

AHS senior
Ole Englund

JHS junior
Ben Stahly

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ONE DOLLAR

Ex-AHS wrestling coach faces new sex charges



Gary Salvador Medina

Medina pleaded not guilty to rape, sexual abuse

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A former Astoria High School wrestling coach was arrested Wednesday morning at the Clatsop

County Courthouse on sexual assault charges shortly after he was arraigned for third-degree rape.

Gary Salvador Medina, 42, has been accused in separate cases of sexual contact with two underage girls in 2005, at least one of whom was a student at Astoria High School.

He pleaded not guilty to third-degree rape. He then

pleaded not guilty to first-degree unlawful sexual penetration and sexual abuse.

Astoria Police originally arrested Medina in late February at Beaverton High School, where he was working as an instructional assistant and wrestling coach. Officers in plainclothes escorted Medina from the school and arrested him away from the campus.

Medina was a wrestling coach at Astoria High School from 2004 to 2007 while also working as an engineer with the U.S. Coast Guard.

A woman reported to police in February that she had a sexual relationship with Medina when she was 15 and a student at the school. Police said the relationship likely was not formed on school grounds or as a result of

his employment. He was released after his arrest on \$50,000 bail.

Following his release, a grand jury indicted Medina on the other charges stemming from a separate alleged incident months later. That incident allegedly took place between Medina and a 17-year-old girl who was staying at his home.

See MEDINA, Page 9A



Building a business with Steel & Timber

Expanding boundaries helps fledgling construction company

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Shaun Catlin and Tamara Altman's Astoria-based contracting company Steel & Timber Construction/Fabrication has built a reputation for creative contracting projects in less than a year.

The company has done everything from home remodels and a commemorative beer stein for a local beer festival to a chimp climbing tower at the Oregon Zoo and a historic window restoration at Clatskanie City Hall.

The nascent contractor, trying to develop a local market on the coast while largely surviving through public projects outside Clatsop County, has become an example of the type of innovative, non-tourist, local business promoted by the city's Advance Astoria economic development strategy.

See STEEL & TIMBER, Page 9A

ADVANCE ASTORIA

Advance Astoria, the city's five-year economic development strategy, will hold a second and final community forum 7 p.m. April 13 at the Hampton Inn, 201 39th St., to gather public comment on a draft economic development strategy.

The meeting will start with a formal presentation, followed by a town hall-style meeting with representatives from Business Oregon, Craft3, U.S. Small Business Administration, Clatsop Community College and Astoria Maker Industries.



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

TOP: Steel & Timber co-owners Shaun Catlin and Tamara Altman smile for a photo in their new business location last week. ABOVE: Brad Mattson, lead welder, works to weld some frames in the new Steel & Timber warehouse location in Astoria. More photos online at DailyAstorian.com

Peninsula schools respond to ICE fears

Educators promise to put students first

By AMY NILE
EO Media Group

ILWACO, Wash. — Educators and local leaders decided to use only word-of-mouth to spread news of a meeting for families affected by recent U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement raids.

They gathered quietly in the library at Ilwaco High after school last week to prepare parents in case federal ICE agents return to make more arrests in Pacific County.

"We've lost a few families," Amy Huntley, director of migrant and bilingual services for the Ocean Beach School District, said. "This isn't something people talk about."

Fears and realities

Educators and others wanted to quell fears and quash rumors by providing information after at least one local family was split up during a recent raid. Federal agents arrested 84 foreign nationals from 12 countries in the Pacific Northwest during a three-day operation in late March, according to an ICE news release.

Of those detained during the sweep of Washington state, Oregon and Alaska, 60 had criminal histories. Almost half of them, 29, were convicted of drug- or alcohol-related offenses, such as driving under the influence. One arrest during the operation took place

See SCHOOLS, Page 5A



EO Media Group/File Photo

Arrests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement are nothing new in Pacific County, Washington. This raid in May 2006 in Chinook resulted in detaining 16 immigrant workers who ICE agents said lacked proper documentation.

Video poker confounds Gearhart City Council

Vote nixes new lottery machines

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Terry Lowenberg could have state law on his side, lawyers told the Gearhart City Council, giving him the ability to put four video poker machines in his new brew pub.

But city councilors voted against a permit for the machines anyway.

Maintaining neighborhood character, the proximity of lottery machines at nearby locations along U.S. Highway 101

and no proven need for the machines all factored into the decision to uphold a January Planning Commission denial.

"For me, the idea of having a poker establishment in Gearhart is not in line with the residential commercial zone, that's more in line with the business zone down the highway," City Councilor Kerry Smith said.

He said the new pub — called Gearhart Crossing — "would not help the character of Gearhart."

Smith was joined by Mayor Matt Brown and City Councilor Sue Lorain in voting to uphold denial of the permit.

"To me, the question is, is video poker part of an eating



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Gearhart Crossing opened in March at 599 Pacific Way.

and drinking establishment? And I believe the state of Oregon says it is," City Councilor Dan Jesse said as the lone vote in the permit's favor.

Former grocery

Citing losses, Lowenberg went before the Planning

Commission in March 2016 seeking approvals for a brew pub and deli on the site of the 4,100-square-foot Gearhart Grocery. Lowenberg said the business was unable to compete with larger grocery stores. Commissioners approved the plan.

But when Lowenberg presented building plans to the city, drawings designated an area of four video poker machines isolated from the main seating area by an 8-foot wall display.

While Building Official Mark Brien had "no objections to the use of lottery machines in this building," Lowenberg was told by city staff his revised plans would require additional review.

An amended conditional use application showing the lottery machines was submitted by Lowenberg and subsequently denied by a 5-2 Planning Commission vote in January.

See GEARHART, Page 5A

