

## As **BLACK FRIDAY** draws near, downtown gets ready to reign

UNIQUE GIFTS, SPECIAL SALES HIGHLIGHT **START OF SHOPPING SEASON**



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Holiday decorations hang above Commercial Street in downtown Astoria on Tuesday.

By **LUKE WHITTAKER**  
EO Media Group

Scandinavian chocolate. A Goonies-inspired painting. A new guitar complete with lessons. When it comes to finding the perfect present this holiday season, look no further than nearby, small businesses for unique options with a local flair.

"You never know what the hot item is going to be, but there are some things that are consistently strong," said Saara Mathews, owner of FinnWare. Specialty chocolate, holiday figurines and ornaments are particularly popular.

"Most of our Christmas items come from Scandinavia, you can't find them everywhere," Mathews said. "We're the last Scandinavian storefront in Oregon."

Art options abound throughout Astoria; among them is a commercial illustrator Dave McMacken, owner of Ratz & CO, a poster, print and painting gallery at 260 10th St.

"I'm a pure landscape painter," McMacken said. "And then I just mix it up with cartoons and science fiction." A commercial illustrator for 50 years, McMacken finds inspiration in local landscapes, boatyards and abandoned buildings and empty gas stations. Scenes depicting Astoria, Chinook and Ilwaco hang throughout a gallery offering a fresh interpretation on familiar scenes.

### Special season for sales

For several local businesses the holiday season is critical boost before slower months and a chance to clear inventory by offering deep discounts.

"You can save 50 percent on a refrigerator right now," said Roby's Furniture and Appliance manager Brandon Carr. "Everybody believes they can get a better deal at

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Luke Whittaker/EO Media Group

Teela Evans, at The Cellar On 10th, recommends a local pinot noir or pinot gris for the perfect complement to the holiday meal.



A variety of specialty Scandinavian candies and chocolate are available at FinnWare, located at 1116 Commercial St. in Astoria. "You never know what the hot item is going to be, but there are some things that are consistently strong," said owner Saara Mathews. Specialty chocolate, holiday figurines and ornaments are among the consistent seasonal sellers.

Luke Whittaker  
EO Media Group

## County's homeless students up again

Warrenton has most without shelter in county

Associated Press and Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — More students in Oregon are homeless than the number tallied last year, a disturbing trend that has now gone on for three years, state education officials said Tuesday.

The Department of Education said 21,340 students, or 3.7 percent of the K-12 population in public schools, don't have a fixed and adequate nighttime residence.

The vast majority of students who qualify as homeless do have some sort of shelter at night, most often shared or temporary housing arrangements that aren't considered stable.

But just because they're not sleeping outside doesn't mean there's not an impact, said Marti Heard, the homeless program liaison for Portland Public Schools.

"If you're staying someplace where the utilities (are) off, you may not be warm enough, you may not have light for studying," said Heard. "These students are really at risk for falling behind academically."

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See a graphic detailing student homelessness in Clatsop County. **Page 9A**

## US court blocks overtime pay rule

By **MICHELLE RINDELS**  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — In a blow to the Obama administration's labor-law plans, a federal court has blocked the start of a rule that would have made an estimated 4 million more American workers eligible for overtime pay heading into the holiday season.

As a result of Tuesday's ruling, overtime changes set to take effect Dec. 1 are now unlikely to be in play before vast power shifts to a Donald Trump administration, which has spoken out against Obama-backed government regulation and generally aligns with the business groups that stridently opposed the overtime rule.

The U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Texas granted the nationwide preliminary injunction, saying the Department of Labor's rule exceeds the authority the agency was delegated by Congress.

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## Seaside students to lead Parade of Lights

Kids pitch in as grand marshals of annual event

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

SEASIDE — Organizers were concerned and dismayed when the health of Mayor Don Larson made his appearance at this year's Seaside Parade of Lights problematic. Larson was scheduled to lead the annual event as the parade's grand marshal. Because of his health he couldn't do it, Sandy McDow-

**IF YOU GO**  
The parade begins at 6 p.m. at First Avenue on Necanicum Drive with participants facing south. The parade ends at the Downing and Broadway pocket park. Following the parade, participants are invited to join tree-lighting, caroling and visits with Santa Claus.

all of Seaside's Chamber of Commerce said.

"We were thinking, 'What can we do?'" McDowall said. "Then the lightbulb went on: Let's make it the children of Seaside School District 10."

The metaphor was appropriate for Seaside's annual Parade of Lights, held annually on Thanksgiving Friday.

Children from the high

school, middle school and two elementary schools will gather at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center and march behind the "grand marshal" banner.

"It's really a thank you to the Seaside area for passing the bond measure," McDowall said.

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The Daily Astorian/File Photo

Santa waves to the crowd at the Seaside Parade of Lights. Participants are invited to sign up to join in the parade.

