



MISSING MOM

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Ducklings make their way to the swimming pool at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast.

Orphan ducklings get extra care at wildlife center

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Fun fact: Volunteers at the Wildlife Center of the North Coast must feed rescued baby barn swallows every half-hour, 12 hours a day. Baby hummingbirds need to be fed every 15 minutes to 20 minutes or they will die.

Compared to that, mallard ducklings are a breeze.

Spring is duckling season in Oregon and the wildlife center is caring for over 40 orphaned ducklings right now, all but one of them brought to the center from Portland by the Audubon Society of Portland.

The youngest are only a couple of days old; the oldest are around 13 to 14 days old and can easily feed themselves.

They may have been separated from their moms, or become orphaned after their mother was hit by a car while leading them across a road to water, said Stephanie Herman, wildlife care center manager for the Audubon Society of Portland.

While Audubon can care for a variety of birds at its rehabilitation center, the wildlife center in Olney, with its variety of pools and enclosures, is better equipped to handle water birds.

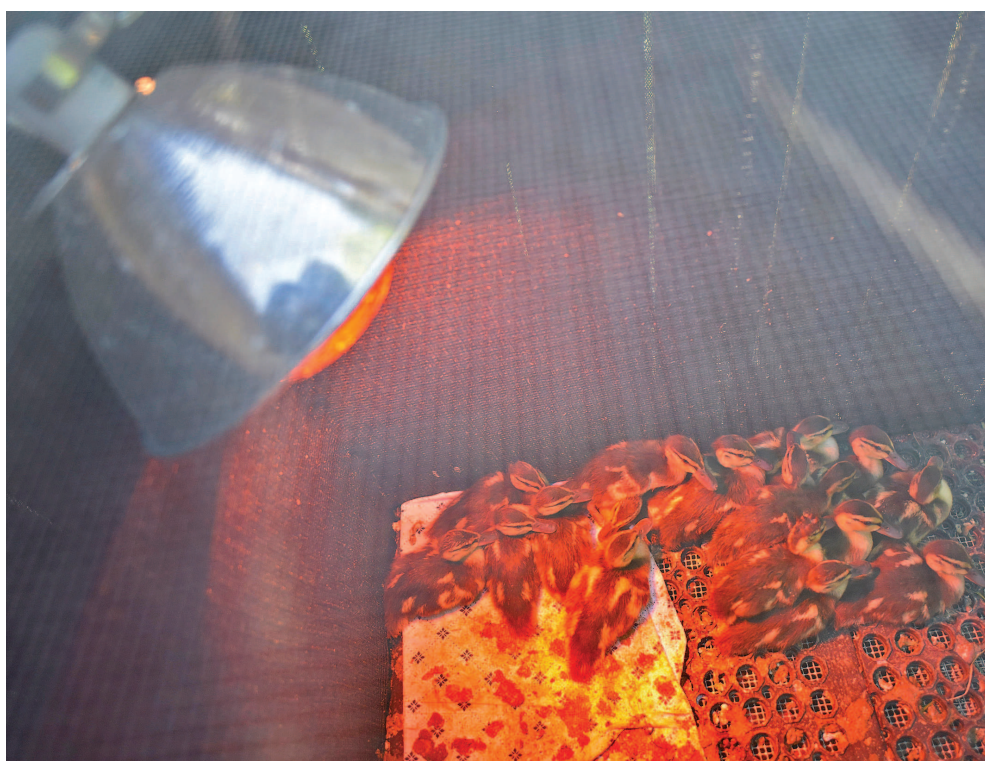
Audubon often transfers animals to other centers depending on what the animals need and what facilities are available.

"It's a matter of maximizing our strengths," Herman said.

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Ginger Nealon sprays fresh water into the swimming pool for a group of ducklings.



Ducklings brought to the Wildlife Center of the North Coast stay warm under a heat lamp.

Homeless on the margins for suicide prevention

County struggles to find resources

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The rate of suicide among people who are homeless is estimated to be nine times higher than the general population of the United States.

The homeless often combine a number of risk factors, including being a veteran or experiencing anxiety, stress, isolation, loneliness, major mental illness, substance abuse, unemployment or past trauma.

Knowing all of this, Amy Baker, the executive director of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, plans to add two more people to a small team of recovery allies later this year.

The recovery allies' job is to reach out directly to people with substance abuse issues who may not be ready to engage with services. Though the focus is on substance abuse, allies would go where high-risk people, including those who are homeless, already are: hospital emergency rooms, the county jail, or the streets of Astoria.

But Baker said far more resources around suicide prevention and awareness are needed.

Oregon's suicide rate is above the national average — and has been for the past three decades. More than 800 people killed themselves last year and more people died by their own hands in 2017 than in traffic crashes or by drug overdoses or firearms. Of the 379 deaths recorded in Clatsop County in 2018, nine were the result of suicide, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

'Breaking the Silence'

This month, newsrooms across Oregon produced "Breaking the Silence," a week-long reporting collaboration on suicide and prevention strategies.

Clatsop County, like many in the state, has struggled to find adequate resources.

Local resources like the county's Juvenile Department have not had funding specifically for suicide prevention and awareness for many years, nor does the county have a strategic plan or specific strategies around the topic, said Jill Quackenbush, prevention supervisor for the department.

While the Juvenile Department and agencies like Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare can help people struggling with suicidal thoughts through other programs, part of the challenge with addressing the homeless is that they are a population on the margin, Baker said. There is little research around what successful suicide prevention programs look like for these groups.

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SUICIDE PREVENTION

The national suicide prevention hotline, available 24 hours a day, is 1-800-273-8255.

Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare's crisis line is 503-325-5724.

People who are worried about family members who may be suicidal can find additional resources through the National Alliance on Mental Illness, at www.nami.org



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Jeremy Towsey-French, owner of Reveille Ciderworks in Astoria, talks about plans to expand the company's operations.

Cidery plans downtown expansion

Owner eyes an eatery and theater

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Jeremy Towsey-French, the owner of Reveille Ciderworks in Astoria, is planning an expanded taproom, restaurant and theater in the corner suite of the Norblad Building at 14th and Duane streets.

Towsey-French opened Reveille in 2017 in a 680-square-foot storefront at the Astoria Station, a collection of food carts in a patio off 13th Street arrayed

around his cidery and next-door neighbor Reach Break Brewing. He started small, with his cidery split in half between a 7-barrel brewery on one side and a seating area on the other.

The cidery has grown quickly, introducing more than 30 unique Belgian and English varieties to the market, growing 90% in sales over the past year and reaching nearly 40% in revenue from selling cider at other businesses, Towsey-French said. His ciders have reached the Portland market and up and down the coast.

"We're literally running out of cider as a new batch

becomes available," he said.

Towsey-French is locking down financing, including a mix of two private investors from his tech-sector past and a bridge loan, to build out a new taproom in the Norblad Building seating up to 70 people. He and building owner Paul Caruana have tentatively agreed on the corner suite, a former bank at 14th and Duane streets where the Deja Vu Thrift Store closed last year.

Towsey-French hopes by early fall to send customers to a new location, filling his existing space at the Astoria

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