

# Woman robbed on Astoria Riverwalk

By The Daily Astorian

A 32-year-old woman was robbed at knifepoint on the Astoria Riverwalk Monday morning, according to the Astoria Police Department.

The woman reported that she was walking her two dogs on the elevated area between Astoria Warehousing and the Holiday Inn Express when she was approached by a 40- to 50-year-old man about 6 feet tall, wearing a brown hat, blue jeans and a red and blue plaid shirt.

The man pointed a knife at the woman and demanded her purse, police said.

The purse contained some cash, the woman's identification and a partially filled bottle of pain medicine, she told police.

The man fled eastbound and the woman returned to her car at the Maritime Memorial to call police on the phone she left in her car. Astoria Police responded to the area, but were unable to locate anyone matching the description of the suspect.



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Police are searching for anyone who may have seen the incident on the Riverwalk

that occurred at about 9:55 a.m. Monday. Anyone with information is asked to contact Astoria

Police at 503-325-4411 or Officer Lance Shepherd at lshepherd@astoria.or.us

# Creative classes spring up at CCC

Clatsop Community College offers a selection of classes to teach new and interesting skills for the start of spring. Classes, held at the CCC's main campus in Astoria unless otherwise stated, include:

- "Cartooning." Learn to draw caricatures of the human form from local artist David Poole. The class takes place 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, March 31 to May 5, at the college's South County Center, 1455 N. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside. Cost is \$35.

- "Digital Photography: More Techniques for Camera & Computer." Explore your digital camera in this eight-week class taught by photographer Dwight Caswell. Focus on areas of photography that interest you and learn the use and value of your camera features. Be familiar with your camera manual and come prepared for a couple of field trips to practice what you have learned. Class is held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, March 31 to May 19.

- "Jewelry Metalsmithing." Make your own silver, brass or copper jewelry by using hand tools and precious metals to create cut-work of your own design. Bring safety glasses and contact the instructor at 503-325-0998 for a list of needed supplies. The class is taught by Virginia Hall from 6 to 8:20 p.m. Thursdays, April 2 to June 4. Cost is \$75.

- "Nature Journaling." Manage stress, and develop the skills and confidence to explore the region. Learn to observe the world in a whole new way by keeping a nature journal. Class is taught by Julie Tennis from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 1 to May 6. It includes four field trip days for on-site practice from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Cost is \$55.

- "Cast on & Knit." Learn the stitches, how to cast on, bind off, fix a dropped stitch and more. Come away with a completed project and the

skills to do more. Class is taught by Evy Berger from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays, April 4 to May 23. Cost is \$49 and includes all supplies needed to complete a swatch. Bring scissors and a measuring tape.

- "Meditation." Explore ways to clear your mind, still your thoughts and increase concentration through this non-religious practice. Led by Ron Maxted, class is held from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursdays, April 2 to June 3. Cost is \$29.

- "Tai Chi for Health." An ancient form of moving meditation, the movements of Tai Chi are slow, gentle and round. Practiced about 10 minutes a day on a consistent basis can increase health and mental benefits. Developed by the National Arthritis Foundation, this class is generally practiced standing up but can also be done sitting down. No experience required. It's taught by Ron Graham from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, April 1 to June 3.

- "Beginning Conversational Finnish." Learn the language and experience the culture of the far north; watch Finnish videos; and sample Finnish food. The class is taught by Helen Pitkanen from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays, March 30 to June 1. Cost is \$75. The required books are available at the CCC bookstore.

- "Travel Tips." Learn everything about planning an international trip, from the equipment needed to handling cultural differences. Learn about packing light, necessary documentation, traveling with medical considerations, prescriptions and diet restrictions, handling money and credit cards and more. Facilitated by LaRee Johnson with a variety of experienced travelers from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 2 to May 7. Cost is \$35.

Register now at [www.clatsopcc.edu/schedule](http://www.clatsopcc.edu/schedule) and search under the course title, or call 503-325-2402.

# No break for Elks from maintenance assessment

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The Seaside Elks will get no relief from the mandatory Downtown Maintenance District Assessment in 2015-16, but Seaside City Council promised to re-evaluate all properties included in the assessment during the summer.

At a meeting earlier this month, Christian Zupancic, a local lawyer who spoke on behalf of the Elks, asked the City Council for a reduced rate or total relief from the assessment fee for the nonprofit. At Monday's meeting, the council voted unanimously to keep the status quo for fiscal year 2015-16 but to further explore the topic at an August meeting.

The Downtown Maintenance District includes businesses from Roosevelt Drive to the Promenade that are located along Broadway, Avenue A, Avenue B, Columbia Street and Franklin Street. Businesses are charged a fee based on the number of frontage feet possessed by their property lots.

The dollar per front foot rate, according to the city's Administrative Assistant Kim Jordan, is based on two contracts the city pays for downtown landscaping and litter removal.

"These contractors keep the downtown landscape looking beautiful and the litter picked up in the downtown area," she said.

For 2014-15, nearly 170 lots were assessed at a rate of about \$8.84 per front foot to generate \$92,051. The Seaside Elks Lodge, which has two large parking lots along Avenue A, was required to pay \$1,038.19 for 117.4 feet of frontage for one lot and \$1,436.12 for 162.4 feet of frontage for another lot.

After it's completed, the assessment is sent to the county, which adds the fees to the property owners' Clatsop County taxes for the year.

