

Center: Shelter is financed by donations

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shelter at Exchange Street and 11th Street opens on nights when temperatures are expected to drop below 35 degrees.

"I think we can all agree that nobody should die of exposure in Astoria or anywhere," said Councilor Drew Herzig, who won the council's backing for the warming center.

The night shelter is being financed by donations made through Grace Episcopal Church. The city, Herzig said, is paying a small amount for an extension of insurance. The space is available until the renovation starts sometime this year.

"It's perfectly appropriate use for a building that's otherwise sitting there empty," he said, adding that he and others hope to find a permanent location by next winter.

The First Baptist Church had been providing shelter for the homeless and needy during freezing weather for the past seven years. But the church chose not to extend the safety net this winter after the city approved the warming center just blocks away.

Don Roessler, the church moderator at First Baptist, said the church was "doing it just as Christians knowing it was the right thing to do. So if somebody else wants to do it, there's no animosity. The only weird question was, 'How did they not know?'"

He said the church would assist Herzig "with any needs that he



Councilor Drew Herzig talks with volunteers before opening the warming center Tuesday.

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

might have over at the new shelter."

The Astoria Rescue Mission, a Christian-based ministry that offers men's and women's shelters, grants three-to-five-day stays for people passing through but concentrates on longer-term outreach. The mission, according to David Newman, the

executive director, has six-month, 12-month and two-year programs "to help people get back on their feet through Christ."

Newman had some concern for volunteers at the new warming center because those who could show up might have been turned away

from other help because of persistent behavioral or drug and alcohol problems.

"It scares me," he said. "But, at the same time, if they don't have a place here to go, it's not right. The Bible says that we don't say we will feed and keep warm, and then do

nothing to meet their need. When they leave here, my worry is, in these cold times — what will they do? Where will they go? — so when that place began to open up, and the Baptist place was no longer available to them, it was a relief of heart.

"I'm so glad that they're open. I'm encouraging them. If I can, we'll be of any service and help to them in any way that's possible. But they definitely will have their hands full. No doubt about it. It's a lot of work."

Herzig and the volunteers at the warming center are learning as they go along. Verbal instructions on expected behavior and prohibitions against smoking, alcohol and drugs have already evolved into individual, signed written agreements to abide by the rules or be asked to leave.

The warming center opens at 8 p.m. and lights are turned off at 10 p.m. People who are sleeping overnight are not allowed to leave after 10 p.m. The shelter closes at 8 a.m. the following morning.

On Tuesday night, the homeless and needy were offered coffee, chicken, rice and vegetable soup and cookies. Mats were arranged on the floor, separated for men and women.

"Come in and get warm!" the sign outside promised. But, ironically, the heat at the warming center would not work when the shelter opened. The heat came back on just before midnight.

Nasstrom: 'We focus on all levels of nursing care'

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The program currently includes 20 first year students and 16 who made it to their second year.

"We focus on all levels of nursing care," said Nasstrom, adding that the faculty shares teaching responsibilities in their classes. "We all work together, which I like."

Northern migration

Nasstrom originally hails from

Sebastopol, Calif., a small enclave about 50 miles north of San Francisco. She said her interest in nursing was a culmination of factors, from her now 98-year-old grandmother, a former nurse, to her enjoyment of social interaction.

"Evidently, I'm a horrible sleeper," said Nasstrom about her mother's influence on her choice of profession. "And my mom used to say 'you should be a nurse, so

you can work the night shift."

Nasstrom earned her bachelor's in nursing in 2000 from Humboldt State University, where she and Doug met. The two traveled together to Los Angeles, where Nasstrom earned her master's degree and further certification as a nurse in 2004 from California State University Long Beach, while her husband earned his master's and certification as an anesthesiologist from Cal State Fullerton.

Then the two, looking for the small town, rural life, moved to Coos Bay, where they spent 10 years practicing medicine, Nasstrom at the North Bend Medical Center and Doug at Bay Area Hospital. Nasstrom said she liked it in Coos Bay — but she likes it even better in Astoria.

"I love the weather," said Nasstrom, an avid reader. "It's not much different that Coos Bay. I love the proximity to the ocean and the water."

Nasstrom has family roots in Oregon, too, her father being born in Ontario and raised in Glendale.

In her transition from practitioner to teacher, Nasstrom said there are parts she misses and some she doesn't. "The worst day to be on call was DuneFest weekend. It was never a good weekend."

But it was time, she said, to do something different, and she's ready to be a teacher for the foreseeable future.

Laws: In Utah, cities and towns can no longer ban specific dog breeds

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been stalled for years before getting a big boost from former New England Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe. Now a winemaker in Washington state, Bledsoe complained to lawmakers he could not send his products to Massachusetts residents, including fans and former teammates like current Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

ANIMALS

In California, a ballot initiative approved by voters in 2008 takes effect restricting the confinement of egg-laying hens, breeding sows and veal calves. The Humane Society of the United States says the law goes further than any in the country when coupled with a law signed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that extends the space requirements for egg-laying hens to out-of-state suppliers.

In Utah, cities and towns can no longer ban specific dog breeds within their limits. At least 10 cities now have restrictions that ban ownership of breeds such as pit bulls.

