision/coaching and technical assistance to the Wraparound Care Coordinators in each county, as well as monitoring outcomes of the project implementation. Must be able to maintain positive working relationships, and gain consensus with stakeholders at the county, agency and CPCCO levels, to accomplish implementation of the project’s goals in the counties. May be required to provide or coordinate workshops, trainings, or conferences in reference to the project. Must have the ability to gather data, create reports and adhere to timely reporting requirements.

**Education and Experience:** Master’s degree highly preferred, or Bachelor’s degree in social/health science with minimum of 2 years experience working with children & families, with preferred experience in SOCWI. Experience in family and children mental health case management. Self-motivated, with ability to work independently; ability to communicate positively in all situations; listening skills; ability to motivate others; demonstrated group presentation skills. 60% travel within the service delivery area, with the opportunity to telecommute from your home office, which could be based in the above three counties or the surrounding areas. Some statewide travel for meeting attendance. Excellent competitive benefits; salary range: \$50,000 - \$60,000 depending on related experience, skills and education.

Interested candidates should email resumes, including cover letter and salary expectations to HR@gobhi.net. Full job description available upon request. GOBHI is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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