

# Friends celebrate Chinook's 'new' old school

Former Chinook classroom building finds new role amid remodel

By LUKE WHITTAKER  
EO Media Group

CHINOOK — A former derelict classroom building is the center of renewed optimism in Chinook.

The Chinook School, a 1920s era structure that was largely forgotten from the 1970s until a renovation campaign began in 2000, is the focus of the Friends of Chinook School nonprofit group.

The makeover hit another milestone in late October with the opening of a new visitor center operating within the central office of the former school. A new roof, foundation, windows and refinished wood highlight what has been a time of transition for the former school, toward a role as a community convention center. "It ceased being a school

building in the early '70s," Friends of Chinook School Vice President Loma Billups said. "And kids were no longer going there because no one had maintained it — there were just too many problems."

For nearly two decades, the building sat idle waiting for a new purpose until the Friends group rallied around a remodel.

"Back in 1999, we were asked if Chinook would be interested in doing something with the Chinook School because they were going to divest themselves from the property," Billups said. "We started meeting with people here in the community and talking about what people wanted." The consensus around the community was to restore the structure to its former prominence.



Luke Whittaker/EO Media Group  
Within minutes of opening the new visitor center, the first curious customers, visitors from Canada, stopped in to inquire about the area.

"Our mission was to restore the buildings and return them to the community," she said. The remodel was seen as a way to assist in improving the economic and cultural development of the area. In 2007, possession of the building was passed from the school district

to the Port of Chinook, which holds title on behalf of the community.

"We started seeking grants at that time," Billups said. Local and state grants were eventually secured and bolstered by donations by community members and sea-

sonal fundraisers. The gym was remodeled first, starting in 2007 and finishing in 2012. After the gym was finished, attention turned toward remodeling the school. The work was top to bottom, and included all walls and windows in between.

"We had to redo foundations and roofs," Billups said. "They took all the wood down and refinished everything." Corky Wilson served as construction manager along with architect David Jensen and a host of volunteers.

"It's been a collaborative effort between the community groups involved," said Andi Day, executive director of the Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau.

"It's really amazing what the Friends of Chinook School have done in partnering with the Port of Ilwaco and Chinook, Pacific County, Pacific County Tourism Bureau — all the people that have been

involved. They've done all heavy lifting getting this place ready and securing the grants— everything to bring this vision into fruition. We're here to help put it to work."

**New visitor center**  
The classroom building's first tenant is the Long Beach Peninsula Visitor's Bureau, which officially opened their second office in October, adding to the bureau's long-term location in Seaview. Day believes the event center could be a windfall for peninsula businesses, from lodging to restaurants and catering services, during what is largely a slower season.

"It's an additional visitor center," Day said, "almost like a kiosk." The goal is to increase tourism and engagement in the area, help welcome people and let them know what all there is to see and experience and help market the space itself.

## Supply drive and fundraiser for Standing Rock

The Daily Astorian

A supply drive and fundraiser for protesters of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota will be held Wednesday at the YMCA building in Astoria.

Donations can be dropped

off from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the YMCA at 514 12th St. A social hour will take place in the same location from 5 to 7 p.m.

The supplies will be hauled in a pickup truck and camper trailer to the protest site the following week. Both

the truck and trailer will also be donated. Monetary donations will go to the protesters' Legal Defense Fund.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said that more study and discussion with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe are necessary.

## LOCAL EVENTS IN BRIEF

### Off-road clubs tackle trails

Motorsports clubs are calling all off-road enthusiasts to Nicolai Mountain to perform trail maintenance.

The Pacific Trail Riders Club and Clatsop County Son's Of Beaches 4x4 Club will assemble materials and prepare the trails for maintenance Thursday. Maintenance begins Saturday.

The groups will work in concert with the state Department of Forestry to repair eroded areas of the off-highway vehicle trails. Volunteers have called for utility task vehicles and quads to tow trailers; rakes and shovels to remove debris; and manpower to clean trash along the trails.

For more information, contact Jay Pitman of the Pacific Trail Riders Club and Clatsop County Son's of Beaches 4X4 Club at 503-470-0046 or pitman6755@msn.com

sen the theme 'Aspire' for the show. This theme encompasses the creativity and hope this generation has for a more beautiful world. We hope that our art pieces will take us at least one tiny step toward our goal."