CRIME

In California, a "yes means yes" standard for sex between college students takes effect, requiring "an affirmative, conscious and voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity," meaning silence or a lack of resistance can no longer be deemed consent.

In Michigan, rape evidence may be better organized and tracked under laws designed to help ensure kits aren't caught in the sort of backlog found when more than 11,000 untested boxes were discovered in a Detroit Police storage facility in 2009.

In Louisiana, law enforcement agencies must provide a tally of the number of untested rape kits on their shelves by Thursday, part of a law that took effect in August.

DRUG ABUSE

In Michigan, buying cough and cold medicines for the purpose of making methamphetamine will be illegal under another series of measures intended to crack down on meth makers. The laws also prohibit asking someone to buy the in-



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File

A woman looks at the bullet holes on the window of IV Deli Mark where a mass shooting took place near the University of California, Santa Barbara campus, in the Isla Vista beach community in May. In response to the killing rampage of Elliot Rodger, 22, that left seven people, including himself dead, lawmakers approved and California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law which requires law enforcement agencies to develop policies that encourage officers to search the state's database of gun purchases as part of routine welfare checks. More than 900 laws approved by the Legislature and signed by the governor take effect today.

redients and require state police to add meth offenders to a national database.

ELECTIONS

In Louisiana, 16- and 17-year-olds will be able to register to vote when obtaining a driver's license, though they still won't be able to vote until they turn 18.

In North Carolina, individuals filing as a candidate in a party primary must have had an affiliation with that party for at least 90 days before filing a candidacy notice.

A Delaware law establishes new rules for allocating campaign contributions among joint account holders, such as when spouses submit a political contribution using a single check.

ENVIRONMENT

In North Carolina, home sellers will have to disclose whether they know if underground oil and gas rights have been sold.

In New York State, consumers must begin recycling old computers, televisions and video game consoles instead of throwing them in the trash.

In the face of a three-year drought, new California laws require water districts and other

local entities to develop plans to manage their groundwater and allow the state to intervene if necessary.

HEALTH

In Louisiana, smoking will be banned within 25 feet of public entrances to state office buildings, as a way to lessen exposure to secondhand smoke.

HUNTING

In North Carolina, the state Wildlife Resources Commission faces new restrictions on how high it can raise fees on hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. Starting with the new year, the fees can't be raised beyond a widely used measure of inflation averaged over the previous five years.

MOTOR VEHICLES

In California, drivers' licenses will be available for people in the country illegally.

In Nevada, students who are declared habitually truant could be delayed from obtaining a driver's license, or could have their license suspended.

In Florida, all children aged 4 and 5 will be required to sit in a child safety seat or booster seat instead of using just a car seat belt.

In Indiana, license plates

will be required on motor scooters for the first time following complaints about unsafe driving by those who've lost their licenses because of drunken driving arrests or other offenses.

In Michigan, lawmakers closed a loophole so motorcyclists can no longer buy a temporary permit every riding season without taking a safety or skills test needed for a full endorsement.

Massachusetts will finally allow "hold open" clips on pumps at self-service gasoline stations, ending motorists' complaints — particularly in winter — about being in one of the few states where the clips weren't allowed.

In Utah, police will be required to impound the vehicles of uninsured drivers instead of just having the option to do so.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In New York in February, it becomes illegal to pose for a photo with a lion, tiger or other big cat. The measure, which specifically prohibits contact between members of the public and big cats at animal shows, passed after self-portraits with the animals started becoming more pop-



AP Photo/Mike Groll, File

Protesters rally for an increase in the minimum wage on the Great Western Staircase at the Capitol, in Albany, N.Y., July 17. The minimum wage goes up today in several states, including Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Oregon, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Washington.

ular online, particularly with some young men on dating sites.

TAXES

In North Carolina, Republican lawmakers who approved an income tax cut also took away breaks to Hollywood and cab drivers. Expiring is a 25 percent tax credit for TV and film productions that in 2013 allowed producers to forego paying \$61 million in state taxes. It's being replaced in 2015 by a grant program for video productions capped at \$10 million.

In Virginia, drivers can expect to see a 5 cents-per-gallon increase in the cost of gas, while Maryland's gas tax is set to rise about 3.5 cents.

In Mississippi, totally disabled veterans and their surviving spouses who have not remarried would not have to pay property taxes on their primary residence.

WAGES

The minimum wage goes up Thursday in several states, including Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Maryland, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. A wage increase in New

York takes effect Wednesday. In addition, troopers in Oklahoma get their first pay raise in seven years.

WEAPONS

In Pennsylvania on Jan. 5, a law takes effect that's designed to give the National Rifle Association, or any gun owner, a better chance at successfully challenging local firearms ordinances in court. In general, Pennsylvania bars its municipalities from enforcing firearms ordinances that are stronger than state law. But the NRA has complained that dozens of local ordinances go unchallenged in Pennsylvania courts by residents who can prove it harmed them.

In California, law enforcement agencies are required to develop policies that encourage officers to search the state's database of gun purchases as part of routine welfare checks. The bill was prompted by sheriff's deputies' failure to detect the danger posed by a man who weeks later embarked on a deadly rampage in May near the University of California, Santa Barbara.