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ONE DOLLAR

## DUII cases shift to Circuit Court

The 4-1 vote potentially ends clash with district attorney over jurisdiction



Arline LaMear



Russ Warr

By DERRICK DEPLEDGE  
*The Daily Astorian*

The Astoria City Council voted Tuesday night to recommend the transfer of drunken-driving prosecutions from the city's Municipal Court to the county's Circuit Court,

potentially ending a prolonged clash with Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis over jurisdiction.

The breakthrough came after Mayor Arline LaMear, who had supported keeping DUII prosecutions at Municipal Court, citing home rule and a lack of evidence of a higher

standard of justice in state Circuit Court, changed her position.

The new mayor said she had agonized over the issue and did not believe it was in the best interest of the city to prolong the controversy. "In spite of my support for keeping prosecution of first-time DUII's in the

Municipal Court, I believe it's time to move forward and put this issue behind us," LaMear told the council.

The vote was 4-1, with Councilor Russ Warr voting against the move. Warr called it a "sad day" and said

See CASES, Page 10A



## SEA LIONS BACK IN PORT'S SIGHTS

JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Sea lions lounge in the East End Mooring Basin Tuesday. Surveys conducted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimated up to 1,200 California sea lions and 1,000 Steller sea lions in the 140 miles of the lower Columbia River. The Port of Astoria is exploring several strategies to keep the sea lions out of the basin.

## Pesky pinnipeds damage docks

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Daily Astorian*

The smelt are back in the Columbia River — and so are the sea lions trying to eat them.

And the Port of Astoria is once again providing a resting place for hundreds, if not thousands, of sea lions at the East End Mooring Basin.

The only thing staff has done is to protect the Port's property and get the sea lions off the docks, said Executive Director Jim Knight during a meeting Tuesday. He estimated between 2,000 and 3,000 sea lions head Astoria's way for fishing season.

Until the mid-1970s, California sea lions were seldom seen anywhere on the Columbia River. But surveys as recently as 2006 conducted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimated up to 1,200 California sea lions and 1,000 Steller sea lions in the 140 miles of the lower Columbia River.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Sea lions waddle along a dock in the East End Mooring Basin.

The meeting was absent any activists from the Sea Lion Defense Brigade, and included a few tenants from the basin. The Port's Permit and Projects Manager Robert Evert reported on what the Port

is doing to prevent sea lions from jumping on and damaging docks at the basin. The causeway there is still open to foot traffic, although certain docks are off limits for safety reasons.

Evert described the Port's effort to gather input from sea lion experts — people with Ph.D.s at the end of their names, he said.

See SEA LIONS, Page 10A

## New K-9 is 'leaps and bounds' better



'Gunner' proves more capable than predecessor, 'Cash'

By ERICK BENDEL  
*EO Media Group*

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Police Department's second attempt to find the right K-9 officer has yielded a 2-year-old male chocolate Labrador named Gunner, who started working with his handler, Officer Josh Gregory, in late December.

Though he has yet to be certified,

Gunner, a narcotics and search-and-rescue K-9 officer-in-training, makes himself comfortable in the Cannon Beach Police Department with his handler, Officer Josh Gregory. Gunner's predecessor, Cash, a 2-year-old Belgian Malinois, didn't complete the training.

ERICK BENDEL — EO Media Group

the 70-pound dog came pretrained to sniff out cocaine, heroine, methamphetamine and ecstasy, Gregory said.

Because some states have legalized recreational marijuana, and citizens nationwide possess medical marijuana cards, K-9 officers in many states no longer get trained to hit on marijuana, Chief Jason Schermerhorn said.

Once Gunner has completed his narcotics training, he will start search-and-rescue training with Tami Schultz of Clatsop County Search and Rescue, making him a "dual-purpose" K-9 officer.

See K-9, Page 10A

## Council rejects bank's rooftop

Columbia Bank has to find another option for a pyramid on new branch

By DERRICK DEPLEDGE  
*The Daily Astorian*

Columbia Bank will not have a blue standing seam metal roof on its new branch downtown.

The Astoria City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to reject the bank's appeal of a Historic Landmarks Commission ruling last November that the blue metal roof was incompatible with the downtown historic district.

The bank had wanted the blue metal for a pyramid-style architectural feature on the new two-story Duane Street branch for corporate branding.

Heather Seppa, senior vice president and regional manager for Columbia Bank, said afterward that the bank would not appeal the council's decision to the state Land Use Board of Appeals.

Seppa said the bank would explore other options for the roof.

Steve Hockman, a project manager for Steele Associates Architects LLC, the Bend firm representing the Tacoma-based bank, had told the council that the pyramid feature with the blue metal would be "modestly applied" as an accent to the new branch.

Several other buildings downtown, including Astoria Riverfront Trolley stops, have similar standing seam metal roofs.

But several residents agreed with the Historic Landmarks Commission assessment that the metal roofs do not blend with the city's objective for historic downtown.

"I think working to fit into the community goes a lot further than working to fit into corporate branding," said Anne Carpenter Fitzpatrick, a photographer and artist.

Councilor Cindy Price said it was probably the blue color that put some people off of the proposed roof. But neither the Historic Landmarks Commission nor the City Council is allowed to consider color when weighing the blueprints. Under city code, the review must focus on the scale, style, height, architectural detail and materials of a project.

See ROOFTOP, Page 10A



THURSDAY

Living deliberately

