

# Rollery derby: 'It's a close-knit little family'

Continued from Page 1A

Elinor and Nea both said the derby provides a release for their pent-up energy, anger and frustration at the end of the week in a forgiving atmosphere. Elinor, also a runner, hopes to one day join a derby team forming in Tillamook.

Driving the sisters each weekend from Nehalem is Tess Johnson, who, like other parents, originally got involved with derby through Friday skate nights at the Armory and the "Fresh Meat" practices the Roller Dolls used to put on for adults.

"It's an awesome thing for kids who don't want to do anything else," she said. "They get serious exercise. They get their butts kicked."

Stephen "Stevl Knivel" Ero, the lone boy on the team, said he's unsuccessfully tried to recruit other boys from school, but enjoys the derby nonetheless.

"It's a close-knit little family," said Amanda Adams, whose daughters, Amanda and Ellie, both skate with the junior team. "We each watch out for each others' kids."

## Bully-free zone

Parents of youth skaters said Koustik, the Armory's only employee and driv-



Damian Mulinix/For The Daily Astorian

**As an exercise in teamwork, members of the Astoria All Star Junior Roller Derby team try to skate in unison without breaking a length of tissue wrapped round them.**

ing force behind many of its community efforts, doesn't allow any sort of bullying or discrimination. Along with derby, she teaches anti-bullying and community volunteerism classes for kids.

"You accept everyone for who they are," Koustik said. "Teamwork and sportsmanship are my main goals, and then derby. It's awesome to see these kids take the initiative, especially when we get



Damian Mulinix/For The Daily Astorian

**Roller derby skaters are encouraged to come up with their own derby persona. One member of the Astoria All Star Junior Roller Derby team went with a Harry Potter theme and has dubbed herself Bellatrix.**

a new kid and they just take them under their wing without me having to ask."

Visser, a local Head Start preschool manager who got involved in derby with her daughter, said the derby serves as a confidence-booster. "This is a resiliency factor for some of these kids."

Any kid wanting to get involved in the junior derby, regardless of skill level, can come to a Saturday practice. Koustik and the other former Roller Dolls take kids through basic skating to advanced derby skills.

The Armory provides rental skates, although Visser

said those wanting to stick with the team need helmets, mouth guards, pads and higher-quality derby skates. The Armory seeks donations to help cover gear and make sure any child can partake in roller derby regardless of family income.

## Returning bouts

The Shanghaied Roller Dolls, which started at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds in 2012 and later became a premier attraction at the Armory, held their last bout nearly a year ago. Last summer, leadership announced the team was disbanding.

"Even with our best efforts, we were not able to maintain the membership/skaters needed to run a sustainable charitable organization for the purpose of playing roller derby," said a message on the Roller Dolls' Facebook page announcing the team's and their nonprofit's dissolution.

Koustik said there is an effort to set up an exhibition derby bout at the Armory for the Astoria All Stars later this spring with a coed team from the Portland metro area.

Visser, one of the Roller Dolls' last board members, said there are plenty of people who understand the value of derby and want to keep it going. She said the hope is to eventually establish an adult recreational league as a precursor to returning derby bouts to the Armory.

"They're open to it," she said of the Friends of the Armory. "There are a lot of passionate skaters that are open to it. It was just the structure of the nonprofit was really hard for us to maintain."

"There are other communities that have recreation leagues, and we have such an incredible venue. It can happen. It just needs to happen in a different way."

# Jones: 'This has been the most inviting community that we've ever lived in'

Continued from Page 1A

arriving in Astoria in 2011, Jones said, she had a garden before the moving truck arrived.

"It was the worst garden I ever did," she said, adding she lacked the understanding of how to grow in the challenging local environment.

Shortly thereafter, Jones took the master gardeners training program, which consists of more than 20 classes and an exam over the winter. She now oversees the training program, ensuring a steady supply of master gardeners.

Members of the Clatsop County Master Gardeners Association oversee spring and summer plant clinics at local farmers markets,

horticulture shops and the Clatsop County Fair. Jones is helping the association get ready for a spring plant sale fundraiser in May at the fairgrounds.

Jones said the master gardeners each focus on their own specialty. She teaches gardening skills and healthy eating habits, including a new program called Seed to Super, through which Jones said she hopes to take families through the entire process of growing their own food, possibly in one of the area's community gardens.

"We also want kids exposed to gardening as early as possible," she said. "It's been proven that kids involved in community gardens and gardening are healthier eaters."

The master gardeners program isn't the first community effort for Jones, who like her husband is an active volunteer. She has served on the boards of the Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific and Lower Columbia Hospice, for which she also organizes the annual Race to the Bar fundraiser.

