

THE ELK WHISPERER
FRIDAY EXTRA • 1C



REMEMBERING JOHN FRASER
FRIDAY EXTRA • 2C



Seaside steps up

Seagull boys rule the Clatsop Clash, move to Final Four

By GARY HENLEY
The Daily Astorian

HILLSBORO — Back in November, Astoria head coach Kevin Goins stated, “Seaside has to be the clear-cut favorite,” in Cowapa League boys basketball. In December, Seaside coach Bill Westerholm said, “I have a feeling we’ll see Astoria in the championship game of our Tournament (of Champions).”

Little did either coach know at the time (both predictions came true, by the way), that their teams were headed for a Clatsop Clash meeting in the state tournament quarterfinals.

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SEASIDE GIRLS VS. MAZAMA

Lady Gulls fall in quarterfinals
See Sports, Page 10A

College gets offer on arts center

Unnamed buyer wants to build affordable housing

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College has received an offer from out-of-town investors to buy both the Performing Arts Center and adjacent Josie Peper Building as part of an affordable housing development.

Gerald Hamilton, the interim president of the college, said the college board has not made any decisions on the property. The offer was unsolicited, and the performing arts building has not been surplus, a required move before a sale.

Karen Radditz, the real estate agent representing the college on the offer, described the buyers as out-of-town investors but declined to name them. She said the buyers intend to create affordable housing, including apartments and short-term living areas for people staying at Columbia Memorial Hospital, while keeping the performing arts building as a community center.

See COLLEGE, Page 9A

PRESS PLAY

Gambling addiction on rise in Clatsop County; few seek treatment

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Allison Jewell’s gambling addiction started as entertainment.

Never much of a drinker, Jewell would play video poker in bars on the nights she was the designated driver for her friends. Soon, a compulsion took hold. She would sneak to play a quick video poker game on lunch breaks from work or before picking up her children at day care.

Before the Astoria woman sought treatment last spring, she was in crisis. One spree cost her \$600 in 20 minutes. Her credit card was maxed out. She had to file for bankruptcy.

Jewell estimates she lost at least \$20,000.

“The most frustrating part is that it’s a daily battle,” she said. “Some days are better and I don’t feel an urge to gamble. Other days, I have to constantly distract the addict part of my brain.”

Jewell’s experience is rare in Clatsop County. Not her problem gambling, which addiction experts believe is on the rise, but the treatment.

There were 772 problem gamblers

FREE HELP

Gambling hotline:
1-877-MY-LIMIT (877-695-4648)
Oregon Lottery:
www.oregonlottery.org/
play-responsibly

in Clatsop County in 2009, according to the most recent data from the Addictions and Mental Health Division of the Oregon Health Authority. Only seven received treatment at that time.

This year, a dozen people are in treatment, a fraction of the gamblers who suffer from addiction.

The average debt for gamblers in treatment is \$32,000, but many people on the lower rungs of the economic ladder, who have little disposable income, also get trapped.

Christina Porter, who is on a fixed income, has lost about \$8,000 gambling. If she had more money to spend, she said, her debt could be as high as \$50,000.

Porter was already in treatment for gambling addiction when she moved from Portland to Seaside four months ago.

Friends tell her to stay away from

the video poker machines that are within walking distance from her home, but the temptation is strong.

“It’s a lot easier said than done,” Porter said. “It’s an addiction.”

Free treatment

Devonna Edwards, a newly certified gambling addiction counselor at Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, is the lone provider in the county. She said people do not realize treatment is free for those who gamble in Oregon.

The Oregon Lottery diverts a small percentage of proceeds to fund gambling treatment programs statewide. Since 1992, the Oregon Lottery generated more than \$81 million for treatment.

Edwards meets with people individually and in groups. She gets referrals from the problem gambling hotline, 1-877-MY-LIMIT.

Jewell and Porter gather with a few others in a group session every Wednesday evening in Warrenton.

Edwards talks with the group about the cycle of gambling, which often starts with anticipation and planning. It then moves toward consequences and

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Gearhart tackles short-term rental rules

Septic concerns play key role in discussion

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Even as the wind whistled and howled Wednesday night, a full contingent of Gearhart City Council and Planning Commission members gathered at City Hall to hammer out a proposed short-term rental ordinance. They hope to have the policy in place by summer.

“We need to look at the big picture,” Planning Commissioner David Smith said. “We need to look at where we are and where we need to go.”

Mayor Dianne Widdop added, “We don’t want to have a hotel on a residential street.” Minimum night stays, number of guests, registration, licensing and inspection procedures all figure in plans to regulate Gearhart’s short-term rental properties.

It’s about the septic

But before officials attacked those issues, they received a lesson in septic

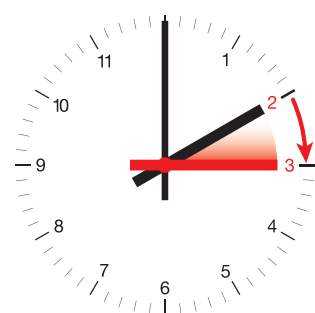
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Russ Taggard listens as Mike McNickle gives a presentation on septic concerns for short-term rental properties.

R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian



SPRING FORWARD



Daylight Saving Time starts on **Sunday at 2 a.m.** when clocks are turned to **3 a.m.** Sunrise and sunset will be about one hour later than the day before, which means there will be more light in the evening.

