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ONE DOLLAR

County schools struggle with absenteeism

Seaside led the county in missed school days

By EDWARD STRATTON

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County school districts showed mixed results in addressing chronic absenteeism among students last school year.

Astoria School District closely followed the state average, with nearly 20 percent of students missing at least 10 percent of possible school days last year, a 1 percent increase from the prior year, according to figures released by the state Department of Education.

Seaside School District led the county in chronic absenteeism last school year with

24 percent of students not regularly attending, followed by Knappa with 22.3 percent and Jewell with 21.1 percent. Warrenton-Hammond School District was at 14.5 percent, the lowest in the county. Warrenton had posted a 9 percent chronic absenteeism rate in 2014-15 that doubled to 18.5 percent in 2015-16 before decreasing last year.

Facing continual attendance issues, Astoria this school year launched Strive for Five, an attendance campaign with a goal for students to miss no more than a week of school the entire year.

Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes said the campaign has raised awareness about attendance, an issue the school district plans to highlight often throughout the year.

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Craig Hoppes

Students and teachers drop, cover and hold on

Seaside schools prepare with earthquake drill

By BRENNIA VISSER

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — As everyone at Seaside High School waited for the Great Oregon ShakeOut drill to begin, biology teacher Suzanna Kruger went over some earthquake preparedness basics.

“When you feel shaking

and you drop, you also need to?” Kruger asked, leaving her zoology students to fill in the rest.

“Cover the back of your head,” the students said in unison.

“And when you are under the table, what do you need to do?” Kruger asked again.

“Hold on to it,” the class said back. “In case the table moves.”

At 10:19 a.m. Thursday, Kruger and her students

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Students take shelter under a table at Seaside High School during an earthquake drill.

FORTY & EIGHT

Improved model of antique train to be ready for holidays



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Jeff Daly makes adjustments to the foam board he is using as a template for the remodel of an antique train.

By EDWARD STRATTON

The Daily Astorian

As a child in the 1950s, Jeff Daly remembers hearing the bell and whistle of the American Legion’s Forty & Eight train during Astoria Regatta parades. “There was no way you didn’t know it was coming,” he said. “Kids were just enthralled with it, and you were really lucky if you could get a ride on it.”

Driving through Gearhart one day in 2014, Daly noticed the nose of the train sticking out behind the Yankee Trader antique store just off U.S. Highway 101. Known for restoring odd automotive remnants from Astoria’s history such as a 1948 Chrysler clown car, he acquired the train and towed it north.

Daly hopes to have a new and improved train ready

for the downtown holiday lighting ceremony next month, and fully equipped for a trip to next summer’s Burning Man gathering in Nevada.

Returning World War I veterans in the newly created American Legion formed Forty & Eight in 1920 as an invitation-only honors society.

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The Compleat Photographer

The Clatsop Voiture 547’s driving Forty & Eight train during an Astoria Regatta parade in the late 1950s.

Dogs make a splash at Seaside pool

Pups get free swim before renovations

By R.J. MARX

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — At Sunset Rec, the cry “everybody into the pool” is usually met with cheers from children of all ages.

On Thursday night, the cheers of delight were replaced by enthusiastic barking. For one time and one time only, the city-owned and managed pool opened for dogs in a free swim to precede six weeks of renovations.

Howls, cries and whimpers

accompanied the activity — and those were only the owners. The dogs were poised and ready, especially the many Labrador retrievers and labradoodles experienced in nearby ocean waters.

“The big project is the replaster of the interior of the pool,” Skyler Archibald, executive director of Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, said.

Along with a new pool surface, the district plans on adding underwater lights, new overhead lights and a renovated men’s locker room. The resurfacing, which hasn’t been done since the pool’s opening in 1976, is budgeted at \$80,000. The other repairs are about \$35,000.

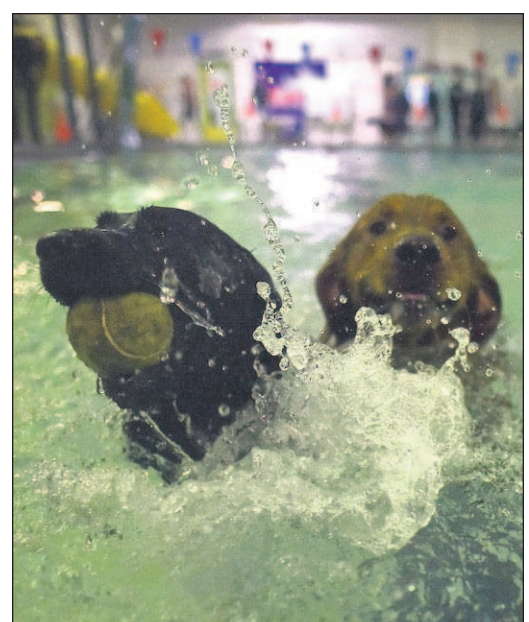
Rules for the doggy swim were simple: “We don’t want them fight-

ing with each other, but other than that, it’s fair game,” Archibald said. “Since we’re going to be cleaning and draining the pool tonight, they can do whatever they need to do.”

Seaside’s Nissa Roberts brought Stella, a black Lab, who shook herself off after one round in the water and prepared for another.

“She’s a baby, so this is kind of new and exciting,” Roberts said.

Seaside’s Michael Anderson was accompanied by three dogs, including one of the largest of the night, Goliath, an 8 1/2-year-old 177-pound Old English Mastiff. “He swims in the ocean all the time, but he doesn’t really like the pool so much,” Anderson said.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Playing fetch was a popular activity during the dog swim in Seaside.



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