



COAST WEEKEND: 'ONCE UPON A MATTRESS' INSIDE

FRATERNAL SOCIETIES ON THE HUNT TO GROW



David Hinton, Elks Lodge 180 exalted ruler, stands for a portrait in front of photos of past exalted rulers on June 23 in Astoria.

Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

North Coast groups face demographic, culture shifts

By ELI STILLMAN
The Daily Astorian

The **L**oyal Order of Moose was once a large organization among fraternal societies of the Oregon Coast. Make no mistake, the group is still very active in the community with social events, as well as fundraisers, but the number of engaged members who put on these events has diminished.

The Moose Lodge isn't the lone organization struggling with membership in the last decade. In a national trend reflected locally, many societies are failing to recruit young members.

Some fraternities offer cash prizes to members who can recruit, while others are trying activities aimed at a younger demographic. Some worry, if they are unable to attract younger members, the lodges' futures will be uncertain.

The Moose, which was created in the 1800s, originally served as a gentleman's social club. It was reinvented to become a group that would build a better society through charitable fundraisers and eventually create Mooseheart, a 1,000-acre campus close to Chicago that cares for children in need and provides a complete education free of charge. It runs entirely off of private donations and has taken in over 12,000 kids since 1913.

Jim Hutchens was the governor of the local Moose Lodge in 2015 and has a membership card that was issued in 1978.

Born and raised in Astoria, Hutchens has seen the changes in fraternal organizations on the coast throughout his life. He's also been a part of four of them: the Moose, American Legion, Elks and the Eagles share members as none have restrictions on dual enrollment.

In its heyday, Lodge 408 had almost 700 members, Hutchens said. Today, that number has dropped below 500. National memberships have dropped almost 70 percent in 10 years.

See SOCIETIES, Page 10A



Kent Johnson holds the door open for other Moose Lodge members as they enter for breakfast on a recent Sunday morning. The Astoria Moose Lodge serves breakfast every Sunday.



Astoria Moose Lodge Administrator Doug Flesey chats with Moose Lodge Governor Steve Huff during breakfast at the lodge on a recent Sunday morning in Astoria.

Lawyers display Smith murder evidence

Pretrial hearings highlight core of the case

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The morning after Jessica Smith allegedly murdered her infant and slashed her teenager in a Cannon Beach resort, she abandoned her hotel room and left a note saying she was "opting out of life."

She had reportedly drugged and drowned her 2-year-old, Isabella Smith, and attempted to kill 13-year-old Alana Smith on July 31, 2014.

Housekeeping staff could hear Alana slipping and falling in the hotel room, and called 911 to report a disoriented female.

Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn and Cannon Beach Assistant Fire Chief Frank Swedenborg were the first to respond. They stood by as a maintenance

See TRIAL, Page 10A



Jessica Smith

Too risky to talk? Cities try text-to-911

By MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — With gunshots ringing out just feet away, Eddie Justice hid in a bathroom in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and frantically texted his mother for help.

"Call police," he wrote. "I'm gonna die."

Moments later, he texted again: "Call them mommy. Now. He's coming."

Justice, who would later be confirmed among the 49 people killed in last month's attack, was among several victims who texted relatives to call 911, fearing they would draw too much attention by making voice calls.

None of them could text 911 directly because Orlando is among the vast majority of U.S. cities that don't have that capability. Amid a cluster of deadly mass shootings, police departments are exploring technology

See TEXT-TO-911, Page 7A

Town and country offer differing realities

This story is part of *Divided America*, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
Associated Press

ROCKY FORD, Colo. — Peggy Sheahan's rural Otero County is steadily losing population. Middle-class jobs vanished years ago as pickling and packing plants closed. She's had to cut back on her business repairing broken windshields to help nurse her husband after a series of farm accidents, culminating



in his breaking his neck falling from a bale of hay.

She collects newspaper clippings on stabbings and killings in the area — one woman's body was found in a field near Sheahan's farm — as heroin use rises.

"We are so worse off, it's unbelievable," said Sheahan, 65, who plans to vote for Donald Trump.

In Denver, 175 miles to the northwest, things are going better for Andrea Pacheco. Thanks to the Supreme Court, the 36-year-old could finally

marry her partner, Jen Winters, in June. After months navigating Denver's super-heated housing market, they snapped up a bungalow at the edge of town. Pacheco supports Hillary Clinton to build on President Barack Obama's legacy.

"There's a lot of positive things that happened — obviously the upswing in the economy," said Pacheco, a 36-year-old fundraiser for nonprofits. "We were in a pretty rough place when he started out and I don't know anyone who isn't better off eight years later."

See DIVIDED, Page 7A



AP Photo/Brennan Linsley

Navy veteran and chef Bill Hendren talks with his dog in a cottage on the property of a landowner who is allowing him to stay rent-free for a year in exchange for work, outside Manzanola, Colo., in Otero County. Hendren, 55, once worked in Texas nightclubs but there's nothing comparable in Otero County, where the largest town has a population of 6,900.