



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Students with the Clatsop Community College historic preservation and restoration program examine the Doughboy Monument.

Doughboy Monument gets a needed facelift

Uniontown landmark was damaged by crash last summer

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

When a large pickup truck plowed into the Doughboy Monument last summer, it wasn't the first time the World War I memorial on Marine Drive had tangled with a vehicle, but it was among the worst accidents emergency responders had seen at the Uniontown landmark.

Portions of the city-owned monument were left broken and scarred. The crash snapped light poles, damaged planter boxes and cracked the concrete on curving walls.

The accident also temporarily derailed plans that were already in motion at the time to restore features of the monument.

The Astoria Parks and Recreation Department, which

manages the site, reported earlier this spring that the city is still on track to have repair work — covered by insurance — and the bulk of the restoration — funded by a variety of grants — completed in time for the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I on Nov. 11.

On Saturday, students with Clatsop Community College's historic preservation and restoration program circled the memorial with clipboards in hand, assessing what needs to be done. Lucien Swerdloff, the program's coordinator, and others are leading workshops at the site. It has turned the memorial into a very unique kind of classroom. "It is kind of ideal because it's small. It's manageable, but there's a lot of things going on with it," Swerdloff said.

"A lot of the time when we do the workshops we have it all figured out and we just come and kind of do it," he added. "So the students don't get that whole 'before' stuff: How do you figure out what needs to be done? What materials do you need? How much is it going to cost?"

See DOUGHBOY, Page 7A



Students and staff with Clatsop Community College make a list of things to repair at the memorial.

Former Seaside custodian sentenced to prison for abuse

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A former Seaside Heights Elementary School custodian pleaded guilty Friday and was sentenced to 25 years in prison for molesting a girl under 8 years old on several occasions.

Keith Davis, 46, was arrested in January. He was charged with 25 alleged sex crimes against the girl. He pleaded guilty to three counts of first-degree sodomy and agreed to serve three concurrent sentences of 25 years as part of a plea deal with the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office.

Seaside police said after the former custodian's arrest that they do not believe he was using his position with the school to gain access to the victim.

The girl's parents reported the incidents to police after the girl came forward, Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzzard said. In a recorded phone call before the arrest that was monitored by police, Davis admitted to committing the crimes.

Buzzard said she was personally moved by the victim and the family.

"Even now I know that she is stronger than most of us could be, and she is my hero," Buzzard said.

The girl's mother read an impact statement at the sentencing hearing. She began by addressing Davis and his "well-executed" manipulation.

"What you have done is inexcusable. What you have done is damaging on so many

levels," she said. "You were the adult that was trusted in our school system."

She then detailed the "unfortunate attention" the case has generated, causing concerned looks and awkward conversations with others who live in Seaside.

"This event has reached

out way past our immediate family," she said. "It's affected our family. It's affected our school. It's affected our relationships. It's definitely affected our self-confidence. It has caused anxiety and sleepless nights."

But she added she was proud of her daughter and thankful for friends and family.

"I am proud of my children for rising above so many things that they should not have experienced in their childhood," she said. "We will survive. We will grieve and move on. We have no secrets. We choose love, and we deserve the best."

Davis apologized for what he called a "huge mistake."

"All I hope is the best for all of you, and that the strength that I know all of you have will help you heal," he said.

After issuing the sentence, Circuit Court Judge Cindee Matyas discussed how unusual it is for a sex abuse perpetrator to take responsibility this quickly and how often victims decline to come forward about their ordeals.

"It's not just you that you affect in your decisions to go forward here and talk about what happened," Matyas said. "You help all of us, you know, stand up."



Keith Davis

Hong Kong cart mixes Asian influence with a few Hispanic staples

New food cart downtown

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Abbie and Dan Rhoads once lived across the Pacific Ocean from one another. Now the couple, who operate food carts in the courtyard of the Astoria Station at 13th and Duane streets, work within shouting distance.

After relocating last year to open The Hot Box Barbecue cart outside Reach Break Brewing, the two have opened a second, Hong Kong Taco Cart, offering an

Asian infusion on a Hispanic staple.

Abbie, a native of Hong Kong, said the cart provides her the opportunity to present the rich tapestry of different cultures and foods she was introduced to during her first 20 years in the international hub.

"The Hot Box is limited, because it's barbecue," she said.

Hong Kong offers tacos, burritos and rice bowl variants of Asian dishes such as bulgogi, pho and tikka masala. The Peking duck tacos come on a steamed bao buns. For dessert, the cart offers

See CART, Page 7A

Radio personality finds a home in Astoria

Hurd overcame challenges to come to the North Coast

By BRENNNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

When Brandon Hurd moved to Astoria last year, he would drive by local radio station KRKZ almost every day on his way to work, wondering how he could get behind the mic.

"I just kept looking in and thinking, 'Man, I really want



to do that," he said.

So one day Hurd walked in and asked for a job with a President Barack Obama impression. It worked. The aspiring filmmaker and comedian has become the voice of comedy and fun facts local listeners hear during Saturday and Sunday broadcasts.

The way Hurd secured his role as a North Coast radio personality is about as uncon-

ventional as the journey that brought him to Astoria in the first place.

Born in Charlotte, North Carolina, Hurd remembers developing a love of movies as a toddler. Growing up, his family moved in and out of homelessness. Watching movies like "Toy Story," "Aladdin" and "Jurassic Park" became an escape from an unstable reality.

"When we were in North Carolina, I was too young to go to school and (my mom) was too poor for day care. So naturally I was put in front of



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Brandon Hurd is an aspiring filmmaker and comedian.

See HURD, Page 7A

