



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 119

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

At an Uppertown adult foster home, a crash course in responsibility

Caregivers, police fear for woman's safety

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Astoria Police are treating it as felony hit-and-run. A dark-colored sedan made a left turn from the Safeway parking lot on a late November afternoon and side-

swiped a woman in a motorized wheelchair who was in the crosswalk. Fortunately, Roberta Morgan survived the crash. Her history is even more remarkable. Morgan, 60, who lives at an Uppertown adult foster home that nearly lost its state license this year, has been hit at least eight times since 2011, five times this year alone. Caregivers and police fear for her

safety, but Morgan, who is paralyzed on her left side from a stroke, is free to come and go from the adult foster home as she pleases under state rules that emphasize independence. The harrowing number of crashes, however, and reports that Morgan sometimes drives her motorized wheelchair recklessly, are prompting questions about

See FOSTER HOME, Page 10A



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Crews from Astoria Fire Department and Medix respond to an incident involving Roberta Morgan near Safeway on Friday.

Hanukkah lights up the holidays



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Allie Evans lights an oil candle on a menorah next to her son, Orrick Evans, during a Hanukkah celebration at the Goldeen residence Sunday.

Jewish Festival of Lights ends tonight

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The growing bank of candlelight cast a warm yellow glow on the faces gathered around the table full of lit menorahs Sunday night. One by one, people approached the table with their shammes lighting candles in hand. From right to left, like the Hebrew written language, they lit the eight branches of their menorahs, letting them burn during the second to last night of Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. The Lower Columbia River's Jewish community, which recently organized into the Beit Salmon Congregation, has been gathering for Hanukkah for more than 20 years. Watching over the lighting from the corner of her living room Sunday was Ann Goldeen, president of Beit Salmon.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Children play with dreidels during a Hanukkah celebration Sunday.

See HANUKKAH, Page 10A

See GRANT, Page 10A

SLIDES RULE

Grant to help locals pay for 30-foot slide in McClure Park

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

McClure Park in Astoria isn't much to look at: an old sycamore, a pair of picnic tables, a standard-issue double swing set, a better-than-nothing infield for kids' ball games — all tied together by an unremarkable grassy field. But a group of locals has secured the money to bring back one of the park's fondly remembered features: a slide — the first of several capital improvements planned for the once and future playground. The Oregon Community Foundation recently awarded a \$15,000 grant to the Astoria Parks, Recreation and Community Foundation for use toward the Friends of McClure Park, a nonprofit composed of about 40 residents working to restore the site to its former glory. The friends group plans to use the entire amount to acquire and install the 30-foot plastic slide into the park's southwest hillside by the end of July. The group has raised an additional \$5,000 and plans to raise \$12,000 more in the coming months to pay for stairs, landscaping, wood chips and other "safe-landing" components, according to David McElroy, the group's project management lead. The slide is just the beginning, however. The Friends of McClure Park has devised a project plan that, if completed, will yield a public place that fulfills the "natural park concept": Both the manicured grounds and the play equipment will appear shaped from environmental elements. "We want the local residents to be able to come out there and relieve their stress and relieve their minds in a natural setting," McElroy said. The plan includes an overhauled ball-game area, an upgraded swing set, soccer nets, a raised-tree deck, log-balance walks and safety fencing. The slide will be the centerpiece.

New county inspector enjoying coastal lifestyle

After trying for 10 years, Samples is setting sail here

Tim Samples' move to Astoria has been 10 years in the making. Clatsop County's new electrical inspector sold his house in Salem in 2005 with the intent of moving to Astoria, but every job he accepted over the past decade took him farther east. He worked as an electrician in The Dalles, did inspection work for the city of La Grande and taught electrical appren-



ticeship at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton. He joined Clatsop County last month. "It's the end of a 10-year journey to get here," Samples said. Samples' interest in sailing is what drew him to the coast. He recalls watching the movie "Captain Ron," and wanting to sail. He started sailing in 2004. "I think Astoria is the best

sailing location on the West Coast," Samples said. "You have the Columbia River so you can sail without the ocean waves, but if you want to, you can go out into the ocean." Samples' career in electrical work started after he served as an electrician in the U.S. Air Force for more than five years. He went on to own his own business, Maritime Electric, in The Dalles. Having a background in both private and public work is an advantage for Samples, Clatsop County Community Development Director Heather Hanson said.

See SAMPLES, Page 5A



Kyle Spurr/The Daily Astorian
New electrical inspector for Clatsop County, Tim Samples, loves that the job is different every day.