There is no cost to attend. But proceeds from purchasing pieces supports the art program and students.

"So we hope that anyone who wants to give students more opportunities to beautify the world, visit a lovely location or simply feels the need to be inspired to aspire will attend," Simmons said.

The Barbey Maritime Center is located at 1792 Marine Drive, east of the main Columbia River Maritime Museum.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/zkd9zjq>

### Applicants sought for open seat

Clatsop County is accepting applications for an open seat on the Ambulance Service Area Advisory Committee.

The vacancy is for a citizen member with a term beginning in February 2017 and expiring in February 2019.

The committee monitors and reviews local emergency medical services in accordance with the county Ambulance Service Area Plan. It gathers information from service users, providers and the medical community, monitors coordination of service resources and dispatch procedures and reviews service area boundaries.

The committee meets four times a year.

The appointment will be made by the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners.

Application forms are available online at [www.co.clatsop.or.us](http://www.co.clatsop.or.us), or at the County Manager's Office at 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, Astoria.

The deadline to apply is Dec. 31.

### Host music studio in a bus

The John Lennon Educational Bus, which visited Astoria High School in February, is offering U.S. schoolchildren a chance to host the mobile music studio for two days.

The nonprofit is taking submissions of student-produced, faculty-advised videos through Thursday. The theme is "What Makes Music Education Great in Your School District." Video submissions should demonstrate commitment to music education.

Three school districts will be selected for a two-day Lennon Bus residency and town hall that celebrates and pro-

### AHS holds art fundraiser

Astoria High School's annual art show, a fundraiser for the school's art program, will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Barbey Maritime Center.

"This fall, we have decided to combine the art show with the Middle School's," said senior Rachel Simmons, an organizer with the art show. "As students, we have cho-

## LOTTERIES

### OREGON

**Monday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 5-9-2-8  
4 p.m.: 8-8-8-2  
7 p.m.: 2-1-4-2  
10 p.m.: 9-5-7-0

**Monday's Megabucks:**  
5-14-21-24-26-39  
Estimated jackpot: \$6.4 million

### WASHINGTON

**Monday's Daily Game:**  
1-6-4

**Monday's Hit 5:** 05-07-29-33-36  
Estimated jackpot: \$200,000

**Monday's Keno:** 03-08-09-12-15-17-26-32-38-42-44-57-62-64-66-67-68-70-73-76

**Monday's Lotto:** 09-19-31-32-43-46  
Estimated jackpot: \$4.3 million

**Monday's Match 4:** 01-09-15-18

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

**TUESDAY**  
**Sunset Empire Parks and Rec District,** 4 p.m., 1225 Ave. A, Seaside.  
**Port of Astoria Commission,** 4:30 p.m., executive session (closed to public), 6 p.m., regular meeting, 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.  
**Shoreline Sanitary District Board,** 7 p.m., Gearhart Hertz Station, 33496 West Lake Lane, Warrenton.

**Clatsop County Human Services Advisory Council,** 4 to 5:30 p.m., 800 Exchange St., Room 430.  
**Seaside Planning Commission,** 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Seaside Tourism Advisory Commission,** 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

