

# Senior center: ‘If I have to work, I want to do something that has a purpose’

Continued from Page A1

One recent morning, two women divided packets of cookies into plastic sandwich bags. One of the women, Judy Choate, has been volunteering with the program for years. The work helped keep her busy and distracted during difficult times, she said.

Nearby, Hayes prepared other food. Originally from Michigan, Hayes is a multimedia artist and experimental musician. He has lived in Clatsop County for more than 30 years. For a good part of that time he worked in the mental health sector and he consistently finds himself drawn to work that is social service-adjacent.

“If I have to work, I want to do something that has a purpose,” he said. He likes to connect with people and understand them — in some ways it feels like a moral responsibility.

Which has made the pandemic even more difficult.

The lunch he used to serve in the dining room to members — or any senior who could spend \$6 on a meal — functioned as the center of many of those people’s day. Hayes could look out and see that this was where people had important con-

versations. They discussed the news, their health, their friends. They checked in on each other.

“It’s hard to imagine all that gone,” Hayes said now, sitting at an empty table, among a sea of empty tables, in an empty dining room.

About half of the people who used to eat at the senior center or have meals delivered to them still come to pick up a sack lunch or ask for delivery. Most of them have means, pensions or Social Security. As far as Hayes knows, they almost all have consistent, reliable housing. And that’s another thing he thinks about: all the homeless seniors who used to rely on the center for a meal and a place to rest for a moment.

In the last few years, Hayes had started conducting interviews with the area’s homeless, hoping to better understand them and their situations. It was a sort of holdover from his days in social work, the long lists of questions you would ask people to try to gauge their situation and needs. He was inspired by the documentary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman, who turned a camera on American institutions to chronicle a certain type of everyday life.

“I just thought it has value and it ended up teaching me a lot about where we are in our society right now,” Hayes said.

What he saw, both in his interviews with the homeless and his work in the kitchen making lunches for seniors, was how “there’s this trickle-down isolation that happens as people become increasingly marginalized.”

Though the pandemic limits his ability to reach people in the same way, Hayes tries to provide flexibility with the meals. If a senior is in need and reaching out maybe for the first time, Hayes tries to get them a free lunch.

Miller is also aware of this isolation — and how difficult and even damaging it can be for both housed and unhoused seniors.

He often fields phone calls from seniors who just want someone to talk to. He’s helped others fill out online forms to get in line for a coronavirus vaccination. Many do not have their own computers, or are not comfortable with navigating the technology.

“I think it’s pretty tough on them,” Miller said. “The senior center is still here for them. Everything we’ve done for them in the past, we’re still doing.”



Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian

Judy Choate, left, and Betsey Jones help prepare meals for pickup and delivery for the Loaves and Fishes meals program housed in the Astoria Senior Center.

# Seaside: ‘We want to be flexible’

Continued from Page A1

With first and second graders back at school and older students returning in the weeks to come, the park district adjusted their program, which had been limited to emergency child care.

Students in the first cohort are dropped off at the Sunset Recreation Center, then bussed to Pacific Ridge Elementary School for classes before being returned to the recreation center to be picked up at the end of the day by

parents and guardians.

“We want to be flexible and adapting until children are back to their normal schedule,” Archibald said.

Another related change will come with the resumption of in-person meetings. While safety and distanc-

ing protocols will remain in place, work sessions and regular meetings will be held in the Bob Chisholm Community Center or a space in the Sunset Recreation Center.

“Hopefully we won’t be closing again for some time,” Archibald said.

Follow us on Facebook!

FACEBOOK.COM/DAILYASTORIAN

## Seaside American Legion Post 99

### The Seaside American Legion is looking to hire 2 PART TIME BARTENDERS

To apply, stop by from 3-11 pm for an application



1315 Broadway, Seaside  
503-738-5111



**SAFeway Albertsons**

**SHOP, PLAY, WIN!**



**MONOPOLY**

**MARCH 3 THRU MAY 4, 2021!**

**MILLIONS OF INSTANT PRIZES!**

**OVER \$230,000,000 IN PRIZES AND MONEY-SAVING OFFERS**

\$1,000,000 CASH

GROCERIES FOR LIFE

\$50,000 VEHICLE OF CHOICE

MORTGAGE PAYOFF

\*30-Year annuity paid out in equal installments of \$33,333.33 per year with no interest. \*\*ARV \$250,000 paid by check. \*\*\*ARV \$200,000 awarded as \$25,000 in Gift Cards and \$175,000 paid by check. †ARV \$50,000 Paid by check. ††Awarded Gift Cards valued at \$5,000. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Game tickets end 5/4/21. Must be resident of an eligible U.S. state listed in rules; 18+. Visit www.shopplaywin.com for full rules, incl. how to enter without purchase. Series MON-14. MONOPOLY™ & © 1935, 2021 Hasbro, Pawtucket, RI 02861-1059 USA. All Rights Reserved. TM & © denote U.S. Trademarks. Hasbro is not a sponsor of this promotion.



clip or CLICK! just for U Valid 3/2/21 thru 3/9/21

**\$10 OFF \$50 or more\***

**Save on your next grocery purchase of \$50 or more\* with your Club Card & this Savings Award.**



\*Use this Savings Award on any shopping trip you choose at any Oregon Safeway or Albertsons store and S.W. Washington stores serving Clark, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Skamania, Walla Walla and Klickitat counties by 3/9/21. This \$10.00 Savings Award excludes purchases of Alcoholic Beverages, Fluid Dairy Products, Tobacco, US Postage Stamps, Trimet Bus/Commuter Passes, Money Orders, Container Deposits, Lottery, Gift Cards, Gift Certificates Sales, All Pharmacy Prescription Purchases, Safeway Club Savings, Safeway or Albertsons Store Coupons and Sales Tax. One Savings Award redeemable per household. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED. Online and in-store prices, discounts, and offers may differ.



clip or CLICK! just for U Valid 3/2/21 thru 3/9/21



**1.99 ea Club Price**

**Thomas' English Muffins, Bagels, Swirl Bread or Sara Lee Artesano Bread Selected sizes and varieties.**

\*This coupon must be presented at time of purchase at Safeway / Albertsons. Offer valid with Card and Coupon. COUPON CANNOT BE DOUBLED or combined with digital coupon. Coupon valid 3/2/21 - 3/9/21.

Prices in this ad are effective 6 AM Tuesday, March 2 thru Tuesday, March 9, 2021 (unless otherwise noted) in all Safeway or Albertsons stores in Oregon and S.W. Washington stores serving Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, Walla Walla and Klickitat Counties. Items offered for sale are not available to other dealers or wholesalers. Sales of products containing ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine limited by law. Quantity rights reserved. SOME ADVERTISING ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL STORES. Some advertised prices may be even lower in some stores. On Buy One, Get One Free ("BOGO") offers, customer must purchase the first item to receive the second item free. BOGO offers are not 1/2 price sales. If only a single item purchased, the regular price applies. Manufacturers' coupons may be used on purchased items only — not on free items. Limit one coupon per purchased item. Customer will be responsible for tax and deposits as required by law on the purchased and free items. No liquor sales in excess of 52 gallons. No liquor sales for resale. Liquor sales at licensed Safeway or Albertsons stores only. ©2021 Safeway Inc. or ©2021 Albertsons LLC. Availability of items may vary by store. Online and in-store prices, discounts and offers may differ.