

Astoria AAUW holds candidates, measures forum on Wednesday

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is hosting and moderating a public Candidates and Ballot Measure Forum at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Room 219 of Columbia Hall at Clatsop Community College.

The first hour offers information and questions for Astoria City Council

candidates Tom Bronson, Bruce Allen and Cory Pederson and Oregon House District 32 candidates Deborah Boone and Bruce Bobek. The second hour consists of hearing arguments for and against Ballot Measure 97.

Written questions from the audience are being organized by the AAUW and asked by moderator Patricia Garner, a member of Astoria AAUW and the state Public Policy representative.

Weekend Break section debuts today in Astorian

Color comics on Friday soon

The Daily Astorian

Starting today, The Daily Astorian's C section on Fridays becomes Weekend Break, a features section grouping a Writer's Notebook or local feature with the TV grids, comics, Dear Annie, horoscopes and a new colorful Kids Scoop page. Beginning Nov. 4, comic strips will run in color on Fridays.

"Our goal is to fill the C section with news and features you can read and use

all weekend long," said Laura Sellers, managing editor of The Daily Astorian. "By making better use of the space in the third section, we gain more space in the news pages for local news, photos and features, along with state, national and international news that affect the North Coast.

"We want enlarge the section travel, leisure and books, as well,"

WEEKEND BREAK

Firefighter thrown up to 20 feet in Portland gas explosion, fire

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND — An injured firefighter who's being hailed as a hero for helping to evacuate a building before a powerful gas explosion in a Portland shopping district said he was tossed up to 20 feet by the blast.

The explosion hurt eight people Wednesday morning, demolished a three-story historic building and ignited a fire that sent a plume of smoke over the city. Three firefighters, two police officers and three civilians were injured.

None of the injuries were life-threatening.

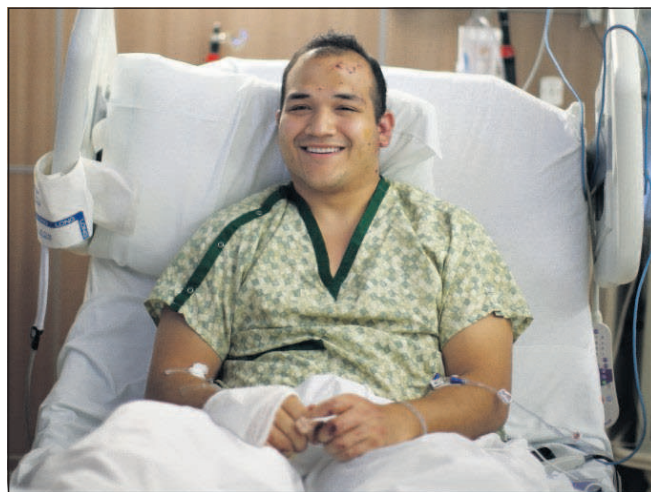
Portland Fire & Rescue Lt. Peter St. John blacked out after the explosion and awoke in pain as chaos unfolded around him, he said in an interview Thursday from his hospital bed.

The blast broke his left femur and the tibia and fibula of his right leg, he said.

"I got thrown across the street, and I was tied up in a chain-link fence on the ground," he said Thursday. "I tried to wiggle my toes because I couldn't move my legs ... Then I looked at my right leg, I knew it was broken at that point."

A hero

Fire Chief Mike Myers said Wednesday that St. John ran inside the building to pull fire alarms and called the young lieutenant a hero, but St. John



Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian

Lt. Peter St. John of Portland Fire & Rescue lies in a bed, recovering from surgery at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, Thursday in Portland. St. John was injured during a natural gas explosion near a construction site Wednesday.

said he doesn't agree.

He did evacuate the building and order the fire trucks to move back, he said, but he looked for fire alarms and couldn't find any.

Other members of his team helped with evacuations and pulled alarms, he said.

"I feel like I'm not a hero. I just did what everyone else would have done," he said. "It's our job. We're to go in and protect the citizens, and that's what I did."

