



LADY WARRIORS EARN THIRD-STRAIGHT WIN

SPORTS • 12A

Tyla Little, the team's leading scorer with 17 points.



DETOX

LACK OF LOCAL OPTIONS AN OBSTACLE TO RECOVERY



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

A single room awaits a new patient at Bridge to Pathways detox center in St. Helens.

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Doctors and nurses at Columbia Memorial Hospital can treat acute conditions and symptoms of chronic drug or alcohol abuse, but patients who need to go through the painful withdrawal of detoxification get a card with a list of local rehabilitation facilities.

The closest medical detox center on the list is in St. Helens, 66 miles away in Columbia County.

The lack of local detox options can be an obstacle to recovery, a gap in the health care network that can keep people — especially those on public insurance and the uninsured — trapped in addiction.

At a Clatsop County Board of Commis-

sioners meeting in December, Commissioner Lianne Thompson asked Amy Baker, the executive director of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, to describe an unmet need. Baker's thought was detox.

"Outpatient services for substance abuse can be really effective, but if somebody's got dependency, they've got to get clean and sober first in order for those services to really work," she said in an interview.

Baker suspects a fair number of people end up doing detox in jail or at hospitals, but that is not the same as medically supervised withdrawal with specialists who understand the process. "It is pretty much St. Helens, programs in Portland, or people end up doing it on their own," she said.

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Amy Baker is the executive director at Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare. "The difficulty with addiction and substance abuse is that people have windows of readiness to be willing to seek treatment," she said. "And if it's really hard to get them into the services that they need, then you often lose that window of opportunity."

'We're specialized in detoxing them'

St. Helens center is a resource for Clatsop County

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

ST. HELENS — The basement rooms of a medical detox center may seem like a universe away from the world of Harry Potter and Harvard. The message on the bulletin board Monday afternoon, drawn in red marker, brought them closer together: "Rock bottom became the solid foundation in which I rebuilt my life."

Nurses at Bridge to Pathways often write inspirational notes for patients going through the agony of withdrawal. The quote from author J.K. Rowling's commencement address at Harvard in 2008 is about the fringe benefits of failure, a useful lesson that can apply to struggling novelists as well as the addicted.

Bridge to Pathways, a nine-bed facility that opened in St. Helens in 2015, is the closest medical detox option for people in Clatsop County. The detox center mostly serves patients on the Oregon Health Plan, the state's version of Medicaid, and concentrates on withdrawal from

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Nurses at Bridge to Pathways in St. Helens often write inspirational notes for patients going through withdrawal.

ODOT culture lacks vision

\$1 million audit finds lack of accountability

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A long-awaited performance audit of the Oregon Department of Transportation found the agency has a familial culture that is lacking in dissent and accountability and needs a clearer and more coordinated strategic vision for its future.

"There is no uniform clarity at the senior level, or with governing bodies, on priorities and the metrics to track achieving them," the consultants with New York-based McKinsey & Co. wrote in a report on their findings.

Yet, overall, the consultants ranked ODOT's organizational health as better than average, compared with other Western states.

The audit is intended to ensure the department is prepared to effectively manage a potential transportation package that state legislators could approve later this year.

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Burn victim sues butane hash oil producers

October explosion rocked Astoria building

By NOELLE CROMBIE
The Oregonian

A construction worker who spent a month in a Portland burn unit after being injured in a butane-fueled explosion in Astoria last fall has filed a lawsuit against the company that made the cannabis extract, the property owner and the company that sold the flammable gas used to make the product.

Jacob Magley, 34, of Portland is suing 11 businesses and three people for violations of workplace safety laws. He filed the suit in Multnomah County and is seeking \$8.9 million in damages.

Magley was working as a contractor in the building when it exploded. The suit claims the company making the extract failed to keep butane from filling the room.

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Cannon Beach Academy locks in school site

Charter school hopes to open

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Academy charter school locked in its proposed location at 171 Sunset Boulevard for at least one more year.

The request for a permit renewal, presented at the Planning Commission Thursday, provides the academy an opportunity to operate a public charter school in a portion of the site's commercial building. The proposal calls for kinder-

garten, first and second grades next fall, growing to kindergarten through fifth grade by fall 2020. Maximum enrollment would be 75 students the first year, rising to 150 students by 2020. Maximum staffing would start at six, reaching a maximum of 10 by 2020.

"This proposal is similar to one you approved a year ago that has since expired," City Planner Mark Barnes told commissioners. "Your conditional use permits are good for a year unless acted on. This was not acted on and it died from inaction, so they are starting the process again with a new conditional use permit."

Revised plans for the char-

ter school were approved by the Design Review Board last spring. Board members had hoped to open this school year, but the application was delayed when issues with Seaside School District arose. "Those issues have been resolved," Phil Simmons, the director of startup operations, said. "We're ready to open this fall. We're ready to get the permits and open the school."

He said it was the same request with some slight modifications to the floor plan. "Everything significant about the last request is contained in this request."

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R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Phil Simmons, director of startup operations; Kellye Dewey, president; and Barb Knop, treasurer of the Cannon Beach Academy, at the Thursday Planning Commission meeting.

