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ONE DOLLAR

FREE FOOD, FUN AND FRIENDSHIP



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
Samuel Bacon, 5, serves himself fruit alongside other preschool summer program kids on Tuesday at Warrenton Grade School. The students eat at the Warrenton free summer lunch program.

Federally funded program offers kids one good meal each day

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — School's out, but Stephanie Davis and her staff of two were hard at work Tuesday packing at least 70 servings of tangy chicken and brown rice for lunch. Just before noon, their diners started trickling in. A mixture of preschoolers to high schoolers come in, accompanied by peers, parents and, in one case, a preschool teacher leading her class.

Through the federally funded Summer Food Service Program, Davis and her staff are able to feed all the kids five days a week at no charge and with no questions asked.

"I feel like they at least have some type of a meal that is free to them," said Davis, who starts the week after school ends and runs up to a week before it opens.

The Summer Food Service Program served more than 1,150 students a day last summer in Clatsop County, where more than half of all students are eligible for free and reduced-price lunches because of their income.

This year, the program includes nine feeding sites spread throughout Clatsop County. Warrenton's three sites and Seaside's two opened this week, while Astoria's open July 5.

Lunch club

At face value, the lunch program appears more like a social club than a make-or-break endeavor for most children. Kids meet at the lunch sites daily

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MEAL SITES

In Warrenton, free lunches are served from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 20 to Aug. 26, at the **Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank**, 2010 SE Chokeberry Ave.; **Warrenton Grade School**; 820 S.W. Cedar Ave.; and at the **Warrenton Community Library** (except Fridays), 861 Pacific Drive.

Lunch sites in Seaside are open 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday through Friday through Aug. 26 at **Broadway Middle School**, 1120 Broadway, and **Seaside Heights Elementary School**, 2000 Spruce Drive.

Astoria has five lunch sites open Monday through Friday, July 5 to Aug. 26:

- From noon to 12:30 p.m. at the **Astoria Aquatic Center**, 1997 Marine Drive.
- From 11:30 a.m. to noon at the **Astoria Parks and Recreation Day Camp** at 1555 W. Marine Drive.
- From 11:30 a.m. to noon in **Peter Pan Park** at the corner of Sixth Street and Niagara Avenue.
- From 11:30 a.m. to noon in **Tapiola Park**, 900 W. Marine Drive.
- From 11:30 a.m. to noon in the **Emerald Heights Apartments**, 1 Emerald Drive.
- From 11:30 a.m. to noon at **Lewis and Clark Elementary School**, 97219 Lewis and Clark Road. This site will only be open Monday through Thursday, June 27 through Aug. 4.



Port chief proposes a levee solution

Knight's idea could save money, fish habitat in Warrenton

By EDWARD STRATTON
and ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Local officials are hopeful the federal Bonneville Power Administration can help solve Warrenton's levee problem.

Jim Knight, the director of the Port of Astoria, has proposed a plan to build new, higher levees farther inland from the existing barriers. The levees are uncertified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — and, therefore, uncertified by the



Jim Knight

Federal Emergency Management Agency — for not being large enough to prevent inundation.

Based on anecdotal reports, the uncertified levees are costing property owners in Warrenton thousands of dollars in flood insurance and limiting the ability to develop.

They also affect the Port, which owns and operates the Astoria Regional Airport in Warrenton and other low-lying properties on the Skipanon Peninsula.

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Seaside, Arch Cape wish Godspeed to Father Nick

Beloved pastor returns to his Tanzania homeland

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Father Nicholas Nilema — Father Nick to all — is preparing to leave Seaside at the end of July, and his "family" here is already missing him.

"I will miss them here too," Nilema said. "It's really a family, my family. For us as missionaries, everywhere we go or are sent, we make a family."

During his 18 years in Seaside as priest at Our Lady of Victory and St. Peter the Fisherman Parish Hall in Arch Cape, Nilema counted as his accomplishments the rebuilding of the church, outreach to the homeless and partnerships within the community.

"It's a loving, caring community," Nilema

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Sales could make pot Oregon's top crop

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Sales and tax figures collected by state agencies may finally solve one of Oregon's long-running farm crop questions: whether marijuana is indeed the state's most valuable crop, as cannabis advocates have always maintained.

Tight controls and reporting requirements by the Oregon Department of Revenue and Oregon Liquor Control Commission should result in accurate information about pot, said Bruce Pokarney, spokesman for the state Department of Agriculture. The department compiles an annual list of the state's most valuable crops.

The sale of recreational marijuana became legal in Oregon last October, in addition to medical use, which was already legal. The state revenue department collects a 25 percent tax on recreational pot purchases, while the OLCC licenses producers, processors, retailers, wholesalers and labs. The department said it has processed \$14.9 million in marijuana tax payments through May.

The information, however, poses another head-scratcher. Most agricultural statistics published by the ag department come from the USDA's National Agricultural Sta-



Bruce Pokarney

tistics Service, or NASS. Although it's now legal in several states, the feds still classify marijuana as an illegal drug. Dave Losh, Oregon state statistician for NASS, said the agency won't include marijuana in its annual crop statistics due to federal policy.

For the same reason, people can't use water from federal projects to irrigate marijuana, he said, and such things as Natural Resources Conservation Service programs can't be applied to pot crops.

Pokarney, of ODA, joked the

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Father Nicholas Nilema poses for a portrait after delivering morning services in Seaside. After 18 years with the church, Nilema will be leaving for Tanzania.

