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ONE DOLLAR



New study documents 'child care deserts'



Children at Lil' Sprouts child care in Astoria take a snack break.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Lack of options familiar in Clatsop County

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

A study that found every county in Oregon is short on child care came as no surprise to Kim Barrick.

The Peace Learning Center on 12th Street in Astoria, where Barrick works as director, has waitlists for every class. In the toddler-age classes, the wait can stretch 10 children deep.

The learning center, run as a mission of the neighboring Peace Lutheran Church, serves around 40 children at any given time. It is just reopening a class for 1-year olds after having to close it for a while due to lack of staff.

"I have no doubt that class will be full by the end of the month, and we will have a waitlist," Barrick said.

The learning center is not alone.

The study from Oregon State University found that all 36 counties are "child care deserts" for infants and toddlers 2 and under. Clatsop County, along with Columbia and Tillamook counties, is considered a child care desert across a range of ages, from infants to 5-year-olds.

The report defines a child care desert as a community with more than three children for every slot available at child care centers or home-based providers licensed by the state. The situation is instantly familiar in Clatsop County, where many organizations operate with long waitlists and parents struggle to find care, especially for infants and toddlers.



Children at the Peace Learning Center spend time coloring.

"We're always full here," said Becka Blacksten, the owner and operator of Soar With Us, which serves about 48 children every day at its facility in Warrenton. "I know there's just a huge need here for child care."

She is in the process of opening a child care center and preschool in Gearhart that will be able to serve 53 children — in part because of the long waitlists she and her staff see in Warrenton.

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Children at Lil' Sprouts in Astoria play with their toys.

Warrenton picks new superintendent

Rogozinski led the grade school

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton-Hammond School Board has chosen Tom Rogozinski, the principal of Warrenton Grade School since 2013, as the school district's next superintendent.

The school board voted Thursday to hire Rogozinski and begin negotiating his contract. He will replace the retiring Mark Jeffery, 63, who has led the school district since 2011.

Rogozinski, 51, will take over a quickly growing district with a drastically improved academic reputation. Voters in November approved \$38.5 million in bonds to buy a new master campus, build a new middle school, ease overcrowding and eventually move all students out of the tsunami inundation zone.

Rogozinski recently earned his credentials to become a superintendent. He was one of eight candidates, including one other from the school district. His promotion leaves a principal vacancy at the grade school, where Robbie Porter and Sean O'Malley serve as vice principals at the elementary and middle school levels. Rod Heyen is principal at Warrenton High School.

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Warrenton says Shilo Inn owes thousands in unpaid taxes

Deadline to pay is today

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The city is trying to collect more than \$125,000 of unpaid lodging taxes owed by the Shilo Inn.

The hotel has until the end of the business day today to pay the full amount or the city will file a lawsuit.

The hotel has not paid lodging taxes since last summer.

"Further, if payment is not received, we have been directed by the city to refer the matter to the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office for potential criminal proceedings," said a letter signed by City Attorney Spencer Parsons.

"It's the city's sincere hope not to have to take the measures outlined above," Parsons continued. But, he added, so far, the hotel has been unresponsive.

The city had sent a letter in January asking for payment.

A letter from Warrenton to the company this month states that the Shilo

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Seafood market expands downtown

New venture called Hurricane Ron's

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The owners of Northwest Wild Products are turning the former Charlie's Chowder House and Tiki Bar on 14th Street and Marine Drive into a new seafood restaurant, bar and market called Hurricane Ron's.

Ron Neva, who runs Northwest Wild Products with Amanda Cordero in the Chinook Building at the West Mooring Basin, said the downtown restaurant will have more of a marine decor and less of the tropi-

cal feel cultivated by chowder house and tiki bar owner Charles Holboke.

Neva will primarily run Hurricane Ron's, while Cordero will be in charge of Northwest Wild Products. Although relatively hidden from street traffic, the hole-in-the-wall fish house and market overlooking the marina has built a strong customer following since 2010, along with wholesale seafood orders to other local businesses.

Hurricane Ron's will be more of a full-service seafood restaurant and bar,

with display cases of fresh and frozen seafood. Neva is building an enclosure around the covered corner on 14th Street and Marine Drive, which will host a crab-boiling area and filleting room, with counter seating around the outside.

"I think it will rock in the summer," Neva said. "This is the best corner in Astoria."

Holboke, who also runs Godfather's Books on Commercial Street and Charlie's Chop House on Marine Drive, has had the chowder house and tiki bar for the past decade. He recently

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Ron Neva is planning to open Hurricane Ron's, a full-service seafood restaurant, market and bar, next month in the former Charlie's Chowder House and Tiki Bar spaces at the corner of 14th Street and Marine Drive.

