



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

The Lower Columbia Youth Soccer Association held a 'Silent Saturday' at the Warrenton Soccer Complex.

IN WARRENTON, A YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE TURNS DOWN THE VOLUME

The goal was to let the kids play without adults distracting them

By ERICK BENDEL
The Astorian

WARRENTON — Adults at last Saturday's youth soccer games were asked to do something out of character. Something that goes against every impulse of the passionate soccer parent.

Be quiet.

The Lower Columbia Youth Soccer Association held a "Silent Saturday."

Parents could clap but not speak to the players.

Coaches could only give nonverbal guidance — or, if speaking was necessary, do it in a mild voice, and only when a game wasn't underway. They could talk to the refs, but only to swap out players. And if coaches made comments to the opposing team, they had better be nice ones.

The goal was to let the kids play without adults distracting them — to give them a new way to experience the game.

It was also to dial down the intensity — the cheering and hollering and drilling from the sidelines — that is easy for grown-ups to get swept up in.

"Even at practices, the parents can be very, very, very loud," said Kirsten Pierce, of Astoria, whose 6-year-old daughter plays on a team. "And when kids hear their names they tend to turn around and look and not pay attention. So I can see how that would be an issue."

At times, the noises can turn negative. Some adults have given players and young volunteer referees a hard time.



Erick Bengel/The Astorian

Parents had to hold their tongues on the sidelines.

'A sour game experience'

Earlier this month, the association's board members sent an email to parents and coaches saying that, in an organization with about 600 players, "a very small percentage of people are causing problems and being out of line. Sadly those people are loud enough to create a sour game experience."

"We exist to provide a fun and safe place to play soccer," the email continued. "When kids don't want to play and refs don't want to ref we have a problem. The club leadership has received enough complaints from parents of players and refs that this needs to be addressed to move the club in a positive direction."

Participants come from all corners

— from Cannon Beach to Long Beach, Warrenton to Knappa. Six hundred kids on the roster means thousands of people can pass through the Warrenton Soccer Complex on Saturdays.

"Silent Saturdays" is practiced in youth soccer organizations throughout the country, O'Brien Starr-Hollow, the association's president, said.

"It just gives the kids an opportunity to think, talk and do their thing without input, or without looking to the sidelines for input," he said.

"Silent Saturdays are very, very, very popular and common," said John Chapman, the association's director of coaching.

See Silent game, Page A6

Oregon renters still await assistance

Requests total \$300 million

By PETER WONG
Oregon Capital Bureau

Despite millions of dollars paid out by a federal deadline at the end of September, thousands of Oregonians continue to await emergency rental assistance as their applications slip past state and local grace periods intended to avert evictions.

The backlog remains greatest in the three Portland metro area counties, where 42.1% of completed applications have been paid through Monday, compared with 54.5% statewide.

Still, the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department and 18 community action agencies paid out \$133 million by a Sept. 30 deadline set by the U.S. Treasury for states to commit at least 65% of their initial shares of rental assistance. Oregon's initial share was \$204 million, and Oregon is in line for more money that will be reallocated from other states failing to spend their full amounts.

See Rental aid, Page A6

SEASIDE

Couple appeal to city for water

Dilemma over drinking water

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — An untreated water main runs down their driveway in the middle of the property off of U.S. Highway 26. To the east, the water system's headwaters are only a mile and a half away. The treated water connection is 1,700 feet to the west. But Peggy and Brian Pogue can't get drinking water for their home for up to 10 years, the city says, when the system receives upgrades.

"We're stuck, really," Brian Pogue told the City Council this month. "We don't have a water source. Right now, it's absolutely making us miserable. Our request is that you consider letting us tap your untreated line since we already have a treatment system in place that we used for our well water. Your line already crosses our property and we believe it would be an easy job to tap the line and install a meter."

See Appeal, Page A6

Film crew shoots scenes in Astoria

An independent project starring Ridley

By NIKKI DAVIDSON
The Astorian

An independent film crew is in Astoria shooting several scenes for a movie starring Daisy Ridley.

Ridley is best known for her role as Rey in the "Star Wars" sequel trilogy "The Force Awak-

ens," "The Last Jedi" and "The Rise of Skywalker." She also appeared in the film "Murder on the Orient Express."

The crew for the independent film quietly staged scenes at Coffee Girl, Golden Luck Restaurant & Lounge, the Port of Astoria, an intersection downtown and privately owned property in the area.

Due to the independent nature of the film and small size of the crew, producers worked to keep the production under wraps.

The name of the project hasn't been released yet, and producers are tight-lipped about the details. They revealed that the story takes

place near the water, which turned their attention to Astoria.

"We needed a coastal town, and we wanted to do it on the West Coast because it's honestly not as photographed in film as the East Coast is, like shooting something in Maine or Massachusetts," Alex Saks, the film's producer, said.

Saks, who has co-produced several movies, including "The Florida Project," said it's too early to publicly disclose the details and plotline of this film, but that the team feels strongly about the piece.

See Film, Page A6



John Jolley

A film crew shoots a traffic scene in a parking lot downtown.

