



CLEARING THE BAR



Kyle Moody clears the bar for Astoria during the high jump.

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Astoria and Seaside get ready for championship meet



Maddie Sisley, left, clears a hurdle for Astoria during the last regular season track meet.

The Daily Astorian

Seaside High School hosted the last regular season track and field meet Wednesday afternoon with teams from Astoria and Valley Catholic.

The schools are preparing for next week's Cowapa League championship meet on May 9 and May 10 in Scappoose.

SEE STORY IN SPORTS / PAGE A12

Groups compete to oversee Medicaid

Two organizations are vying for regional control

By BRENNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

Two coordinated care organizations want to oversee the Oregon Health Plan in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties, raising questions about what the competition will mean for health care providers.

Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization, which manages the three counties, and the newly-formed Northwest Coordinated Care Organization have submitted applications to the state to handle insurance functions for Medicaid patients.

The coordinated care concept was originally created to help simplify and administer physical, behavioral and oral health.

This year, the state began accepting applications for a new, five-year contract that will be guided by new requirements. The changes place a heavy emphasis on integrating behavioral health with physical health.

When the application process for the new contracts opened, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc., which has been part of the Columbia Pacific Coor-

ordinated Care Organization, signaled to Columbia Pacific they were interested in working with a new insurance company.

GOBHI entered into an agreement with Portland-based Moda Inc. to form the Northwest Coordinated Care Organization. GOBHI and Moda currently have a partnership in a coordinated care organization in Eastern Oregon.

If both coordinated care organizations meet the state's guidelines, it is possible both could serve the three counties, offering Oregon Health Plan patients a choice, said Allyson Hagen, a spokeswoman with the Oregon Health Authority.

But some are concerned the region does not have the population to support two coordinated care organizations, and fear having two competing networks doing the same kind of work could increase bureaucracy and drive up costs for health care providers.

"The implications from what our network of providers have told us is that we're too small," said Mimi Haley, the CEO of Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization.

About 8,000 people in Clatsop County are enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan, Haley said.

See Medicaid, Page A9

Tax bill to boost education advances

Lawmakers back money for schools

By AUBREY WIEBER
Oregon Capital Bureau

The Student Success Act, a tax bill to pay for ambitious education reforms in Oregon, passed the state House on Wednesday in a party-line vote.

Hours of debate and deliberation ended when lawmakers approved the measure 37-21. It now goes to the Senate.

Democrats took to the floor to talk about how the state has ignored issues like education for too many years. Republicans said the tax proposal will hurt rural and working-class residents.

The votes were likely counted before the floor session started Wednesday morning, but that didn't stop the debate from stretching over six hours.

It started when Republicans suspended standard protocol. That move meant

'THE BILL BEFORE YOU IS THE POLICY RESPONSE FOR WHAT WE HEARD AND SAW THROUGHOUT THE STATE.'

State Rep. Barbara Smith
Warner, D-Portland

the clerk had to read the 45-page bill aloud.

Under the bill, businesses would pay a tax of about half a percent on gross sales in Oregon over \$1 million. Businesses can deduct 35 percent of either labor or production costs. The deal came together Monday, shortly before HB 3427 passed out of committee.

The proposal was born out of a bipartisan committee

See Bill, Page A5

Tres Bro's brings Nicaragua to Warrenton



Yadira Lopez and Joshua Colby own the Tres Bro's Nicaraguan food truck in Warrenton.

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — In the gravel parking lot next to City Hall is the beginning of a new food cart pod.

Yadira Lopez and Joshua Colby on Wednesday opened Tres Bro's, a Nicaraguan food truck and the first in what they and the city hope will be a trend downtown.

Lopez and Colby, who met working in a restaurant in Southern California, have been dreaming of opening their food truck for 10 years. The couple recently relocated from Medford, where Colby was associate pastor

of Latino ministries at the First Church of the Nazarene, to Astoria, where he is the lead pastor of the Hilltop Church of the Nazarene.

Lopez, originally from Nicaragua's capital of Managua, already cooked many of the dishes served at Tres Bro's for their three sons. The boys are the namesake of the food cart, along with the fictional Dos Bros Tacos from one of their favorite films, "Turbo."

"I miss my food," Lopez said. "I miss Nicaragua. But I love living here. Why not? We can put everything together."

See Cart, Page A9



Photos by Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Tres Bro's is located in a red food truck along Main Avenue.