Jones said part of her involvement in Astoria is because of how welcoming the community has been to her and her husband. "I think of all the places I've lived — and I've moved 14 times — this has been the most inviting community that we've ever lived in, which is why we stayed, and will never leave."

— Edward Stratton

# Moody: 'There is help. By telling your story, you're not going to be judged here.'

Continued from Page 1A

**Q:** What is your role with The Harbor?

We provide emergency sheltering, 24-hour crisis line, medical and legal advocacy, some financial assistance with housing, referrals, crisis response ... That's my role as a sexual assault advocate, just dealing with sexual assault and going into the medical situations with them and things like that.

We do individual case management, so we kind of see our clients through the whole process and try to get them whatever type of help that they need, within our capacity.

**Q:** What is the prevalence of sexual assault locally?

Locally, I can tell you we've served 1,500 clients in 2016, and over 4,000 services pro-

vided for those clients. But nationally, 1 in 5 women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. One in 71 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. A small percentage of those are reported. Sixty-three percent of all sexual assaults are not reported.

Eight out of 10 cases are intimate partners or someone they know. The others are strangers. It's really prevalent in college.

**Q:** How do you find out about a sexual assault?

We have a 24-hour crisis line. We're completely confidential ... the crisis line, just calling in and getting information and coming in in person and even talking to us, telling us their story and things like that, that's how we're able to help them.

I really just wanted to

emphasize that we're always here to hear a story, even if you don't want prosecution. I think a lot of people are worried that we're going to talk to police.

**Q:** What else should people know?

There is help. You're not trapped. There are people and resources that can help. By telling your story, you're not going to be judged here. There's no victim-blaming. There's nothing but listening and trying to help.

People who have been sexually assaulted are very ashamed of it, and are afraid that people are going to blame them. And I think that's a huge reason why people don't report things. By the time they do, the evidence is gone. The chances of any prosecution or anything is obviously diminished.

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## Legal Notices

**AB6203 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**

On May 9, 2017, at the hour of 10:00 AM at the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, 1190 SE 19th Street in the City of Warrenton, Oregon, the defendant's interest will be sold, subject to redemption, in the real property commonly known as: 3059 Pine Ridge Drive, Gearhart, OREGON. The court case number is 16CV21503, where DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN HOME MORTGAGE ASSETS TRUST 2007-1 MORTGAGE-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2007-1 is plaintiff, and THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JOY R MERKLEY; SCOTT MERKLEY; SHAMROCK PINES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.; OCCUPANTS OF THE PROPERTY is defendant. The sale is a public auction to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check, in hand, made out to Clatsop County Sheriff's Office. For more information on this sale go to: <http://oregonsheriffssales.org/> (OR), <http://files.co.clatsop.or.us/ccso/foreclosures.pdf>

**Published: April 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th, 2017.**

**AB6248 Notice of Public Meeting** The Clatsop County Housing Authority will hold a regular meeting at 5:00 pm at the Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial Street, Astoria, OR on April 26, 2017. Agendas available upon request. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Echo Klein - 501-861-0119/111 or 1-800-735-2900 TTY. **Published: April 24th, 2017**

## Legal Notices

**AB6247 NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Clatsop Community College, Clatsop, State of Oregon, on the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, will be held at 1651 Lexington Ave, Columbia Rm 219, Astoria, OR 97103. The meeting will take place on May 2, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee. Additional meetings, if needed, will be announced at this meeting. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 3rd, 2017 by calling (503) 458-6610 between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm and making an appointment.

**Published: April 24th and May 1st, 2017**

**AB6260 PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION COMMUNITY FORUM**

The City of Seaside Improvement Commission is hosting a Community Forum featuring a potential new urban renewal area in Seaside. The Community Forum will be held at Seaside City Hall, 989 Broadway, Seaside, OR 97138, on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm with a formal presentation regarding urban renewal to be given at 5:00 pm. Urban renewal does not increase your taxes, but is a division of taxes you would already pay. Come to the Community Forum and get a first look at, and provide input on, the proposed projects list. The location for the new high school is included in the new urban renewal area to help support this exciting new project. **Published: April 24th and May 1st, 2017**

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## Legal Notices

**AB6258 John Day-Fernhill RFPD Notice of Budget Committee Meeting**

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the John Day-Fernhill RFPD, Clatsop County, State of Oregon, to discuss the Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 will be held at the John Day Fire Station, 38885 Hwy 30, Astoria, Oregon. The meeting will take place on the 8th day of May, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 3rd, 2017 by calling (503) 458-6610 between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm and making an appointment.

**Published: April 24th and May 1st, 2017**

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