St. John, a father of three, underwent lengthy surgery Wednesday to insert a rod in his leg bone, but he appeared in good spirits Thursday.

He spoke softly from a reclining position in his hospital bed. He had small cuts on his forehead, cheeks, hands and ears from debris from the blast.

When first-responders first pulled up, the gas was so thick the firefighters could see waves in the air, St. John said.

He and other firefighters decided to don protective masks, he said.

"That's about right when the explosion happened, when we got our masks," he said. "Next thing I knew, I saw the explosion from the basement to the third floor."

The building blew up in three blasts — one for each level — with a slight pause between each boom, he said.

"I think there was fire because I saw orange. I must have blacked out a little ... because I felt the heat wave push me back and the next thing I knew I was on the ground, just in pain," he said.

As St. John waited to be

evacuated from the scene, he noticed live power lines nearby and heard at least one more explosion, he said.

On Thursday, Myers reiterated that the heroism of St. John and others prevented a far worse outcome.

"I fully expected to get here and have firefighter fatalities," he said, adding that from the call he received he expected to find "numbers of firefighters down."

Reduced to rubble

The blast reduced to rubble a 110-year-old building that housed a bagel shop and other businesses in the popular NW 23rd Street shopping district.

The walls and windows of a nearby building were blown out, and businesses three blocks away reported that their doors flew open from the force of the blast.

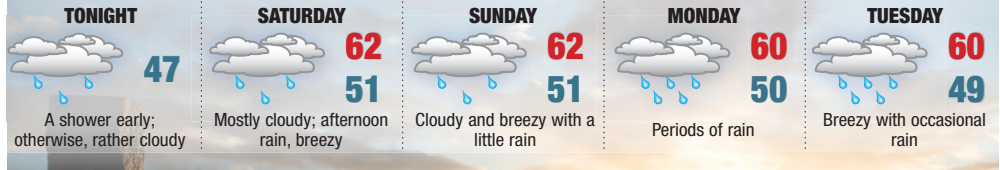
The intersections near the blast site were still closed Thursday.

NW Natural released a timeline saying the explosion occurred at 9:38 a.m., when many businesses were still closed.

Portland's Northwest 23rd Street — nicknamed "Trendy Third" — is packed with boutiques, bars and restaurants. Many are on street level with pricey apartments on the upper levels and a day care facility in the vicinity.

Construction workers nicked a three-quarter-inch natural gas line outside the building and gas collected inside. But the ignition source has yet to be determined.

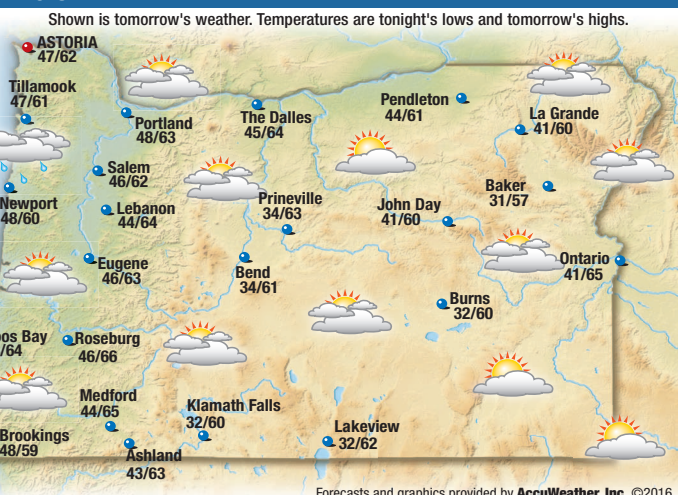
FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA



ALMANAC

Table with weather statistics for Astoria through Thursday, including high/low temperatures, precipitation, and sunrise/sunset times.

REGIONAL WEATHER



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: The Orionid meteor shower will peak tonight (20 per hour).

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Table showing tide times and heights for Astoria/Port Docks.

