

Weyerhaeuser donates 80 acres to Seaside schools

Land gift could lead to new bond to build

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The school in one of the most dangerous locations in America could find a new home. Seaside High

School, located in the tsunami inundation zone, will receive an 80-acre gift from Weyerhaeuser Co. for a new school campus located in a safer area.

“Weyerhaeuser is generously donating 80 acres of land to Seaside School District to relocate its schools,” Doug Dougherty, Seaside School District superintendent, said on Friday. “We will own the property that meets the Oregon Department of Geology and Minerals Industries’ safety recommen-

dations prior to going out for a bond.”

Dougherty said ownership of land outside the tsunami inundation zone was a condition many community members requested before voting to fund a new school bond. A 2013 bond to move the Seaside schools out of the inundation zone failed at the polls when voters rejected a \$128.8 million bond proposal.

According to Dougherty, there are only four public K-12 schools in Oregon within

the tsunami inundation zone. “Weyerhaeuser understands that Seaside School District has three of these four schools and that there is no other suitable land available,” Dougherty said. “A Cascadia earthquake off of our coast will cause large portions of these three antiquated schools to collapse and then be submerged by the Pacific Ocean. The average age of these schools is over 63 years and



Doug Dougherty

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TROLLS AND HEXES AND PRINCESSES, UFF DA!



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Miss Scandinavia Megan McCall-Devos is escorted by Dave Ladd, right, as the torchlight parade begins during the opening night of the 49th annual Scandinavian Midsummer Festival on Friday at Clatsop County Fairgrounds in Astoria. More photos online at DailyAstorian.com

Miss Norway is crowned Miss Scandinavia at the 49th annual festivities

By ELI STILLMAN
The Daily Astorian

The 49th annual Scandinavian Midsummer Festival got underway Friday with polka dances, sausage with kraut, and many other traditional customs at the Clatsop County Fair and Expo Center.

To kick off the festivities, hundreds packed into the arena’s bleachers to watch the coronation of Miss Scandinavia. Four young women in high school or recent graduates, represented the Scandinavian countries that their ancestors had immigrated from including Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland. Dressed in homemade traditional clothing, the teens were asked to come to the microphone and talk about their heritage.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Miss Norway Megan McCall-Devos is crowned 2016 Miss Scandinavia during the opening night of the 49th annual Scandinavian Midsummer Festival on Friday at Clatsop County Fairgrounds in Astoria.

Each researched their families’ ancestry. In the final count, Miss Norway, Megan McCall-Devos, claimed the silver crown.

“I feel honored to represent my family, lodge and the festival,” said McCall-Devos, just after being announced the winner. “This is something that I want to participate in the rest of my life.”

Volunteering

Families and community members who keep coming back to the Scandinavian festival have helped keep the event alive for nearly half a century.

And for most of those years, Loran Mathews has, in some way been, involved with organizing the festival. Despite having no Scandi-

navian heritage, this weekend marks Mathews’ 45th year volunteering for setting up, taking down and making sure that the weekend’s activities run smoothly.

Mathews said his wife, who is Norwegian, offered their services to help out all those years ago. As the festival has grown, so has the couple’s involvement. “We have so many great volunteers,” Mathews said, “To see it grow and keep the tradition alive is the best part.”

Kissing the troll

While many dressed in traditional clothing Friday night, one festival-goer, who has been a memorable part of the weekend for the last 20 years, had a very different type of outfit.

Perry Browning stands over-6-foot-tall but in homemade troll costume with a bright wig and fake feet, it’s hard to get his exact measurements. Browning explained that parents tell myths about trolls to children for disciplinary reasons in Scandinavian cultures, but his character is just there to celebrate. Kissing the troll is considered good luck and by the end of the weekend many women at the event wore a pin that said, “I kissed the troll.”

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Mental health agency turns to veteran

Interim director to step in after leadership shift

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare has turned to an experienced administrator to steer the mental health agency out of a leadership crisis.

Amy Baker, the director of prevention and trauma informed systems at Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc., will serve as interim executive director while the mental health agency searches for a new director.

Baker will take a leave of absence from GOBHI, which oversees mental health services in Clatsop and several other counties.

Kevin Campbell, the CEO of GOBHI, said Baker has years of leadership experience in community behavioral health and the Oregon Health Authority.

Sumer Watkins resigned as executive director and Michele Crump-Hart stepped down as clinical director of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare after an internal investigation and an Oregon Health Authority review of management.

The results of the internal investigation have not been made public, but the state review documented several management issues and recommended additional regulatory oversight until the agency’s management has stabilized.

Jeremy Rust, a Seaside attorney who serves as chairman of the agency’s board of directors, said Saturday that the board expects to finalize a formal contract with Baker this week.

“Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare remains committed to serving our community and providing our clients with the very best care,” Rust said in a statement. “Amy is an outstanding leader and has been intimately

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Marsh caps 37-year career at Ilwaco High School

‘Mama Andrea’ steps out of the office and into retirement

ILWACO, Wash. — President Jimmy Carter was presiding over the Iranian hostage conflict, Pink Floyd was preparing to release “The Wall,” and Andrea Marsh had just accepted her first position at Ilwaco High School. The year was 1979. Thirty-seven years — and more than 6,000 school days later — Marsh’s remarkable career will come to a close Tuesday at the same place it all began. In a tenure that began with her worrying



she was unqualified, Marsh will walk out unparalleled.

Coming to Ilwaco High

A native of Ilwaco, Marsh was never a stranger in the community. But at one time she was the newest addition, a fresh face among the faculty at Ilwaco High.

It began after a decade of running her own daycare, Marsh’s first profession before applying at the school.

“I was grasping for adult



Luke Whittaker/EO Media Group

“I like being around people, the kids,” Andrea Marsh said regarding her favorite part, “It’s like family, and I think it’s important you treat people that way.”

conversation,” Marsh recalled laughing. Her cousin, Nancy

Olsen, a teacher at IHS at the time, first mentioned an open-

ing as a teacher’s aide to Marsh in 1979.

“I didn’t think I would get it,” Marsh reflected. Soon, she was walking to her new job.

“I lived right across the street,” Marsh recalled adding that she was an aide in one of the first alternative classrooms. When fluctuations in funding soon followed the pilot program, she sought stability in the front office.

“It started changing, and each year you didn’t know whether the funding would be there or not,” said Marsh, “It was a better step for me to go into the office.” In 1991, a departure left an opening for secretary.

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