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ONE DOLLAR

GET LIT AT THE BEACH

A GATHERING FOR READERS TAKES PLACE MAY 18-20 IN CANNON BEACH

COAST WEEKEND • INSIDE

Medicare options dwindle

Another insurer exits Clatsop County

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

FamilyCare Health will exit northwest Oregon, leaving Clatsop County with only one Medicare Advantage option, Moda Health.

The departure comes after CareOregon pulled its Medicare Advantage plan out of Clatsop County last year, concentrating services in the Portland metro area.

MORE INFO

Customers affected by FamilyCare Health's departure are advised to contact Northwest Senior & Disability Services at 2002 S.E. Chokeberry Ave. in Warrenton or at 503-861-4200. The office hosts volunteers with the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance program.

A public notice from FamilyCare said it will no longer offer Advantage Rx, a Medicare Advantage plan, and Community, a special-needs plan supplemented by Medicaid, in Clatsop, Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties as of July.

"It is important you take action before July 1, or you will lose your prescription drug coverage and only have original Medicare," a letter to Medicare Advantage members said.

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Primary turnout lowest since '64

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Voter turnout was modest for Tuesday's primary election.

Observers say the turnout figures, part of a long-term downward trend in voter participation in Oregon, could have also been affected by the state's recent implementation of automatic voter registration, which swelled the voter rolls considerably.

About 33 percent of registered voters cast a ballot in the primary, according to preliminary numbers from the Oregon Secretary of State's Office. That's lower than any Oregon primary since 1964.

In Clatsop County, voter turnout was 36 percent. According to Jim Moore, director of the Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation at Pacific University, voter turnout in Oregon has been steadily moving downward since the 1968 election, a high point, where 72.8 percent of voters participated.

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PIER 2 BATTERED BY RIVERBOAT



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

ABOVE: The sternwheeler Queen of the West struck Pier 2 in April, causing an estimated \$100,000 in damage. BELOW: The Queen of the West docked Tuesday at the Port of Astoria's Pier 2.

Queen of the West did the damage

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria is hiring a marine engineer to assess an estimated \$100,000 worth of damage to the west side of Pier 2 after the Queen of the West ran into it last month.

Run by American Cruise Lines, the sternwheeler travels between Lewiston, Idaho, on the Snake River down the Columbia River to Astoria.

Matt McGrath, the Port's director of operations, said the vessel was coming in at night on April 18 on an outgoing tide to moor at the pier when it lost control and attempted to correct course.

"He literally hit almost head-on on Pier 2," McGrath said.

The impact tore through at least 20 fender, guide and bearing piles, along with bolts and other parts of the pier, McGrath said. It left a wooden curb on the north end of the pier near Da Yang Seafoods hanging halfway off, and numerous snapped pilings swaying in the waves.

The Coast Guard sequestered the vessel. The crew contracted WCT Marine & Construction for repairs and was able to leave that night, McGrath said. An initial assessment for the Port by marine contractor Bergerson Construction found approximately \$100,000 worth of damage.

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A higher tax levy will generate more money for the Warrenton Community Library.

Warrenton puts levy money to use for library

New location, new budget

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Nettie-Lee Calog had just become used to the Warrenton Community Library's bigger, brighter location. Now she has to wrap her mind around a new budget.

"This budget is so much bigger than the previous bud-

gets I've had to work with, I'm not quite sure how to proceed with it," the site manager told the Warrenton Budget Committee at a hearing last week.

"Except for to dance?" suggested City Manager Linda Engbretson.

The operational levy for the library, unchanged for 15 years even as costs and demands for services went up, brought in \$48,939 this fiscal year and was supplemented by a transfer of money from the city's general fund. Next fiscal

year, thanks to a levy increase from 9 cents to 33 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value approved by voters last November, the levy will bring in just under \$180,000.

The result: A larger budget that will allow for expanded library hours — adding extra evening and weekend hours — and increased employee hours. Calog will go from working 25 hours a week to 30. Carole Feldman, an administra-

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