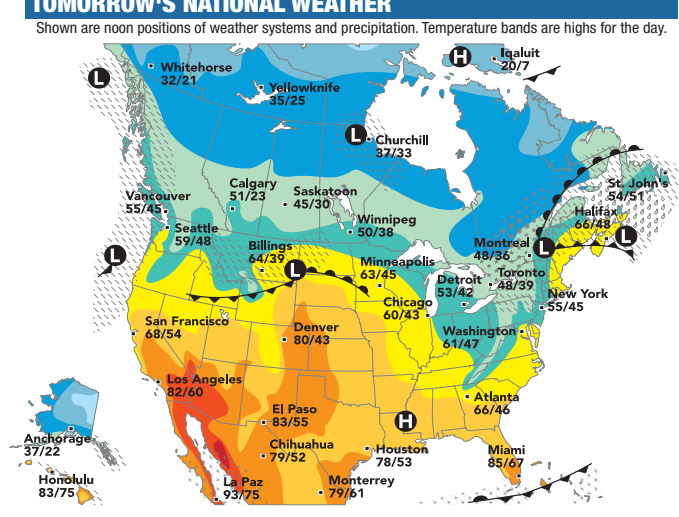
NATIONAL CITIES

Table showing weather conditions for various national cities.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table showing weather conditions for regional cities.

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER



OBITUARY

Donald Melvin Brunner

Astoria

March 31, 1925 — Oct. 16, 2016

Donald Melvin Brunner, a lifelong Clatsop County resident, died on Oct. 16, 2016, in Renton, Washington. He was born on March 31, 1925, in Olney, to Oscar Brunner and Anna Sunell Brunner. He resided in Olney with his family until the early 1940s when they moved to the Alderbrook area of Astoria, where he continued to live.

Prior to World War II, he was employed by CRPA Cannery, later to become Bumble Bee Seafoods. During the war, he participated in the Normandy invasion with the Blue and Gray 29th Army Infantry Division. After his discharge in 1946, he was employed by Holmes Motor Co. in the body and fender department. Subsequently, he became a logger with W & W Logging, Martin Nygaard Logging and D & R Timber Company. He retired in 1986.

Don was a lifetime member of the Elks, BPOE No. 180, a member of the American Legion Post No. 12 and the Brownsmead Grange. He loved the outdoors, especially hunt-

ing and fishing. He was especially fond of his two grandchildren, and loved going to their baseball and soccer games.

On June 12, 1948, he married Jean Johnson, who survives. Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Donna Jean and Eric Moberly of Renton, Washington; two grandchildren, Andrew and Catherine Moberly; several nieces and nephews; and many cousins.



Donald Brunner

All of his siblings predeceased him; brothers Chester and Jack Brunner, and sisters Rose (Dotty) Sorensen, Lillian Strom and Betty Schwartzbach.

At his request, there will be no funeral. A private interment will be at Ocean View Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society.

Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. An online guest book to leave condolences may be signed at www.caldwellsmortuary.com

CORRECTION

Name misspelled — Robert Stricklin serves on the Skipanon Water Control District. His last name was misspelled in a 1A story Wednesday about the Eighth Street Dam.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY Clatsop Care Health District Board, noon, Clatsop Care Memory Community, 2219 S.E. Dolphin Road, Warrenton. Astoria Library Board, 5:30

p.m., Astoria Public Library Flag Room, 450 10th St. Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave. Astoria Traffic Safety Committee, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St. Astoria Planning Commission, immediately following Traffic Safety Committee, City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Thursday's Pick 4: 1 p.m.: 8-3-9-2 4 p.m.: 9-9-7-1 7 p.m.: 5-9-0-1 10 p.m.: 7-6-0-5

WASHINGTON

Thursday's Daily Game: 1-0-9 Thursday's Keno: 02-03-19-22-23-27-29-31-32-35-41-55-62-66-71-73-74-75-78-79 Thursday's Match 4: 03-11-12-14

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

Advertisement for UGG Australia shoes, featuring a pair of brown boots and the text 'Gimre's Shoes' with a Facebook link.

Advertisement for The Daily Astorian, including subscription rates, advertising ownership information, and contact details.