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ONE DOLLAR



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

English language development teacher Emily Townsend works with first- and second-graders during the summer session at John Jacob Astor Elementary School on Wednesday. The students are part of a summer learning program designed to help young people of primarily Spanish-speaking and migrant families.

## Closing the opportunity gap

### Summer school helps students learning English

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

In the basement of John Jacob Astor Elementary School Wednesday, Emily Townsend took her first-, second- and third-graders through a lesson about exotic mammals.

The English language development teacher split students off into groups to read about the mammals and practice related vocabulary before sitting down to write sentences describing the animals.

Townsend's class is part of the Astoria School District's migrant and English language learner summer school program, providing a 19-day refresher course for nearly 120 students from migrant and primarily Spanish-speaking families.

The school is part of a bigger strategy that has recently started to show dividends for the school district by reducing the opportunity gap between English learners, migrant families and the broader student population.

#### Extra instruction

Students from incoming kindergartners to eighth-graders split between five classrooms at Astor Elementary. The summer school program emphasizes reading, writing and math, as well as kindergarten readiness.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Astoria High School senior Victor Mendez, center, helps out with Townsend's class during a summer learning program at John Jacob Astor Elementary School on Wednesday.

Tim Mahoney, a second-grade teacher and on-site coordinator of this year's summer school, said it helps students avoid losing what they learned over the past years, while preparing them for what's coming in the fall.

He said each student receives a pre- and post-test in subjects they'll be studying. "Even with about 20 days, you can definitely see some growth there," he said.

During the regular school year, Townsend co-teaches in six different classrooms around Astor Elementary, part of

the school district's push-in model blending more robust English language learning into existing lessons, rather than pulling students out for separate instruction.

"Any extra exposure and practice that they can have during the summer is wonderful," she said. "Since I already know strengths and weaknesses of these students, it makes it easier for me to make these 19 days the most effective they can be."

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## House shifts into drive for highways

Taxes, fees will finance \$5.3B plan

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — The state House of Representatives Wednesday passed a \$5.3 billion statewide transportation package, sending the plan to the Senate in the waning days of the legislative session.

The bipartisan 39-20 vote exceeded the 36 votes that are constitutionally required to enact new taxes.

However, lawmakers signaled concerns that the package could face a voter referendum. In another bill, they added a provision to bump up any vote by the electorate on the transportation package to May instead of the general November election.

The 10-year plan includes hikes in the gas tax, registration and title fees and new taxes on payroll, new vehicle purchases and bicycles priced more than \$200.

The package also calls for congestion-priced tolling at some of Portland's bottlenecks. The Oregon Transportation Commission is responsible for establishing the program under the bill.

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## Gearhart gives OK for lottery machines

State lottery law sways City Council

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — City councilors decided not to roll the dice in a state appeals board and granted Terry Lowenberg a conditional use permit to install lottery machines at the Gearhart Crossing Pub and Deli.

The move overrides a year and a half of testimony, along with Planning Commission and City Council denials, and allows video gambling machines to be placed in a walled area behind the main dining room. Up to six machines are permitted.

Councilors decided not to test state law preemptions over city zoning code.

"The City Council made a difficult decision, but the decision was correct based on the facts of the law," Gregory Hathaway, Lowenberg's attorney, said after the meeting. "The city stopped the appeal process because

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## Cannabis shop coming soon to Cannon Beach

### City's first marijuana shop to open on Hemlock Street

By BRENNA VISSER  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach will welcome its first marijuana dispensary later this summer.

The Portland-based, recreational dispensary Five Zero Trees will move into the former location of the home goods store Fruffels at 140 S.

Hemlock St. within the next six weeks, co-owner Case Van Dorne said. Van Dorne plans to open a similar store in Astoria by July 14, he said, and operates six other locations around the Portland metro area.

While other parts of the North Coast have had multiple dispensaries set up shop since the state legalized marijuana, this will be the first in Cannon Beach since the community narrowly defeated a retail cannabis prohibition at the polls in November.

"I've loved Cannon Beach for a long time. My friends and I would come down to the coast to fish for years. It's the

first place I ever went to on the coast," Van Dorne said. "There is something so special about the aesthetic and the experience people have in this place, and cannabis could add to that experience."

#### Fitting in

Van Dorne watched Cannon Beach's prohibition referendum closely, but said his business prides itself on integrating into whatever community it is serving.

"We're not out there to have some in-your-face crazy inflatable guy on the corner or

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Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Cannon Beach's first marijuana dispensary Five Zero Trees is expected to open later this summer at 140 S. Hemlock St.