



*Weddings*  
STORIES FROM THE  
COLUMBIA-PACIFIC  
REGION • INSIDE

## Knappa wrestling coach resigns

School district cites 'unfortunate incidents'

By **BRENNA VISSER**  
*The Daily Astorian*

The longtime Knappa High School wrestling coach and two of his assistants resigned on Wednesday after what the school district superintendent described as "unfortunate incidents" during the team's trip to Redmond this month.

Coach Dan Owings, assistant coach Scott Whitworth and assistant volunteer Mike Posey stepped down effective immediately. Kirk Miller, the school's athletic director, will lead the wrestling team for the rest of the season.

Superintendent Paulette Johnson declined to publicly detail the incidents.

Nathan Truax, a 21-year-old volunteer

*See Coach, Page A5*

## Marijuana concentrates grow in popularity



Photos by Luke Whittaker/Chinook Observer

Vancouver Weed Co. owner Gary Green looks over marijuana plants in his vegetation room in Ilwaco.

## Oregon fails to adequately regulate marijuana

Auditors find significant gaps

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**  
*Oregon Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Oregon's system for regulating cannabis likely fails to prevent spillover to the black market, state auditors said Wednesday.

That increases the risk that the state could be subject to more federal scrutiny, said Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, whose audits division released the report.

Oregon has two systems for legal cannabis: medical, which voters approved more than 20 years ago, and recreational, which voters supported in 2014. Auditors studied the controls on each program, finding there were significant gaps.

While a growing number of states are legalizing cannabis, it remains illegal federally.

In early 2018, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescinded previous federal

*See Regulate, Page A5*

Production is increasing to meet consumer demand

By **LUKE WHITTAKER**  
*Chinook Observer*

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Marijuana growers and processors across Pacific County are broadening production of concentrates and infused products.

The increases are largely a result of growers becoming more efficient with harvests and extract production, coupled with a deepening demand from customers.

"Out of our Cathlamet, Longview and Kelso locations, this store sells the most dabs out of all of them," said Jerad Nichols, a budtender at Freedom Market in Ilwaco.

Dabs, or concentrated doses of tetrahydrocannabinol — THC, the main psychoactive component of marijuana — come in several consistencies including wax, shatter and butane hash oil, depending on the extraction method.

The Freedom Market in Ilwaco has generated more than \$3.2 million in sales since opening in October 2016, the most of Pacific County's three dis-



Vancouver Weed Co. employee Bobby Crislip prepares to trim marijuana at the Ilwaco grow facility.

pensaries. In comparison, Grower's Outlet and Mr. Doobees have sold \$2.9 million and \$1.9 million.

The Freedom Market has averaged more than \$120,000 in sales each month, benefiting from being in an ideal spot and opening at the perfect time.

In the fall of 2016, Oregon was undergoing new testing regulations

for marijuana concentrates at certified labs, resulting in a backlog of extracts and edibles for distribution to dispensaries around Clatsop County.

A temporary scarcity in concentrates on Clatsop County store shelves led to a surge in sales at stores in

*See Marijuana, Page A5*

## Student mural honors Chinese culture

Art on a wall downtown

By **EDWARD STATTON**  
*The Daily Astorian*

Students at Astoria High School have turned a blank wall on the side of a downtown building into a large mural honoring Chinese culture.

Instructor Mickey Cereghino's community art class focuses on getting students' work into the public eye.

During a recent art show at the former Lum's Auto Dealership at 16th and Exchange streets, he was

approached by Pam Lum, part of a locally influential family of Chinese descent. Lum mentioned she had a wall that needed painting on a building the family owns next to Children's Park off Sixth Street, if Cereghino's class needed a new canvas.

Cereghino pitched his students on a new mural design of either something from Astoria's history, or something having to do with Chinese culture, an often underrepresented aspect of the city.

Students contributed to each aspect of the final design — a green-scaled dragon with a red fin, yellow

stomach and a flaming tail snaking over a stone bridge, set against a blue backdrop with hanging lanterns and a red border.

"We wanted to talk about the different cultures as Astoria, because it's not just a fisheries town," said Grace Peeler, a sophomore who worked on the mural. "The primary focus you see in this town is on the canneries and the fish."

The students settled on a green dragon because the color represents youth in Chinese culture and fits with the mural's location next to



Mickey Cereghino

Members of Mickey Cereghino's community art class at Astoria High School painted a large mural inspired by Chinese culture on the side of a building owned by the Lum family in Astoria.

*See Mural, Page A5*

