

WINTER OLYMPICS

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WINTER GAMES 2018

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ONE DOLLAR

Feeding the needy



David Kinhan and Rock Wickham prepare the Cannon Beach Food Pantry for those in need.

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Cannon Beach Food Pantry gets creative to handle growing demand



Produce sits out on a table at the Cannon Beach Food Pantry.

**‘THE NEED IS HERE,
THE NEED IS STRONG
AND IT’S INCREASING.’**

Nancy Littell | co-chairwoman of the Cannon Beach Food Pantry

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — As Nancy Littell and Judy Wood prepared for the Cannon Beach Food Pantry’s weekly Wednesday service, they reminisced about the day it first opened.

Ten years ago, the food pantry was a few tables lined up in the basement of Cannon Beach Community Church. A few minutes before they were supposed to open their doors, no one was waiting in line.

“I remember thinking, ‘What if we throw a party and no one comes?’” Littell laughed. “Yeah, well, I don’t worry about that now. Our dance floor is full.”

Over the past two years, the number of households using the small pantry in the shuttered Cannon Beach Elementary School has almost doubled. The food pantry used to serve about 26 households a week. Now, Littell and Wood are

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Astoria police outline approach to the homeless

City urged aggressive enforcement

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Police Department’s more aggressive approach to the homeless could include issuing citations for low-level offenses where before police might have issued warnings first, arresting someone instead of citing them, stopping people who are walking their dogs off leash, and enforcing rules against overnight camping.

Police have also begun to tag incidents when a call involved someone who is homeless or a homelessness-related issue.

Police Chief Geoff Spalding hopes this will help the city better understand what kind of calls are coming in and how many, but officers cannot target people simply because they are homeless.

“I want to be clear that we are not suggesting, nor is (Astoria City Council) suggesting, any actions that would violate any person’s constitutional rights or profile any class of individual,” Spalding said, adding, “What we are trying to address are the associated behaviors such as trespassing, public urination and defecation, assaults and other quality of life crimes.”

The City Council voted 3-2 on Monday to support the police “in dealing with the bad behavior of certain individuals on the street.”

The motion grew out of months of debate about how the city should address homelessness and growing unease and frustration in the downtown business community about illegal or disruptive behavior.

Business owners downtown, as well as some people who live in the neighborhood near the Astoria Warming Center on 11th Street and Franklin Avenue, have told city councilors they feel unsafe around the homeless.

“It’s very important that people feel safe in our community,” Spalding said, “and what we hear from many in the community is that they don’t feel safe when they are regularly confronted by homeless individuals.”

Despite the council’s show of support, a lack of resources will hamper what the police department is able to do. Until the department

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Astoria police plan a more aggressive enforcement approach after concerns about the homeless downtown.

Astoria schools lead in kindergarten readiness

Preschool could be key

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Astoria kindergartners were generally more prepared academically for school than students in other Clatsop County school districts and the statewide average.

Kindergartners are assessed each fall in early literacy, basic mathematical concepts, self-regulation and interpersonal skills. Kindergarten readiness correlates with on-track performance by third grade, a primary indicator of future academic success and high school graduation.

Astoria kindergartners on average answered 12.4 basic math questions correctly out of a possible 16, compared to 11.2 statewide, 11.5 in Knappa, 11.2 in Seaside, 10.7 in Warrenton and 10.3 in Jewell, according to assessments

by the state Department of Education.

Astoria kindergartners recognized 17.3 uppercase letter names, 15.1 lowercase letters and 13 letter sounds out of 26 in the English alphabet. Kindergartners in other county school districts, along with the state as a whole, recognized on average between 12 and 14 uppercase and lowercase letters, and between seven and eight letter sounds.

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The Daily Astorian

Preschool attendance correlates with better preparedness for kindergarten.

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