



**INKY MAKES HIS ESCAPE**  
PAGE 5A



**RESCUED SEA TURTLE DIES**  
PAGE 3A



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Griffin Hicks, 2, gives a smile to Derai Butler, a nursing student at Clatsop Community College, as she checks his blood pressure during the Early Childhood Health and Education Clinic at Astor Elementary School on Wednesday.

## Childhood clinic catches problems early

Development, health screens help keep kids on right path

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

Among chatty, frolicsome children playing with puzzles, Legos and Slinkys, the 2-year-old boy was silent, barely interacting with his peers and easily upset — red flags that suggest a delay in his social, linguistic or cognitive development.

He had faced a series of screenings Wednesday morning at Astor Elementary School, where local child care specialists ran a free clinic focused on early childhood health and education for Clatsop County kids aged 2 to 5.

Provided by the state-run Northwest Regional Early Learning Hub, the third annual clinic screened 43 children — mostly from Astoria, Knappa and Warrenton — on the cusp of preschool or kindergarten.

In the school gym, a team of nurses-in-training from Clatsop Community College took the tykes' basic measurements (height, weight, blood pressure and temperature). Professionals from various agencies then tested their vision, hearing, speech and motor skills, and assessed their overall development.

Parents read handouts on immunizations, and consulted with dietitians about nutrition. "We're trying



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Daniel Halsen, 3, plays blocks with Heather Leader, who is with the Northwest Regional Education Service, at Astor Elementary School on Wednesday.

**'We're trying to kind of weed out picky eating verses some sort of actual malnutrition issues or medical issue.'**

Grace Laman  
a dietitian from Columbia Memorial Hospital.

to kind of weed out picky eating verses some sort of actual malnutrition issues or medical issue," said Grace Laman, a dietitian from Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Meanwhile, in the library upstairs, dental hygienists checked

the children's teeth, and pediatricians took a closer look at their physical fitness.

Finally, a pair of specialists reviewed the results with parents and, if necessary, recommended further testing. Throughout the

process, which generally lasted just over an hour, fact sheets on community resources — and, perhaps just as important, stickers for the kids — were readily available.

"We really want this to be a one-stop shopping opportunity for the families," Dan Gaffney, the clinic coordinator, said.

A second clinic will be held for South County residents Tuesday at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. More than 100 parents have already made appointments, and Gaffney expects more sign-ups in the coming days.

See CLINIC, Page 10A

## Lights, camera, action: 'Seaside'

City greets filmmakers, 'Hamilton' actress

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Ariana DeBose packs a big voice and a big name on Broadway.

An original cast member of New York's — make that the world's — hottest stage hit, "Hamilton," DeBose and a team of cinematic talents are coming to the South County Friday to shoot the feature film, "Seaside."

DeBose is set to star as "Daphne," a determined young go-getter in the movie, a female-driven, revenge thriller from writer-director Sam Zalutsky.

This is Zalutsky's second feature film, following his debut "You Belong to Me," a 2007 thriller.

Shooting for "Seaside" started in Portland Sunday and continued through the week.

On Friday, cast and crew come to the Seaside Civic and Convention Center. They'll be shooting through the weekend and next week will film in Hug Point and Arch Cape.

The Portland-raised Zalutsky always had Seaside as a location in mind.

"I am a proud native-born-and-bred Oregonian," he said. "I haven't lived here in a while, but I always consider it home."

See SEASIDE, Page 5A



Submitted Photo

Ariana DeBose plays "Daphne."

## Marquis: Smith is depressed, not insane

Prosecutor believes defense is exaggerating accused killer's state

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis argues that accused murderer Jessica Smith's suicide attempt in March points to her depression, not insanity.

The distinction is important because Smith's mental state is critical to her criminal trial.

Smith, 42, of Vancouver, Washington, is accused of murdering her toddler and attempting to kill her teenager at a Cannon Beach resort in 2014.

"Anyone who was responsible for the death of a child, was facing many years incarcerated in some kind of institution would be depressed and seeking any way out of their situation," Marquis wrote.

After a court hearing March 30, Marquis reported in a court filing, Smith returned to Tillamook County Jail complaining that "DA Marquis" and others were treating her badly and that court "had not gone well."

"The defendant of course is absolutely correct in that assessment," Marquis wrote.

See SMITH, Page 10A

## Prosecutors drop illegal recording charge

Wheeler man used cellphone to record tense traffic stop

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

A Wheeler man who used his cellphone to capture portions of a contentious traffic stop near Cannon Beach in December will not be prosecuted for illegally recording police.

Acharmu Crosby, a 41-year-old roofer, was charged with the crime in late December, two days before a new state law took effect in January that allows people to record traffic stops or other encounters with police.



Submitted Photo

Acharmu Crosby, of Wheeler, was charged with illegally recording police at a traffic stop near Cannon Beach in December that nearly spiraled dangerously out of control. Prosecutors have dismissed the charge.

See RECORDING, Page 10A

