

## Bringing Clatsop Care Center BACK FROM THE BRINK



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Care Center in Astoria has long operated with a deficit. Efforts to sell the aging building have been unsuccessful, so far.

### Health district may hire outside company to run day-to-day ops

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop Care Health District may hire a management company to replace its departing CEO, a move the district hopes will improve the bottom line of the oldest care facility in Astoria.

Though the district itself is financially secure, Clatsop Care Health and Rehabilitation Center on 16th Street — also known as Clatsop Care Center — has long operated with a deficit.

The center is expected to end this fiscal year with an operational deficit of \$606,000. Property taxes and timber revenues will make up the difference.

The district is looking to bring in outside management, in part, to prevent the center from closing, District Chairwoman Karen Burke said.

“As a public health care district, we need to stay in the black,” she said.

While the center is onerous to manage and staff, the chronic budget shortfall is due to a decline in census, as well as cuts to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.

The center is licensed to serve more than 70 residents, both long-term residents and short-term care rehabilitation patients, including people recovering from surgery.

But, in recent years, the number of residents has gradually dropped. Then, last year, the district relocated about a dozen long-term residents because of a shortage of certified nursing assistants. All residents now

occupy the fourth floor. The center currently keeps 24 beds.

Although the care center is still not making money, the downsizing stabilized losses: It shrank the deficit but didn’t fix the problem.

“We’re still a bit in the red as far as the care center goes,” Burke said, adding, “We’re not losing more money than we were, whereas before we were kind of having increasing losses on a regular basis, and that is not happening.”

Meanwhile, the district is no closer to selling the aging building — a maintenance headache driving up operational costs — than it was last year. Though brokers have shown the building to interested developers, no offers have been made.

If the building is sold, the new owner would continue to lease it to the district while residents transfer to other locations.

See CENTER, Page 7A

## Rohne files for Port seat

Former county commissioner may challenge Fulton

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Former county commissioner Dirk Rohne will run for the Port of Astoria Commission position held by Stephen Fulton in the May special district election.

Fulton’s post is one of three positions on the five-member Port Commission on the ballot in an election that could determine the direction of the Port. Fulton has been critical of the Port’s management and leadership, creating tension among divided commissioners.

See ROHNE, Page 7A



Dirk Rohne

## After fire, city rallies to rescue

Charitable efforts aid those displaced by blaze

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach hearts and pocketbooks are turning outward as residents seek to assist those displaced from the North Larch Street apartment building destroyed by fire Sunday.

A GoFundMe account and fundraising efforts by the Cannon Beach Community Church are each gathering donations for those who lost their homes and belongings.

“We’re trying to raise as much as we can to help them out,” Emma Lindsay, owner of Dogs Allowed, said Thursday, after creating an online fundraising appeal. “It’s a very small town, especially in the winter months. We are one big family. Everybody’s got everybody’s back. The three people that were displaced, everybody knows them, they know everybody. They just make what the town’s about.”

See BLAZE, Page 7A



Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue Fire consumed 124 N. Larch St. in Cannon Beach on Sunday, leaving three residents displaced.

## Oregon judges ask for more pay, bigger pensions

Want to attract young attorneys to the bench

By SAUL HUBBARD  
The Register-Guard

SALEM — A contingent of Oregon’s roughly 200 state judges visited the state Capitol this week on what has become a familiar quest: more pay and, indirectly, bigger pensions.

Since 2014, lawmakers have given elected state judges raises of

**‘We’re not doing this for the money. But (Oregon) needs to pay (judges) appropriately for the kind of work that they do.’**

Thomas Balmer  
Oregon Supreme Court chief justice

between 17.4 percent and 18.6 percent, depending on the court they work in.

The Legislature has given judges three separate raises of \$5,000 a year. And, in 2015, law-

makers also agreed to automatically give all judges the same annual cost-of-living raises that non-union state managers get into the future, usually 2 to 3 percent a year.

Today, a Supreme Court judge makes \$147,560 a year, an appeals court judge \$144,536, and a circuit court judge \$135,776.

They want more.

### Lock in raises

This year, judges want lawmakers to pass a bill that would lock in another three years of raises between 2018 and 2020, increasing their pay by a further 12.7 percent to 14.2 percent. Those raises would cost the state around \$11.2 million during the next four years.

See JUDGES, Page 7A

## Businesses go dark for #adaywithoutimmigrants



AP Photo/Eric Gay

A young girl helps hold a U.S. flag as a group marches through downtown heading to the Texas Capitol during an immigration protest Thursday in Austin, Texas.

### Area eateries, Astoria students joined the strike

Associated Press  
and The Daily Astorian

PHILADELPHIA — The heart of Philadelphia’s Italian Market was uncommonly quiet. Fine restaurants in New York, San Francisco and the nation’s capitol closed for the day. Grocery stores, food trucks, coffee shops, diners and taco joints in places like Chicago, Los Angeles and Boston shut down.

Immigrants around the U.S.

stayed home from work and school Thursday to demonstrate how important they are to America’s economy, and many businesses closed in solidarity, in a nationwide protest called A Day Without Immigrants.

The boycott was aimed squarely at President Donald Trump’s efforts to step up deportations, build a wall at the Mexican border and close the nation’s doors to many travelers. Organizers said they expected thousands to participate or otherwise show support.

It was unclear how many people participated, but in many cities, the actions were

disruptive, if not halting. More actions are being planned for May 1 — known as May Day, the internationally recognized holiday honoring workers.

“I fear every day whether I am going to make it back home. I don’t know if my mom will make it home,” said Hessel de Honte, a 17-year-old native of Honduras who lives in Austin, Texas, with his family and skipped class at his high school to take part in one of several rallies held around the country. Duarte said he arrived in the U.S. at age 5 to escape gang violence.

See PROTEST, Page 6A

