

## Marsh: She's looking forward to free time to see her family

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Again, Marsh was uncertain she was qualified for the job, but was encouraged to apply. "The office ladies were the ones that said 'come on, you can do this,'" Marsh said. She got the job and held a prominent role in the office that wasn't confined to the traditional duties of secretary. "I didn't even really call myself a secretary. I think I'm an office receptionist/accountant," Marsh said detailing her variety of daily duties.

"I welcome people, answer phones, I take money, I go to the bank — I'm kind of the ASB (Associated Student Body) secretary," summed Marsh regarding her role. "I don't do a lot of typing letters to people." Marsh handled her responsibilities in the office, but it was the interactions with students and faculty she coveted most.

### 'Mama Andrea'

The move to secretary meant Marsh would no longer be in the classroom, but it didn't end her interaction with students. Instead, it broadened her exposure to the entire student body.

"I didn't see as many kids all the time, but they still walk in," said Marsh who would eventually watch her own children pass through the halls. "They all came junior high through high school. I was right there watching over them." Long after her own kids graduated, students still refer to her as "Mama Andrea." Seeing the students daily was a highlight for Marsh,

particularly those that returned years later to share their successes after graduating. Identifying former students was a 'knack' Marsh. During her nearly four decades at Ilwaco High, she had seen it come full circle as former student's now have children attending.

"We have high school kids whose parents were students of ours in the classroom. I would call the son by the dad's name," Marsh said laughing. As the years past, the personalities remained.

"Kids are kids. You always have the kid who can handle anything. Then you have the ones that need help. You get the angry ones, too, but when they come into the office, but they usually calm down," Marsh said. A calming presence, Marsh had a natural ability to diffuse situations.

### Enduring legacy

A mother to the students, a sister to the faculty and an ambassador of Ilwaco High School, Marsh's influence will endure.

"Andrea is Ilwaco High School, she has been Ilwaco High School," Principal Dave Tobin said. "It's true that the secretary really runs the building." Marsh's familiarity with families was a resource in the office.

"I relied on her a lot," said Tobin, who consulted her regularly during his eight years at Ilwaco, most recently on locations for prom.

"Her knowledge of the school and community is unbe-

lievable," Tobin said. Beyond her institutional wisdom, Marsh has had an immense impact on the students.

"She's made a huge difference in the life of the students. And there are staff members who would tell you the same thing, that she's made a huge difference in their life," Tobin said.

"She was one of the first people I met at Ilwaco," said Athletic Director and Dean of Students Kevin McNulty, who met Marsh in 1989 while working together in an alternative classroom.

"She's a teacher as much as any teacher in this building," McNulty continued, "Being a young teacher, I picked up things from her." McNulty admired Marsh's blend of knowledge and kindness. In the late 1980s, McNulty was the head football coach while Marsh handled the cheer squad. It was like working with family.

"She's been my protector and I've been her protector," McNulty explained, "It's like having an older sister here."

Marsh's final day at IHS is Tuesday, but it's unlikely her last. "I would like to maybe come back and sell tickets at a ball game once in while just to see people," Marsh said. She's looking forward to free time to see family, volunteer and visit with friends. Asked to reflect on her career, Marsh was no longer concerned about her qualifications.

"I think I did fine," Marsh said with a smile.

— Luke Whittaker

## Seaside: Building a new school could take four years

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they have outlived their useful lives."

Seaside School District commissioned state researchers to conduct a comprehensive research study to verify a safe elevation to relocate the schools. Researchers recommended schools be relocated to stable land that would not liquefy during an earthquake. Since tsunami waves could rise as high as 90 feet, researchers recommended a site at least 80 to 100 feet in elevation.

According to Dougherty, Weyerhaeuser allowed Seaside School District to study approximately 1,000 acres of hillside to the east and south of Seaside. Geotechnical engineers evaluated potential slide issues, conducted site core drillings and installed long-

term monitoring equipment. After analysis, engineers determined that the property directly east of Seaside Heights Elementary School contains land that best meets the state recommendations. Weyerhaeuser Company owns the only suitable property in Seaside, Gearhart or Cannon Beach.

"We have had many geotechs evaluating that hillside," Dougherty said in April. "They strongly believe that is the very best piece of property to relocate the school district."

"We are a part of the coastal communities in which we operate. Helping the school district keep its students safe and out of harm's way is the right thing to do," said Jim Bunker, senior manager of Weyerhaeuser Co. said in the district statement.

The school district will now consider asking residents to support relocating its three schools out of the tsunami inundation zone through a bond measure. The district is gathering community feedback as they develop the proposal, Dougherty said.

In April, he said the process of building a new school could take four years. Costs and whether students would be transferred at one time or year by year were not determined.

The district will gather community feedback, Dougherty said Friday. "We will be conducting polling to inform the price and components of the bond."

A vote would take place Nov. 8.

The district will conduct its regular board meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday at 801 S. Franklin St. in Seaside.

## Festival: 'If you have an interest in the cultures, you're welcome here.'

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### Important traditions

Despite the kissing troll, the coronation exemplified just how important tradition was among the festival and the families there. When former Scandinavian court members were asked to stand, more than 50 women rose to the applause.

Understanding your lineage and participating in the ceremony is as much a part of the Midsummer festival as anything else, 2014 Miss Scandinavia Abbie Johnson explained, "My sister was Miss Scandinavia in 2010 and my mom was Miss Norway in 1985. But that's back when they used lit candles in the crown."

"You see kids go away and come back with kids of their



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
Perry Browning poses for a portrait in his troll attire during the opening night of the 49th annual Scandinavian Midsummer Festival on Friday at Clatsop County Fairgrounds in Astoria.

attending the festival for the last 30 years.

After the coronation, the court led the crowd outside to the parking lot to throw hexes into a bonfire. Casting the bunches of straw into the fire is a Midsummer's tradition to ward off bad luck for the coming year.

Other festival events included Viking fighting, the raising of the Maypole and a troll race that lead competitors out and back on Walluski Loop. From children wearing Viking helmets to elders in patterned stockings, the 49th year of the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival celebrated a storied heritage. As longtime volunteer, Janet Bowler said, "It's not about whether you are Scandinavian or not. If you have an interest in the cultures, you're welcome here."

## Agency: Search for executive director will involve the county, many local stakeholders

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involved with our work in her role with GOBHI. She will provide quality, proven leadership for the agency as we search for full-time executive director who

can effectively lead the agency moving forward. We will be involving the county, GOBHI and many local stakeholders in the search process."

Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare is the county's mental

health contractor. County Manager Cameron Moore has said the county is concerned about quality of care and management issues at the agency and will closely monitor the agency's response to the investigations.

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