



North Coast residents and visitors crowd the Astoria Column atop Coxcomb Hill.

Daily Astorian/File Photo

Fees: Column parking goes to \$5

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Eric Paulson, the president and CEO of Lektro and the treasurer of the Friends of the Column, told the council that the fee increase would help make the Column self-sustaining. Private donors like Portland real estate magnate and philanthropist Jordan Schnitzer have been financing the renovations.

"We honestly don't think that \$5 for a vehicle, for a year, is an outrageous fee," Paulson said. "We think that is very, very reasonable."

Aquatic Center

The City Council also approved fee increases at the Astoria Aquatic Center in January that will help offset the cost of pay raises for lifeguards. The city has closed the center from 1 to 3:30 p.m. because of a lack of lifeguards.

The city will move to monthly passes, instead of quarterly passes, and raise fees by approximately 12 percent. Fees were last updated at the Aquatic Center in 2009.

"We don't want to raise the fees so high that nobody comes to the Aquatic Center anymore or utilizes our facilities," Mayor Arline LaMear said, calling it a "delicate balance between charging enough fees but not charging so much that we lose patrons."

In other business Monday night, the City Council:

- Approved the Neighborhood Greenway portion of the city's Riverfront Vision Plan.

Neighborhood Greenway restricts new over-water development along the Columbia River in Alderbrook by rezoning the land to aquatic natural — from aquatic conservation — which essentially prohibits all but docks and piers no higher than the riverbank.

New design standards will also be imposed on multifamily residential development in Alderbrook, such as new apartments, and commercial development, like day care centers.

Neighborhood Greenway is the third of four sections of the Riverfront Vision Plan,

which is intended to set land-use guidelines along the river. Civic Greenway, from 16th to 41st streets, and Bridge Vista, from Portway to Second streets, have already been approved.

The Urban Core, from Second to 16th, is the final leg.

- Voted 4-1 against awarding a \$60,000 contract to a private lawn maintenance company for weed removal and reseeding at the city's Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.

The City Council had added money in the budget for the work after complaints that the cemetery had fallen into disrepair.

But City Councilor Russ Warr, who had pushed for cemetery improvements, argued against spending the money because of concerns that the city will not keep up with maintenance after the work.

"And if we're not going to take care of it, there's no sense in spending the money," Warr said.

LaMear said the work should be delayed until the Parks and Recreation Department completes a new master plan for park priorities.

The discussion featured the latest in a series of testy exchanges between Warr and Councilor Drew Herzig.

Herzig, who supported spending the money to improve the cemetery, took exception when Warr referred to him as "Mr. Herzig" instead of "Councilor Herzig."

"Well, I really apologize. Can you ever forgive me for that?" Warr said with a hint of derision.

"I forgive you already," Herzig said.

"Wow, that's a horrible, horrible mistake," Warr said. "I apologize Councilor Herzig."

- Voted 4-1 to adopt LaMear's ground rules for City Council meetings, including limiting citizen comments to three minutes for each speaker.

Herzig voted against the ground rules after councilors declined to set time limits for people or groups giving presentations, soften a provision that citizens who disrespect the council or staff will be asked to leave, and add an agreement that councilors treat each other with respect.

LaMear said councilors could discuss modifications to the ground rules later.

- Held a moment of silence for William "Mitch" Mitchum, the former city public works director, developer and community volunteer

who died in November.

- Heard from City Manager Brett Estes that a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Astoria Senior Center will be held Feb. 16. The center has been undergoing a significant \$1.7 million renovation.

- Received a presentation from Liberty Restoration Inc., which led the renovation of the Liberty Theater, about the work done to the historic venue since the city contributed a \$1.3 million urban renewal grant in 2000.

Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, the theater's executive director, said the theater has been able to leverage the grant to help attract \$10 million in investment toward renovation.

She indicated, however, that the theater may seek money annually from the city's Promote Astoria fund to help balance maintenance and operations demands.

Warr and Herzig both said they would need to see more detailed financial information on theater operations before considering a request for money from the fund.

Seaside man sentenced for attempted jail escape

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

tember to more than six years in prison.

One of the two inmates who tried to escape from Clatsop County Jail in July was sentenced to more than eight years in prison for the escape and other cases of identity theft, burglary and violating probation.



Anthony Craig Osborne

Anthony Craig Osborne, 25, of Seaside, pleaded no contest Friday to identity theft, second-degree burglary and first-degree criminal mischief as part of a plea agreement.

The criminal mischief conviction stems from the escape case. Other charges of attempted escape were dropped.

Because of Osborne's criminal history of repeated property crimes, the District Attorney's Office was able to get a longer sentence for criminal mischief than it would have for the attempted escape.

Osborne was sentenced to a total of 102 months in prison.

The other inmate in the escape attempt, Kevin Michael Burnham, 26, of Seaside, was sentenced in Sep-

The two inmates attempted to escape from the county jail by breaking off a shower drain grate, tying it to a bedsheet and swinging it against a window about 20 times until the window shattered.

A couple of more swings and they could have broken through the window, which is large enough for them to get through, according to the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office.

The two men then flooded a toilet in the cellblock and added soap to make the floor slippery for responding corrections officers.

Their plan failed when corrections officers heard the grate hitting the window. The officers detained the inmates and placed them in a more secure part of the jail.

Osborne was charged with criminal mischief for causing more than \$1,000 in damage to the window and other jail property, according to the indictment.

The estimated damage cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to fix, according to the jail.

The Clatsop Care Center Auxiliary would like to extend **A BIG THANK YOU** to the public and our staff who donated to and shopped our sale & raffle. The proceeds from the sale will help us to provide a variety of activities for the Residents of Clatsop Care Center.



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