

Clatsop Care cuts long-term beds in half

Staffing issues force reduction in population

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

A shortage of certified nursing assistants is forcing Clatsop Care Center, the only nursing home in Clatsop County, to downsize its long-term resident population over

the next two months.

By July, the center in Astoria plans to help relocate a dozen residents to other care providers — adult foster homes, assisted-living facilities or, if the residents prefer, a nursing home outside the county — decreasing the number of long-term

care residents from 24 to 12.

When the reduction occurs, the remaining residents will occupy only the center's fourth floor.

"We really don't have a choice at this point," Nicole Williams, the CEO of Clatsop Care Health District, said. "Our primary focus is to keep people safe and take good care of them, and that's not possible with

our staffing situation."

This week, the center will meet with long-term care residents and their families to determine who among the residents can receive care elsewhere and who should remain at the nursing home. Northwest Senior and Disability Services will participate in these discussions.

"There are people in the nursing

home facility that do not, we don't believe, require that high-level care, and those will be the first people that we try to relocate to a more proper level of care," Williams said. "But it will be a group decision."

The cutback in residents will go hand-in-hand with cutbacks in

See CARE CENTER, Page 10A

Crowds, crab and Cabernet



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Andres Wetzel, a winemaker at Chateau Bianca Winery, chats with festivalgoers and pours wine at the Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival at the Clatsop County Fair and Expo Center on Saturday.

Crab, Seafood and Wine Fest draws many to the North Coast

By JOSHUA BESSEX
The Daily Astorian

Thousands of fun- and food-seekers packed the Clatsop County Fair and Expo Center for the 34th annual Astoria Warrenton Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival over the weekend.

Festivalgoers, many arriving by yellow school bus, walked among hundreds of vendors enjoying wine, wares and lots of seafood.

Some locals remarked that Saturday seemed busier than ever, but reports from the Astoria Warrenton Chamber of Commerce, which hosted the event, were not available at press time.

See more photos from the festivities online at www.dailyastorian.com



LEFT: Carrie Cunningham of the Carried Away Trio performs in the exhibit hall during the Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival.

BELOW LEFT: Byran Fitzgerald, left, and Jessy Ferguson, right, pose for photos with a giant inflatable crab at the Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival.



A crab melt is shown on the table at the Astoria Clowns booth at the Crab, Seafood and Wine Festival at the Clatsop County Fair and Expo Center on Saturday.

Dire risk prompts Wyden stopover

Senator to seek federal funds for tsunami safety

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — "Help!" is the message from Seaside School Superintendent Doug Dougherty, and U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden responded to the SOS Sunday.



U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden

Dougherty and Seaside Mayor Don Larson served as guides on a tour of the city's tsunami zone, from Seaside High School to Broadway Middle School before going east to Seaside Heights Elementary School.

"My view is when you talk about disasters, this has historically been considered a place there is a federal role," Wyden said. "It's not about somebody's political philosophy when coming together to ensure when our communities are facing life-and-death situations we are there for them."

Dougherty told Wyden that Seaside is the most vulnerable to tsunamis of any city in Oregon. "Seaside, then Gearhart, then Cannon Beach," Dougherty said.

See WYDEN, Page 10A

Brew pub appeal on tap in Gearhart

City Council considers grocery conversion

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Merits of a proposed brew pub in Gearhart will be considered by the City Council at a public hearing at the Gearhart Fire Station in early May.

An appeal to a Planning Commission decision to grant a conditional use permit to the brew pub was filed early this month by five residents.

The owners of Gearhart Grocery want to convert the business to a cafe and brew pub, but have faced some community opposition.

"The overriding thing is there is not a need for another cafe location, and not just what they are calling a cafe, but a brew pub," said Jeanne Mark, one of those who signed the appeal. "We have a brew pub less than a mile away. They're pushing 'there is a need.' There is no need."

Mark and opponents of the plan say the brew pub is contrary to Gearhart's comprehensive plan.

They say septic facilities are inadequate and the building needs to retain its only grocery store.

"The Planning Commission, as a vote of the majority, believes the cafe that's

School is 'in' for Gearhart's Bisping

After Cannon Beach closing, a fresh start for a new preschool

Yes, she was blindsided. Who wouldn't be? Christy Bisping was the executive director of the Cannon Beach Preschool and Children's Center since June. Last month, she got word the center was suddenly closing.

She and board members had been unaware that the financial situation was so dire, Bisping said.

Competition from neighboring centers in Seaside, declining enrollment, long commutes and barriers for Hispanic students were among the causes.

"We did know enrollment was dropping fairly quickly," Bisping said. "There were no plans to put it back together until it was too late to fix."



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Christy Bisping

See BISPING, Page 10A

See GEARHART, Page 10A

