



the Astorian



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Seana Fields looks through a rack of prom dresses at Cinderella's Closet in Warrenton.

At Cinderella's Closet, the door opens for girls to go to prom

Donated dresses and salon days are possible

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Astorian

Krystal Pike remembers what it felt like to worry about getting a prom dress. As the daughter of a single mom, there was rarely extra money left over for things like a ballgown or salon day. "I felt like those kinds of things wouldn't be for me," she said.

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Amber Blecha styles Janessa Bork's hair at the Allure Salon in Warrenton before prom.

'IT WAS A FEELING OF ACCEPTANCE ... THE FEELING OF BEING INCLUDED. THEY DIDN'T WANT ME TO MISS OUT ON SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WE STILL WANTED TO DO THINGS TOGETHER, BUT IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE A DRESS YOU COULDN'T GO — JUST LIKE CINDERELLA. I JUST REMEMBER FEELING LIKE SOMEBODY CARED ENOUGH.'

Krystal Pike | stylist for Allure Salon, remembering friends who lent her dresses to make sure she could attend dances

Elk project receives some state support

Problem gets an Oregon Solutions tag

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Astorian

Gov. Kate Brown gave her stamp of approval to a project that will look for solutions to elk and human conflicts in Gearhart and Warrenton.

The governor designated the Clatsop Plains Elk Collaborative as an official Oregon Solutions project at the end of April, opening the door for state funding, as well as boosting the priority of the work. The collaborative will include stakeholders such as private and public property owners, residents, city leaders and wildlife regulators.

The designation signals to state agencies that "this is a project that's important to Oregon," said Karmen Fore, director of Oregon Solutions, which is based out of Portland State University's National Policy Consensus Center.

Gearhart and Warrenton have struggled with how to address conflicts between people and growing elk herds on the Clatsop Plains.

"The purpose of this is to find a solution, a pathway forward," Warrenton Mayor Henry Balensifer said.

He will serve as a neutral convenor for the group, along with Seaside Mayor Jay Barber.

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Port finance committee says outlook is 'dire'

Agency must rebuild credibility

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Astorian

The finance committee convened to help the Port of Astoria find more money finished its work Friday, finalizing a list of strong recommendations meant to help the agency dig out of an estimated \$20 million maintenance backlog and build more credibility with other governments and the public.

The committee is comprised of finance, accounting and economic development professionals. Their recommendations will inform a strategic plan, a requirement for the Port to get more state financing.

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Astoria doctor shined a light on child abuse

Little plans to retire this year

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Astorian

There is a lot that can be trying about working on child abuse cases.

At The Lighthouse for Kids, a child abuse evaluation center in Astoria, Dr. Roy Little has evaluated almost 500 cases. The stories can be heartbreaking, and their resolutions some-



times disappointing.

But then there are the drawings. For years, Little has accumulated sketches and notes from the children he has helped. One child wrote that a "big hole in my heart got filled up." Another, which still hangs on the wall, simply says, "Thank you."

"You can take on a lot of headache when you get those," he said.

After 17 years, Little will

retire as the evaluation center's primary medical examiner this year.

Originally from California, Little moved to the North Coast after receiving a call from another local physician, Dr. Tom Duncan, near the end of his eight-year tour in the Air Force. In 1990, he established his own private practice in Astoria.

In 2002, the Lighthouse approached Little and asked him to join as a medical examiner in addition to his practice.

"I've always liked working with children," he said. "It's fun to watch them grow up, (and) it's satisfying to

help families out."

Little conducts medical evaluations to look for evidence of neglect and abuse. Other specialists also do interviews with the children, which are recorded and can be used in court.

"The reason we do things ... is to try and create as much legally admissible information about what happened to the child without the child having to be exposed to the courtroom adversarial environment," he said.

Now, with retirement six months away, Little is hoping to find his replacement.

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Brenna Visser/The Astorian

Roy Little has worked at The Lighthouse for Kids for 17 years.

