

Warrenton spreads holiday cheer to children



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Kendall Allen wraps a present for one of several children adopted by her family as part of Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids Inc.'s toy drive. Between 40 and 50 volunteers wrapped and bagged presents for more than 230 kids Saturday at Warrenton Grade School.

Community adopts youth for Christmas gifts

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — In early December last year, Warrenton residents learned that kids in their city weren't among the recipients of the Astoria Wishing Tree program, which raises part of its money from Warrenton businesses. Within weeks of Christmas, community members adopted more than 130 kids.

With an established toy drive this year, Warrenton individuals and businesses have adopted more than 230 kids for Christmas.

Rallying for kids
"The community, they

really rallied around our request for help," said Debbie Morrow, director of the nonprofit youth support group Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids Inc., which organized the drive.

Morrow said teachers gathered Christmas wish lists for children from their families. Others adopted and went shopping for the kids. Most of the wishes were granted, Morrow said, except for the most extravagant — two who asked for hoverboards will have to settle for skateboards.

Between 40 and 50 volunteers gathered Saturday at Warrenton Grade School to sort, wrap and bag the presents, which families picked up Sunday.

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'The community, they really rallied around our request for help.'

Debbie Morrow

director of the nonprofit youth support group Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kids Inc., which organized the drive

Council says 'no' to Astoria pot shop

Final vote on Pier 39 location is next week

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council voted Monday night to reverse a Planning Commission decision that would have allowed a retail marijuana shop to operate in a condominium complex near Pier 39.

Arguing that the Planning Commission did not properly consider the residential nature of the site, the City Council approved an appeal of the commission's decision.

The dispensary, called West, would have occupied a roughly 950-square-foot space on the ground floor of the Cannery Lofts condos, Building A, on Abbey Lane. The upper floors are reserved for residents, the ground-floor spaces for mixed use.

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Daniel Greenfield

Clarissa Moore

Duane "DJ" Jeremiah Scovill



Dakota Weirup

Conrad "Gus" Weirup

Officers arrest five in Knappa drug raid

'Heroin Hill' is known for drug use, criminality

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
For The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested five people, some from a flop house known locally in Knappa as "Heroin Hill," Sunday in connection with a complex theft and robbery investigation.

"Heroin Hill," when deputies executed two search warrants early in the morning, was filled with drug paraphernalia. They found hundreds of used hypodermic needles as well as methamphetamine, heroin and other controlled substances.

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Washington state backs spraying herbicide in bay

Studies show buffers adequate

By DON JENKINS
EO Media Group

The Washington Department of Ecology wants to allow shellfish farmers to continue spraying an herbicide in Willapa Bay for at least two more years to kill non-native eelgrass that smothers commercial clam beds.

Studies have shown that a 10-meter buffer protects native eelgrass from the herbicide, according to the state.

The proposal represents a victory for shellfish grow-

ers in southwestern Washington. The growers have faced opposition from environmental groups over using chemicals in the bay to control Japanese eelgrass, also known as *Zostera japonica*.

The grass blocks food from reaching clams and slows water flows, allowing sediment to collect on clam beds.

The Department of Ecology issued a permit in 2014 to allow growers to spray imazamox. The permit called for spraying to end in May 2017, unless studies showed the herbicide would not damage the environment.

The department's only concern was whether imazamox

sprayed into the bay would flow off-site and kill native eelgrass, permit writer Nathan Lubliner said.

Imazamox is "practically non-toxic" to fish, birds and honeybees, according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fact sheet.

"None of them should be impacted by the chemical," Lubliner said.

University of Washington researchers studied three 5-acre plots in Willapa Bay. After reviewing the study, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concurred with the Department of



Don Jenkins/EO Media Group

Zostera japonica, also known as Japanese eelgrass, covers clam beds in Willapa Bay in southwestern Washington in this 2014 photo. The Washington Department of Ecology proposes to let shellfish growers continue to spray an herbicide in the bay to kill the grass.

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