



Fishermen sock it to the Tigers

SPORTS • Page 6

Washington names teacher of the year

WASHINGTON • Page 5



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Astoria park surges forward

Portland fundraiser nets \$90,000 for the Garden of Surging Waves

By CHELSEA GORROW
The Daily Astorian

The Garden of Surging Waves is moving forward, recently bringing in \$90,000 from a fundraiser in Portland.

Astoria Mayor Willis Van Dusen told the City Council about the newest donation during the Monday night meeting.

At that time, City Manager Paul Benoit proposed an option to the Council – doubling as the Astoria Development Commission – to approve the Chinese Garden on the American Legion block in phases, setting the nitty gritty details, such as a geological survey and the architectural design phase, in motion.

The proposal, Benoit said, “is exempting the design services from competitive bidding. And this will allow us to get the Council to go directly to MulvannyG2. Suenn Ho is the lead architect there, she is the one who has designed the Garden of Surging Waves. She has a history with this block and it would be more efficient to go directly to MulvannyG2.”

Aside from the exemption, Benoit also asked the Council to approve two contracts, one with GRI Geotechnical Resources for \$15,000, a necessary component regardless of what is done in the American Legion block, and another contract with Northwest Survey for survey work on the block in the amount of \$6,700.

Also up for consideration was an up-to-\$15,000 expenditure for MulvannyG2 and Ho to support the design work for one phase of the project, the north side, which will host the amphitheater and the Garden of Surging Waves.

The project is intended to showcase the Chinese contribution to the building of Astoria.

Ho hosted a fundraiser in Portland with Chinese-Americans and friends that raised \$90,000.

“The total cost of the total block would be somewhere around \$3 million, and I think in all of our opinion, we don’t have that much money right now,” Van Dusen said.

“The city of Astoria has a history with the Riverwalk (for example) of doing small steps along the way, small projects along the ‘Yellow Brick Road,’ until it was completed.

“Paul’s remedy for this project is that if we’re not going to do the entire project (right now), maybe we don’t need to pay tonight for the entire architectural drawings.”

See ASTORIA, Page 2

Helping elderly people stay on their feet



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian
Alice Flukinger, 93, is joined on a walk through the halls of the Suzanne Elise Assisted Living Community in Seaside by caregiver Kristina Afornorpe Monday. Physical therapy has helped Flukinger get back up on her feet and walk to meals for the past week after she was injured by several falls.

Oregon Transitional Care Collaborative helps raise awareness on the seriousness of senior falls

By CHELSEA GORROW
The Daily Astorian

“Help. I’ve fallen and I can’t get up.” It’s a classic commercial for LifeCall, a button for elderly people that would dispatch emergency services, and a phrase that became popular in the 1980s and ’90s, right up there with “Where’s the beef?”

But for one local community group, that catchphrase will be the backdrop for a bigger picture.

Clatsop County’s chapter of the Oregon Transitional Care Collaborative is helping to raise awareness and educate on the seriousness of elderly falls, declaring Oct. 25 Clatsop County Fall Prevention Day.

Care Collaborative

The project started one year ago. The goal of the Oregon Transitional Care Collaborative is to promote local partnerships among health and community service providers that ensure quality transitions between providers and enable patients and their caregivers to participate more fully in their health care.

Their focus is to reduce unplanned rehospitalizations within 30 days of discharge from an acute care hospital to a skilled nursing facility or to home or another community dwelling.

The Oregon Transitional Care Collaborative asked each county’s subgroup to adopt a cause.

Clatsop County’s group chose to look at the falls of people 50 years of age and older, which account for “a huge number” of hospital readmissions.

“The main focus of the project was to see if having someone referred to occupational or physical therapy (OT/PT) and actually going would reduce the readmission for falls,” said Carla Delongchamps, services manager for the Warrenton office of Northwest Senior and Disabled Services.

Clatsop County’s Care Collaborative is made up of representatives from Columbia Memorial Hospital, Providence Seaside Hospital, local home health care providers and the county’s Northwest Senior and Disability Services.

“Overall, we would like to see fewer people coming to the ER with falls in the first



ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian
After several falls left her unable to walk, Alice Flukinger got busy with physical therapy and is now roaming the halls at Suzanne Elise Assisted Living Community with the help of a walker.

place, but we want to prevent them because they went to OT/PT,” said Providence Seaside Chief Nurse Executive Wendy Ackley.

Meade Hallock, case management director of Columbia Memorial Hospital, added, “We’d also like to see more proactivity from the physicians and even from the families and their understanding of falls. Because with the data we have now, we want to see

See FALLS, Page 12

Rock the Beach

Cannon Beach event helps education



At the start of the Rock the Beach race, everyone is smiling. After 5 or 10 kilometers (3 or 6 miles), the smiles were more strained. The second annual beach run was a fundraiser for Cannon Beach Preschool and the Children’s Center. Major sponsors included Bruce’s Candy Kitchen, Kamali/Sotheby’s International Realty, Martin Hospitality, Widmer Brothers, Hallmark Resorts, Simplicity, Lazerquick and Red Bull. See more photos on Page 12.



RIGHT: Brett Willyard, a Seaside High School student from Cannon Beach, won the 10K race during the second annual Rock the Beach event. Willyard ran last year’s race and finished third. His winning time was 38 minutes, 48 seconds.

HUGH McKENNA — For The Daily Astorian