The assessment for the upcoming fiscal year will start later this month when the city sends letters to property owners. They will have 30 days to provide comment or feedback before the City Council is presented with

an ordinance for first and second reading at its April 27 meeting. The ordinance likely will come back before council for a third and final reading, and adoption, at its May 11 meeting.

Earlier this month, when speaking on behalf of the Elks, Zupancic explained how the Elks is a nonprofit organization and typically exempt from property taxes. The organization donates more than \$35,000 per year in scholarships for high school seniors and other community programs and events, such as eye clinics for children, camps for speech- or hearing-impaired children and more.

"The more money you have to pay in assessments, the less is going to go back into the community," Zupancic said

Meanwhile, he added, the Elks' parking lots are generally open for public use free of charge, because they "can't really charge for the use of their parking without losing their nonprofit status in certain respects." The organization can only charge for use of its parking lots a few days each year, and it does so during events such as the Hood to Coast Relay.

"They get stuck between not being able to charge and having to pay maintenance fees," Zupancic said.

He said members were grateful the council considered the request for relief or some kind of reduction but the organization didn't have any expectations.

The motion at Monday's City Council meeting was to keep the Elks as part of the 2015-16 assessment. If the organization's lots were removed from consideration, it would require an approximately 2.7 percent rate increase per lot for other property owners, according to city staff.

In August, the council will meet to discuss the assessment and look at what businesses and organizations are included and what they're charged. A few new businesses in the maintenance district, which hasn't changed since 1983, are not currently included in the assessment, Jordan said.

"I think it's a really good idea for us to look at the whole thing, not just the Elks," City Counselor Tita Montero said.

## Notary seminar set

SEASIDE — A free Secretary of State Notary Public Seminar is being held from 9 a.m. to noon March 26 at the South County branch of Clatsop Community College, Room 2, 1455 N. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside.

The information presented covers the rules, regulations and best practices for Oregon notaries public, including how to properly identify the signer, what to record in the journal and the requirements of an Oregon notarial certificate. This training meets the education requirements for those applying for a commission. Current notaries are also encouraged to attend to refresh their memories and learn new content.

To register, go to <http://notsem.sos.state.or.us> or call 503-986-2200.

# Serial burglar arrested in Astoria

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria man suspected in several burglaries in the south slope neighborhoods was arrested last week after a two month search.

Astoria Police found Jesse Allan Pitts, 32, at about 1 p.m. Wednesday in the densely wooded area off of the 3800 block of Kensington Avenue in Astoria. An officer responded to a report of someone outside a home who ran off into the woods. The responding officer found Pitts by a campsite he set up with a camouflage tarp over the top of it.

It is unknown how long Pitts had been living at the campsite.

After a short foot pursuit, Pitts was arrested and charged with six counts of first-degree burglary. He was also arrested on a warrant for failing to appear in court for previous charges.

The six burglary charges relate to incidents reported on the 100 block of West Duane Street, the 200 block of West Exchange Street and 4000 block of Irving Avenue and the 3800 block of Kensington Avenue.

Police Chief Brad Johnston said Pitts could face more charges, upon further investigation.

"We believe we have enough tying him to other burglaries in the south slope area," Johnston said.

Police first arrested Pitts in November for two counts of first-degree burglary after he was seen in houses and porches around the 200 block of West Duane Street, West Ex-

change Street and West Grand Avenue.

In November, Police found Pitts in an attic at a vacant residence on the 100 block of Hume Avenue. He was arrested and booked without incident for a felony warrant and the two counts of burglary.

Prior to Pitts' arrest in November, police received reports from part-time residents who found evidence that someone had been living inside their residence. In one case, police said, Pitts had broken through an interior wall. In another case, a resident came face to face with Pitts in their basement.

Pitts stole mostly perishable food items from the homes, according to police.

## WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

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Contact: Steve Axtell • 360-430-0885 or John Anderson • 360-269-2500

## A heartfelt thank-you

to the Warrenton Christian Church and to the friends and family who came to share in the celebration of life for Vernon Hart. It was a beautiful day to share heartfelt memories with everyone who he knew and loved so much. Thank you!

Sincerely, the family of Vernon Hart

## Preschool and early childhood RESOURCE REFERRAL FAIR

Warrenton Grade School  
820 SW Cedar Warrenton

Parents of soon-to-be preschoolers

You're Invited!

Come meet the local preschools and early childhood providers — learn about their curriculum, philosophies, tuition and more!



Free! and Activity area provided for kids

CLATSOP KINDER READY, NW PARENTING, AND OTHER LOCAL RESOURCES WILL BE ATTENDING TO PROVIDE INFO TO PARENTS

Sponsored by: MOMS Club of Astoria, Clatsop kinder ready, NW Parenting  
[momsclubofastoria.org](http://momsclubofastoria.org)



## Early Childhood Health & Education Clinic For Clatsop County Kids

SIGN UP TODAY!

FREE For all 3-5 year olds, regardless of income

April 14, 2015

The Astoria Armory  
1636 Exchange St., Astoria

April 22, 2015

Seaside Convention Center  
415 First Avenue, Seaside

Early screening is an important step to successful learning.

Your child will receive the following exams and screenings:

~ Physical ~ Hearing ~ School Readiness ~ Speech  
~ Nutrition ~ Vision ~ Dental ~ Immunization

Call your local elementary school or Head Start center for an appointment by April 7 for the Astoria clinic or April 15 for the Seaside clinic.

Limited transportation help is available upon request. se habla espanol.

Sponsors are NW Early Learning Council, NW Educational Service District and Clatsop Kinder Ready. Major health & education groups of Clatsop County are partnering to make this clinic possible.