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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
Michelle McCarley looks at drawings with her two adopted foster daughters Grace, center, and Ava, right, on Tuesday at their home in Astoria. Michelle and her husband, Danny, have hosted 22 foster kids in Clatsop County since 2009, including Grace and Ava.

CLATSOP COUNTY IN NEED OF FOSTER HOMES

SOME CHILDREN BEING PLACED OUTSIDE AREA

By **ERICK BENGEL**
The Daily Astorian

When Danny and Michelle McCarley chose to become foster parents in 2009, they went all in.

Since then, the Astoria couple has cared for 22 foster children — adopting four of them along the way — on top of raising their two biological children.

Local child care experts say the North Coast community has an urgent need for more residents to open up their homes to foster children.

“They just don’t have enough foster parents, to be honest with you,” Michelle McCarley said.

Clatsop County faces a shortage of temporary homes for children authorities have removed from unsafe and dysfunctional households, and the local Child Welfare District office, part of the state Department of Human Services, is launching an effort to recruit more foster parents.

Between September 2015 and September, about 80 children throughout the county were living in foster care, according to District Manager Amy Youngflesh. Most of the children were younger than 8 years old.

All told, the county has 37 foster homes. In 19 homes, the foster parent is a relative only certified to care for that child. Eighteen are standard certified foster homes, like the McCarleys’.

“If we could get 10 more homes, that would really help us,” Alicia Meyers, the child welfare program manager, said. “And that way, we wouldn’t be in such a crunch.”

Trauma

Meyers said it is increasingly difficult to



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
Michelle and Danny McCarley sit with their adopted daughter Grace on Tuesday at their home in Astoria.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

To begin the process of becoming a foster parent, call the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Office in Astoria at 503-325-9179.

find a foster home in Clatsop County, keep the children in their school district and prevent siblings from getting separated. In some cases, her office has had to place foster children in neighboring counties.

“We want them to stay in their school. We want them to be surrounded by people that they know,” said Julia Mabry, executive director of Clatsop CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), a group of court-appointed volunteers that represent the interests of children in the child welfare system. “So, if they then need to be placed in Knappa because that’s the only available foster home, that is a problem.”

Children that end up in foster homes have usually experienced some combination

See **FOSTER HOMES**, Page 7A

Judge closes barn door

Neacoxie Barn slapped with permanent ban

By **R.J. MARX**
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Neacoxie Creek Barn owner Shannon Smith won’t be able to hold commercial events at her Gearhart property without risking a padlock on the door. Clatsop County Circuit Judge Cindee Matyas agreed with the city that facts weren’t in dispute and upheld its request to prohibit the barn from commercial use, at least until it meets city code and occupancy requirements.

“We felt the proof was overwhelming. The court agreed with us today,” City

See **BARN**, Page 7A



Shannon Smith

Airport contractor racks up late fees

Corpac falls behind in runway paving

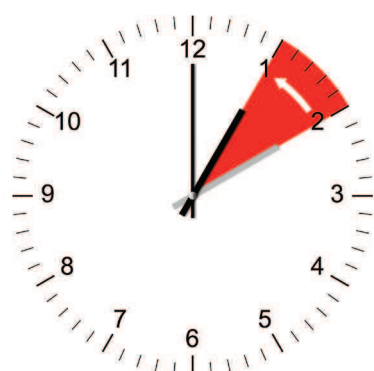
By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

When general contractor Corpac Construction Co. accepted a \$5 million contract to rehab a runway at Astoria Regional Airport, the company agreed to complete the project in 75 days.

Corpac started construction Aug. 1, and has been incurring damages of \$2,500 a day since Oct. 14 from the Port of Astoria, which claims the company failed to initially put in enough resources necessary finish the runway before the rainy season hit. Representatives from the company were unavailable for comment.

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FALL BACK



Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday at 2 a.m. when clocks are turned back one hour to **1 a.m.** Sunrise and sunset will be earlier, which means more light in the morning.

District attorney had absolute immunity

Marquis refused to work with Seaside Police officer

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

A federal appeals court ruled Thursday that Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis had absolute immunity when he declined to work with a Seaside Police detective who had challenged him.

Marquis refused to use Steven Barnett, a veteran officer, as a witness or work with him on prosecutions because of doubts about his credibility.

Barnett alleged that Marquis retaliated against him for his criticism of the district attorney in a guest column in The Daily Astorian during Barnett’s unsuccessful campaign for sheriff in 2012.

Barnett claimed in a federal lawsuit that Marquis violated his free speech and due process

rights. A U.S. District Court judge ruled in 2014 that Marquis had absolute immunity against the suit because he was acting in his role as prosecutor in the judicial phase of the criminal process. Barnett appealed.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Portland upheld the district court in a ruling issued Thursday.

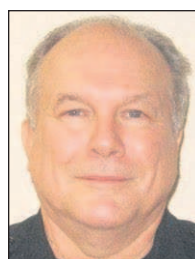
“A prosecutor’s decisions about witness credibility and the presentation of evidence are intimately associated with the judicial phase of prosecution and are therefore protected by absolute immunity,” the judges held.

Inexact science

The appeals court acknowledged that determining whether conduct is prosecutorial in nature, rather than administrative, is an inexact science.



Josh Marquis



Steven Barnett

See **DA**, Page 7A

