

Citizen Police Academy applications online now

The Astoria Police Department is hosting the eighth Citizen Police Academy, starting in June. Classes will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday, beginning June 24 and ending July 15. The Citizen Police Academy is open to community members who are interested in how the Astoria Police Department works.

The goal of the Citizen Police Academy is to form and maintain partnerships between the community and the police, by educating community residents about the role of law enforcement and encouraging citizens and the police to work together.

Participants have the opportunity to learn about and experience the day-to-day operations of the department, and they will tour the department, learn about criminal investigations, the functions of patrol, see basic defensive tactics, tour the jail and have the option to shoot various department firearms. All applicants, who must be age 18 or older, are subject to a criminal background investigation.

An application packed can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/CPAApp>, or by emailing Officer Andrew Randall at arandall@astoria.or.us

Applications need to be turned into the Astoria Police Department no later than 5 p.m. May 25.

WDFW boosts halibut fishing options on Columbia River area

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Anglers can expect halibut fishing seasons this year to be similar to 2014 for the Puget Sound and coastal waters, with some additional fishing opportunities in the Columbia River area. WDFW has revised the season structure for the Columbia River fishery to encourage anglers to fish for halibut there, said Heather Reed, WDFW coastal policy coordinator. The season for that area will run continuously instead of being divided between an early and late season.

"We continue to look for ways to increase fishing opportunity in the Columbia River area, where the catch has been below the quota in recent years," Reed said.

Anglers will again be allowed to retain all bottomfish while having halibut on board their boats in the nearshore section of the Columbia River fishery (Marine Area 1), which opens May 4 on a Monday through Wednesday schedule. Additional changes will allow anglers to retain flatfish — in addition to sablefish and Pacific cod — with halibut on board, during the all-depth fishery that opens May 1 on a Thursday through Sunday schedule.

The 2015 Pacific Coast halibut season for Marine Area 1 (Columbia River) opens May 1, four days per week (Thursday through Sunday) until the subarea quota is taken, or Sept. 30, whichever occurs first. Five hundred pounds of the subarea quota is reserved for an incidental fishery in the

nearshore area, which will be open May 4 on a Monday through Wednesday schedule, which are the days the all depth halibut fishery is closed.

Coordinates for the nearshore fishery are available online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/creel/halibut>. The all depth quota is 9,754 pounds; the nearshore quota is 500 pounds.

WDFW considers management measures for coastal sport bottomfish fisheries every two years through the Pacific Fishery Management Council process. Regulations approved by the council include depth restrictions and area closures designed to reduce encounters with yelloweye and canary rockfish in coastal waters.

Anglers are strongly encouraged to use a descending device to release these rockfish species, as well as other rockfish that anglers don't intend to retain. Information about descending devices can be found at 1.usa.gov/1ytsAZH

In all marine areas open to halibut fishing, there is a one-fish daily catch limit and no minimum size restriction. Anglers may possess a maximum of two fish in any form and must record their catch on a WDFW catch record card.

Changes to the effective date of the WDFW Sport Fishing Pamphlet will mean that the most up-to-date information on recreational halibut and bottomfish seasons and regulations will be found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/creel/halibut>

Seaside moves closer to allowing medical marijuana dispensaries

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The city of Seaside is moving ahead with its planning for where, how and when medical marijuana dispensaries will be able to operate within city limits and the Urban Growth Boundary.

The Seaside City Council and Seaside Planning Commission met Monday night for a joint work session on the topic.

The Planning Commission, which received public input at its March 3 meeting, is not recommending to add any zoning restrictions to those placed by the Oregon Health Authority's Medical Marijuana Dis-

pensary Program, which state a dispensary must be more than 1,000 feet from a school and from another dispensary. Seaside's Zoning Ordinance allows drug stores as a permissible use in a commercial zone, which is where dispensaries could be operated.

"We felt it would be unreasonably burdensome" to add more restrictions or regulations than those provided by the state, Planning Commission Chairman Ray Romine said, adding they felt "no desire or great need for other restrictions." The commission reached a consensus, he said, that, in all fairness, the city should treat dispensaries like pharmacies in regard to zoning. Given the existing restric-

tions, there are only about four places a dispensary could operate.

Mayor Don Larson did not agree. He feels other restrictions should be considered.

"Otherwise I think this could get totally, totally out of line," he said. He suggested adding restrictions to a dispensary's distance from a park or day care center and its hours of operation.

City Manager Mark Winstanley said the city's parks are not in commercial zones. He cautioned that, if more restrictions are placed, they could work in reverse: Someone wanting to operate a day care, for instance, could not do so within 800 or 900 feet of an existing dis-

pensary, which would limit the community's access to day care.

City staff will develop a draft ordinance and revision to the business license ordinance to bring before City Council at its April 13 meeting. The traditional time line, Winstanley said, would be for a first and second reading to occur at that meeting and then a third reading and adoption to occur at the second April meeting.

The city is not addressing recreational marijuana until the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, the state agency selected to implement the recreational marijuana law passed by voters in November, has announced its proposed restrictions and regulations.

Thursday is sneak peek for 'The Real Lewis and Clark Story'

There is a free sneak peek of the fifth annual performance of "The Real Lewis and Clark Story or How Finns Discovered Astoria" Thursday at the Astor Street Opry Company, 129 W. Bond St. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., and show time is at 7 p.m. There are no reservations, and seating is first come, first served. The Miss Vivian

Saloon will be open. The show officially opens Friday, and runs Friday and Saturday nights, plus two Sunday matinees, through April 19. Tickets can be purchased at the door one hour before each show time, but reservations are recommended by calling 503-325-6104 or going to www.astorstreetycompany.com

Public health open house April 7

A public health open house event will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. April 7 at the Judge Guy Boyington Building in Astoria for residents to learn more about local health programs.

Oregon Public Health Director Lillian Shirley will attend the event along with Clatsop County Public Health staff. In addition, more than a dozen services and programs covering disease control, nutrition, environmental health and other areas will be in attendance.

Stakeholders from hospitals and medical offices, health, education and social service agencies and others have also been invited to participate in the event.

The list of topics and schedule of presentations are as follows (times are approximate):

- 2:15 p.m. — Status of public health in Clatsop County
- 2:30 p.m. — Onsite septic systems and environmental health
- 2:45 p.m. — Health promotion and tobacco prevention programs

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