

An invitation to dance

'Giselle' gives kids a glimpse into the fine arts

Paige Wilkey and Alexander Negrón, starring as Giselle and Duke Albrecht of Silesia, kindle their romance with a dance during a Friday performance of "Giselle" by the Astoria School of Ballet at the Liberty Theater. More photos online at DailyAstorian.com

Edward Stratton
The Daily Astorian



By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Cassie Wilson sat in the front row of the Liberty Theater Friday, her twin 6-year-old daughters, Lexey and Evie, clutching her arms and enthralled in the scene unfolding on stage.

Before a packed house of elementary schoolers, the peasant girl Giselle falls in love with Duke Albrecht of Silesia, disguised as the peasant Loys, before falling on stage to a mysterious heart ailment.

Friday was the first trip to the ballet for Wilson's children, dredging up memories of her first experience at the theater.

"The Nutcracker" at age 6, then we went every year" she said. "My grandma would come and pick me and my sister up. We did that until I was 12. "Probably without knowing it, she started a girls family tradition."

First curtain call

Every year since 2008, the Astoria School of Ballet presents shows to local schools at the Liberty Theater to introduce kids to the performing

arts and provide young dancers a chance to perform in front of large audiences.

Margaret Wall, who moved to the North Coast in 2004 and founded the school, sees the performances as an investment in arts education.

"Schools are struggling to keep arts education," she said. "And I think that the more you can expose children at a young age to something like ballet, a highbrow art, the more likely they are to become patrons later on in life, and art lovers."

Carol Shepherd, the interim director of the Liberty Theater, said the three showings of "Giselle" Thursday and Friday brought in

nearly 1,000 students on 20 buses from local preschools and elementary schools.

Traditional ballet

Since 2008, Wall has directed such classics as "Hansel and Gretel," "Snow White," "Cinderella," "A Little Princess" and the original "The Enchanted Aunts," at the Liberty Theater as an outreach. She said "Giselle," the globally popular ballet first performed in France in 1841, was the school's first traditional ballet.

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Cancer services expand on coast

CMH and OHSU team up for a first

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Cancer patients from the North Coast and southwest Washington will soon be able to get radiation therapy locally.

Columbia Memorial Hospital aims to break ground in August on a state-of-the-art cancer treatment center that will include a linear particle accelerator, a device that irradiates tumors.

On Thursday, the Astoria Design Review Committee approved design plans for the proposed center — a two-story, 19,000-square-foot building, reminiscent of the hospital's Health & Wellness Pavilion, that will house the hospital's entire suite of cancer-treatment services.

The facility will be located near Exchange Street, on the west end of the former John Warren Field. Though it will lie within the tsunami inundation zone for a 90-foot wave, the structure would be clear of a 60-foot wave. In any case, the design includes emergency exits.

The Portland-based contractor, P&C Construction, said the center will likely be finished in fall 2017. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for Aug. 4.

Closer to home

The hospital already has a medi-



The planned state-of-the-art cancer treatment center.

PKA Architects

cal oncology department and chemotherapy infusion program for cancer patients in the Park Medical Building.

But patients who need radiation therapy — which is most cancer patients — currently have to travel to Portland or Longview, Washington.

"The day we open, our patients would be able to stop going to Longview or (Oregon Health & Science University) and start coming here," said Chris Laman, director of the pharmacy and cancer care services at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

The radiation procedure, though

often crucial to a patient's recovery, is pretty short — sometimes 5 minutes per session. But the treatment plan can last anywhere from two to eight weeks.

When the nearest radiation option is more than an hour away by car — several hours by bus — the process can be so grueling that some patients will simply refuse radiation altogether, Laman said.

"You feel terrible, you're sick, and you're going every single day, sometimes by yourself, driving — maybe you have a companion, maybe you

have no one," Erik Thorsen, the hospital's president and CEO, said, "and to have the convenience of this service here is just a huge, in my mind, step up for our community."

The hospital estimates that within the first year the center will treat between 450 and 500 cancer patients with chemotherapy and radiation, totaling about 6,700 patient visits.

"Unfortunately, it's needed quite a bit," Paul Mitchell, a hospital spokesman, said.

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Oregon sets toilet policies for schools

State lays out guidelines for transgender students

The Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Oregon Department of Education has suggested that all transgender students in the state should be able to use whatever names, bathrooms and pronouns they want.

The department released 15 pages of guidelines on issues that are likely to be controversial, including allowing transgender females to play girls sports and transgender men to wear tuxedos to prom.

"A student who says she is a girl and wishes to be regarded that way throughout the school day should be respected and treated like any other girl," the document reads. "So too with a student who says he is a boy."

The decision comes after Dallas School District Superintendent Michelle Johnstone asked Gov. Kate Brown for help in February. The district, located west of Salem, has been embroiled in controversy since last fall when Dallas High School's principal agreed to let a transgender male use the boys' locker room.

Parents and students in Dallas protested, but the district's lawyer said they would likely lose the lawsuit that would come if they caved to community pressure.

"There appears to be conflict regarding the intent of the Oregon Equality Act," Johnstone wrote to Brown, referring to a state law that bars discrimination on the basis of sex.

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Soldier comes home to help police Cannon Beach

Astoria native brings military and academic experience



just excited to make my career here and my family's really excited."

Nunnally, 27, served in the Marine Corps for four active years and eight years total, conducting military operations in eight countries, including Afghanistan. During his time as a Marine, he also went to countries like Singapore, Germany, Ireland, Bahrain, Kuwait and Djibouti.

Growing up, the Astoria High School graduate had the

goal of joining the military and then becoming a police officer. He has also worked with the Astoria Fire Department.

"I've always stood for justice and standing up for others," he said. "I grew up wanting to serve the country and then the community."

Learning the ropes

At his new job, he is learning "a whole new set of skills," including various legal aspects, violations and policies, and a different radio alphabet, since the codes used on the police department's radio differs from those he used in the military.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian
Police Officer Matthew Nunnally is sworn in as Cannon Beach's newest police officer beside his wife, Lisa.

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