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GRADUATIONS! AREA VALEDICTORIANS, SALUTATORIANS AND GRADUATES • INSIDE



REAL ESTATE
REBOUND
COAST RIVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

Spunky shorebirds make rare spring stop

Might have been blown off course on flight to Alaska

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The plucky shorebirds have already flown thousands of miles from New Zealand to China, across the open ocean toward Alaska. Chances are high they didn't plan to wind up on a beach in Clatsop County.

But local birders have spotted unprecedented numbers of adult bar-tailed godwits on Sunset Beach this week. Former Astoria High School

teacher and local naturalist Mike Patterson spotted 17 alone on a stretch from Gearhart to the Peter Iredale shipwreck on Wednesday. In April, birders in Newport also reported sightings. This is rare.

'A big deal'

Birders and biologists have recorded a number of sightings of young godwits here in the fall. Usually these birds are very young and very lost. But Roy Lowe, a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and national wildlife refuge manager, says it is rare to see the birds here in the spring.



Mike Patterson/Submitted Photo

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The shorebirds likely got blown off course on the way to Alaska.

Cancer care gets new home in fall



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Chris Laman, director of pharmacy and oncology services for Columbia Memorial Hospital, gives members of the media a tour of the new cancer center still under construction in Astoria. The center is slated to open in October.

CMH, OHSU center to offer myriad services

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

At the base of the new Knight Cancer Collaborative on Exchange Street, crews have poured about 2.5 million pounds of concrete into a vault to house a \$3 million linear particle accelerator shipped to Astoria from Europe.

The accelerator is a centerpiece of the \$16.5 million, 18,000-square-foot cancer-treatment center, a partnership between Columbia Memorial Hospital and Oregon Health & Science University that, when it opens in October, will establish the first

local radiation-therapy center on the North Coast, along with expanded chemotherapy infusions.

The vault

Chris Laman, the hospital's director of pharmacy and oncology services, said radiation sessions are commonly divided into nine equal installments of about 20 to 30 seconds of radiation a day, five days a week for nearly two weeks. Each year, the hospital estimates, 75 to 100 people travel from the North Coast region to Portland, Longview, Washington, or Seattle for radiation therapy, sometimes dedicating most of a day for seconds of therapy. The hospital expects 1,800 such radiation-therapy visits after the first year of operation.

Laman said the hospital's setup for radiation therapy in Astoria will mirror OHSU's, down to the same linear

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Columbia Memorial Hospital/Submitted Graphic
Patients at the Knight Cancer Collaborative will receive infusion chemotherapy on the second floor, with views of the Columbia River.

State backs Gearhart on vacation rentals

'Repeal and replace' still possible by ballot

By BRENNIA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — The state Land Use Board of Appeals has upheld Gearhart's regulations on vacation rentals, denying an appeal from residents who oppose the restrictions.

The city ordinances enacted last October regulate occupancy limits, parking and property management contact information. Vacation rental permits are transferable only by inheritance.

"This is a huge victory for the citizens of Gearhart," Mayor Matt Brown said in an email. "The (short-term rental) rules passed last year are working very well to balance the high number of short-term rentals, improve substandard septic systems and replace cesspools and create safe environments for property owners, visitors and citizens."

The state decision will enable the city to regulate vacation rentals the way City Council intended, City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

"This has been very contentious in Gearhart. We are happy to have LUBA's guidance," Sweet said.

Fourteen Gearhart property owners challenged the short-term rental rules shortly after they were passed, citing inconsistencies in how the city defined "residential character," among other issues.

Despite the state ruling, efforts to get a "repeal and replace" initiative on the November ballot can still proceed, Sweet said. The ballot measure would repeal special regulation on vacation rentals related to off-street

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Matt Brown



Chad Sweet

Gun thefts tied to missing go-kart owner

Long Beach owner linked to burglary, guns

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Allegations surrounding Long Beach Crazy Kars owner Anthony "Tony" Merrill keep mounting and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

Police now suspect that, in addition to dealing drugs from his downtown Long Beach go-kart, bumper car and moped rental facilities, Merrill, 52, was

the driving force behind a major burglary in January, a scramble to keep cops from finding a large cache of stolen weapons, and a failed May attempt to sell \$15,000 in stolen firearms to an undercover cop that led to the arrests of at least four men.

However, they can't ask Merrill if he was involved — he has been "in the wind" since failing to show up for a May 19 court hearing, according to Pacific County Prosecutor Mark McClain. There is now is a nationwide warrant.

'It looked like a bomb went off'

In late January, a man went

to check on his brother's home in Ocean Park, and found the back door swinging open. It quickly became clear that the property had been burglarized.

Inside the house, drawers and a gun cabinet were open. Numerous items were missing, including a jewelry box and a silver tea service. In the master bedroom, a filing cabinet had been ransacked.

The man told police "it looked like a bomb went off" inside his brother's workshop. A green El Camino and boat motor were gone. A large safe that had contained "a vast

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EO Media Group/File Photo

Long Beach, Washington, Police Officer Rodney Nawn searched a storage room at Long Beach Go Karts. Local police agencies served a search warrant at the neighboring go-kart and bike-rental businesses owned by Anthony "Tony" Merrill in April.

