

Missing persons database now lacks photos

Practice ended when adults were added last summer

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon may be the only state in the nation that maintains an online database of missing persons without including photos of those individuals, according to a review

by the EO Media Group/Pamplin Media Group Capital Bureau of state websites. Not all states have online databases. Oregon State Police stopped posting photographs on the state's missing children and adults clearinghouse in July, when the agency started adding adults to the database, said Lt. Bill Fugate, a spokesman. The database previously had been devoted to endangered children. "When we had photographs included, we were working

with less than 100 of the most endangered missing children, and each case was individually posted to multiple pages on the Internet," Fugate said. "Now that we are posting hundreds of missing children and adults in a semi-automated fashion, it is not possible to obtain and post pictures." State Rep. Barbara Smith-Warner, D-Portland, who spearheaded legislation last year to improve the state clearinghouse, said she is puzzled by the Oregon State Police's decision

to remove photos of missing people. "You want a picture of them," Smith-Warner said. "How else would you recognize them?" "It seems counterproductive to the goal of trying to increase information on that page," she said. **National network** Every state in the nation has a clearinghouse for missing persons, which works with law enforcement, families and the

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children to share information about missing persons. At least 60 percent of those have websites that contain either a list of missing persons or a searchable database available to the public. Several states, such as Arizona, have no online database of missing persons and instead link to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, where visitors can search for missing children by state.

Out of 30 states that the Capital Bureau confirmed do have searchable online databases, all of the databases, except Oregon's, feature photos of missing individuals. Oregon's neighbors — Washington state, California and Idaho — are among that group. The Oregon State Police is looking for ways to introduce an automated process that would include pictures again, but there is no timeline for completing that capability, Fugate said.

Residents fight brew pub plans in Gearhart

Appeal filed challenging need to convert market into pub

By **R.J. MARX**
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — What is the need for a new brew pub and deli in Gearhart? Not much, say a handful of residents. They are seeking a review of a Gearhart Planning Commission decision to grant a conditional use permit to Gearhart Station, a 40-seat brew pub and specialty deli. The restaurant would replace the Gearhart Grocery on Pacific Way. "If they can't prove a need for a brew pub, the City Council has grounds to deny a conditional use permit," Gearhart resident Jeanne Mark, one of five signatories, said Tuesday. "I feel that the residents were not informed about this issue and did not have time to even respond," 40-year Gearhart resident Susan Edy said. "There is no need for a brew pub, nor is the location of the market an appropriate place for a brew pub." Earlier this month, planning commissioners voted 4-3 to OK the transition of the market to a brew pub.

Vickie Abrahamson, Penny Sabol, Rick Sabol and Steven Weed in challenging the Planning Commission's decision, which they say was made with "minimal homeowner and resident comment regarding this major change in our downtown community core." The appeal was filed Tuesday at Gearhart City Hall, within the 15-day period to do so. "It was really odd the way that it happened in the middle of winter, hardly anyone was present, it almost just kind of popped up, no warning to speak," Mark said. "This is a major, major thing that is going to affect the community. It's not just an 'Oh, by the way.'" The idea of a brew pub goes against the comprehensive plan and the goal of keeping tourism down to a minimum, Mark said. "It takes out of the picture a grocery store that we really do need." In their appeal, residents say approval of the permit "sidesteps the intended purpose of the central city zone, to provide needed supporting services to the locals or resident community." The intent of the commercial zone, as supported by the comprehensive plan, was to have uses such as a local grocery store, post office, and bakery. "A brew pub clearly falls outside the needs for locals and is intended to support a tourist use," they write. Mark Mead, who represents Molly and Terry Lowenberg, the owners of the Gear-

hart Grocery, told the Planning Commission earlier this month the grocery was unable to compete with chains both to the north and south of Gearhart. The Lowenberg's had unsuccessfully sought to sell the property before deciding to alter its use, Mead said. The family intends to close the market and remodel for the brew pub and deli. Asked about the appeal Tuesday, Terry Lowenberg said he had "nothing to say." **Scope of review** In making their judgment, the Gearhart City Council first needs to determine the scope of review, City Administrator Chad Sweet said. Among options, councilors can restrict discussion to the record as the Planning Commission saw it and limit new evidence. Councilors may ask for additional evidence, or demand a new hearing altogether. The matter could also be returned to the Planning Commission. If the City Council affirms the Planning Commission's decision, either party could appeal to the Land Use Board of Appeals. Sweet said he expects the appeal hearing to take place at a City Council meeting in early May. "If I try to think of a grocery store not being there, that's just a huge loss for the community," Jeanne Mark said.

Grant will help create local school-based dental programs

Low-income children, in particular, lack care

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The Providence Seaside Hospital Foundation was one of 14 organizations statewide recently chosen by the Oral Health Funders Collaborative, a cadre of philanthropic groups, to receive a multiyear grant to create school-based dental programs. Alana Kujala, manager of community partnerships and volunteer services for Providence Seaside, said the grant will fund a full-time oral health program coordinator based at the hospital and visiting school districts across Clatsop County. "A lot of what this person will do is what school nurses may not have the time to do," Kujala said. The coordinator will help with outreach, educational materials, take-home supplies and referrals to health care providers. The grant lasts three years, starting with \$70,000 to hire the coordinator by April, while also helping pay for supplies to

perform basic dental services, screenings and access to treatment when needed. According to the hospital's application, there are only two dentists in the county serving low-income children on the Oregon Health Plan. The hospital's program will phase in more services and grades over time, and Kujala said the hospital has committed to keep the program going beyond the grant cycle. While the hospital doesn't provide dental services, she said, "If we can target oral health care for these kids at a young age, it will help their overall health" as they grow older. Kujala said the hospital prepared the grant in concert with local schools, health care providers and the Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization, which serves families on the Oregon Health Plan. **Better teeth** The Strategic Plan for Oral Health in Oregon, covering 2014 to 2020, found that only 24 percent of children ages 1 to 3 had visited a dentist. More than half of third-graders had experienced dental decay, increasing to nearly three-quarters

of high school juniors. Dental problems worsen for children from low-income and rural families and racial minorities. The plan recommended the state hire a dental director, promote preventative services and education serving children, address shortages in oral health providers and both culturally and linguistically diversify the state's dental workforce. The Oregon Community Foundation recently teamed with The Collins Foundation, the Fort Family Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Meyer Memorial Trust, Northwest Health Foundation, Providence Health & Services and Oregon-based medical equipment supplier A-dec to create the Oral Health Funders Collaborative. The group provides grants for planning and implementing school-based dental programs. Joan Vallejo, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Community Foundation, said a first round of grants helped plan the school-based programs. The recipients from the second round of implementation funding were part of the existing dental initiatives program, with priority given to high-poverty areas.

Need is questioned Mark and her husband, Wilson, were joined by Edy,

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