## CORRECTION

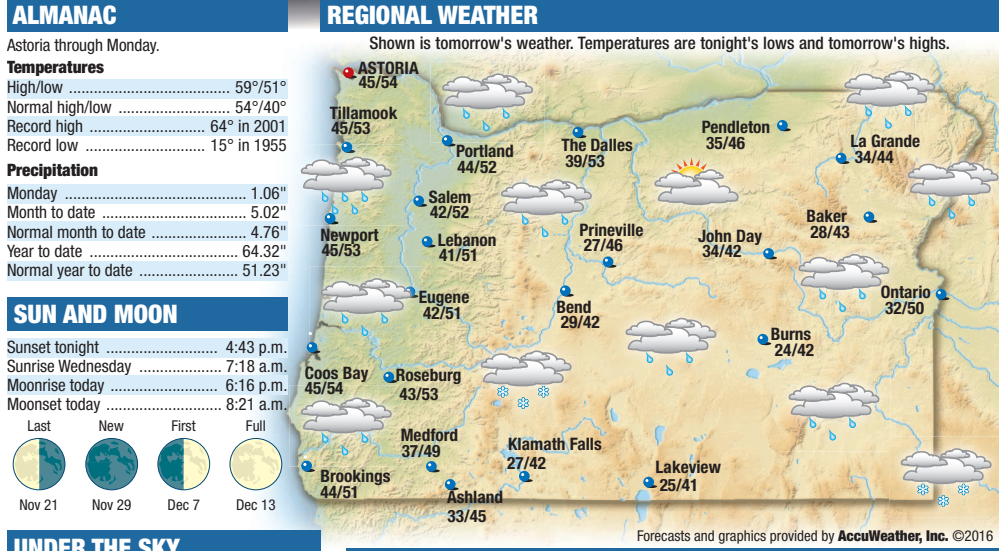
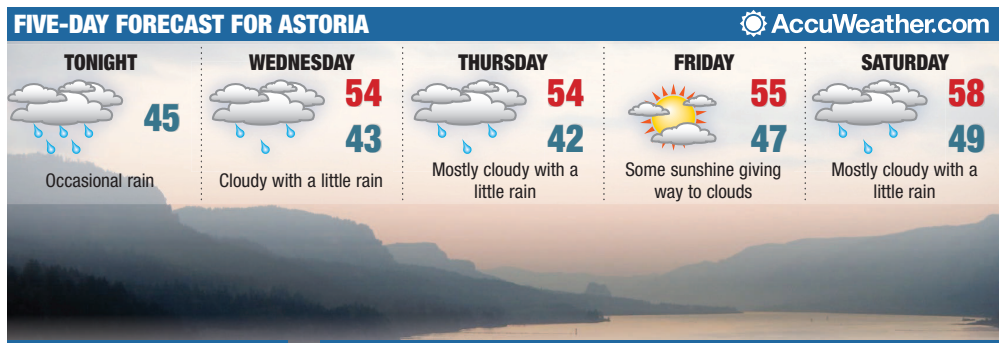
**Name misspelled** — Robyn Koustik's first name was misspelled in a 3A story Monday on a donkey basketball charity event. She is a manager at the Astoria Armory.

## OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits](http://www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits), by email at [ewilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:ewilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.



**ALMANAC**

Astoria through Monday.

**Temperatures**  
High/Low ..... 59°/51°  
Normal high/low ..... 54°/40°  
Record high ..... 64° in 2001  
Record low ..... 15° in 1955

**Precipitation**  
Monday ..... 1.06"  
Month to date ..... 5.02"  
Normal month to date ..... 4.76"  
Year to date ..... 64.32"  
Normal year to date ..... 51.23"

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunset tonight ..... 4:43 p.m.  
Sunrise Wednesday ..... 7:18 a.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 6:16 p.m.  
Moonset today ..... 8:21 a.m.

Last New First Full  
Nov 21 Nov 29 Dec 7 Dec 13

**UNDER THE SKY**

Tonight's Sky: Aldebaran of Taurus is below the waning gibbous moon.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

**TOMORROW'S TIDES**

**Astoria / Port Docks**

Time	High	Time	Low
2:30 a.m.	8.6 ft.	8:07 a.m.	2.0 ft.
1:56 p.m.	10.2 ft.	8:59 p.m.	-1.5 ft.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today	Wed.
Atlanta	70 51 s	73 48 s
Boston	53 47 r	59 43 pc
Chicago	58 40 pc	60 46 s
Denver	77 47 s	77 34 pc
Des Moines	57 41 s	69 55 s
Detroit	59 43 pc	60 39 pc
El Paso	76 44 s	76 53 pc
Fairbanks	24 9 c	16 2 c
Honolulu	85 71 pc	85 71 pc
Indianapolis	61 40 pc	62 44 s
Kansas City	69 44 s	73 59 s
Las Vegas	77 59 s	76 47 pc
Los Angeles	79 57 s	72 48 pc
Memphis	72 49 s	77 54 s
Miami	77 65 sh	78 65 pc
Nashville	70 43 pc	72 45 s
New Orleans	77 59 pc	77 57 s
New York	54 43 r	60 48 s
Oklahoma City	79 49 s	80 57 s
Philadelphia	59 41 r	62 44 s
St. Louis	66 47 s	70 56 s
Salt Lake City	71 45 s	56 30 sh
San Francisco	65 54 c	63 49 pc
Seattle	54 43 sh	52 41 sh
Washington, DC	61 43 pc	63 46 s

**TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER**

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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