

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

142nd YEAR, No. 198

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

Astoria balances sewer work, rate hikes

Sewer project extension could give ratepayers some relief

By DERRICK DePLEGGE
The Daily Astorian

MORE INSIDE

Turn to page 12A for a graphic detailing data showing how peak surcharge costs on ratepayers may be reduced.

Astoria's vow to minimize the flow of wastewater into the Columbia River after heavy rains will take six years longer to achieve, but water ratepayers could get some relief from a surcharge used to help finance the sewer project.

The state Department of Environmental Quality has granted the city's request for an extension to 2028 to complete the sewer improvements necessary to meet the federal Clean Water Act. The city, which first committed to the work in 1993, had pre-

viously intended to finish the project by 2022.

Water ratepayers, who essentially pay three times every time they turn on a faucet or flush a toilet — a basic charge, a consumption charge, and a surcharge for the sewer project — may receive a break on the surcharge. City financial analysts estimate

the surcharge rate, which is now 86 percent of the basic charge and consumption charge, will climb to a peak of 110 percent, instead of 151 percent. So while ratepayers will pay the surcharge longer, the peak rate should be lower.

"Our main goal with the time extension is to reduce the peak cost to ratepayers," Cindy Moore, a city support engineer, said in an email. "Additional time also gives us the ability to gather more data to better scope the projects, which could reduce the overall program cost."

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ALEX PAJUNAS — The Daily Astorian file

A dump truck, seen through a 24-inch-diameter pipe, waits in line behind other trucks for a load of dirt excavated from the site of the 1.2-million gallon storage tank that is part of the Denver Street Combined Sewer Overflow Project Phase 3 at Tapiola Park in 2010.

Practice makes safer



Photos by JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

A MH60T Jayhawk and Coast Guard ship participate in training exercises on the Columbia River near the Astoria Bridge Wednesday.

U.S. Coast Guard crews had training exercises Wednesday near the Astoria Bridge.

The Coast Guard's 13th District is made up of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. More than 3,000 active duty and reserve members, Coast Guard Auxiliarists, and civilian employees are stationed in the Northwest.



A bird flies by as a MH60T Jayhawk helicopter and Coast Guard ship practice on the Columbia River Wednesday.



A Coast Guard rescue swimmer is lowered from a MH60T Jayhawk into the Columbia River during an exercise near the Astoria Bridge Wednesday.

Assault at gunpoint injures 3

Suspects flee; possible hostage

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Three people were injured in an assault at gunpoint at an apartment Friday morning in the 300 block of Alameda Avenue in Astoria.

Astoria Police initially responded at 8:25 a.m. to a report of someone shot at the apartment. When officers arrived no one was shot, but two men had been assaulted at gunpoint. A third person suffered injuries from a chemical spray that was discharged in the house at the time of the assaults.

Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston said the two assault victims had relatively significant injuries to the head and body. Police transported the three victims to Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Officers learned that at least two suspects entered the house and assaulted the occupants at gunpoint. They struck two victims with firearms and batons causing significant

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A better boatyard

Committee holds first meeting to look to the future

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

At a March 17 Port of Astoria Commission meeting, Executive Director Jim Knight headed off a barrage of public comment on the impending closure of the Pier 3 boatyard. He announced that after a meeting with the state, the Port was canceling the closure.

The Port would create an ad hoc committee to look at its operation and future, he said, and provide a recommendation to the Port Commission.

The boatyard committee, a collection of boatyard users with Knight as a facilitator, convened for the first time Wednesday. Committee members included:

- Ed Green, a commercial fisherman.



Jim Knight

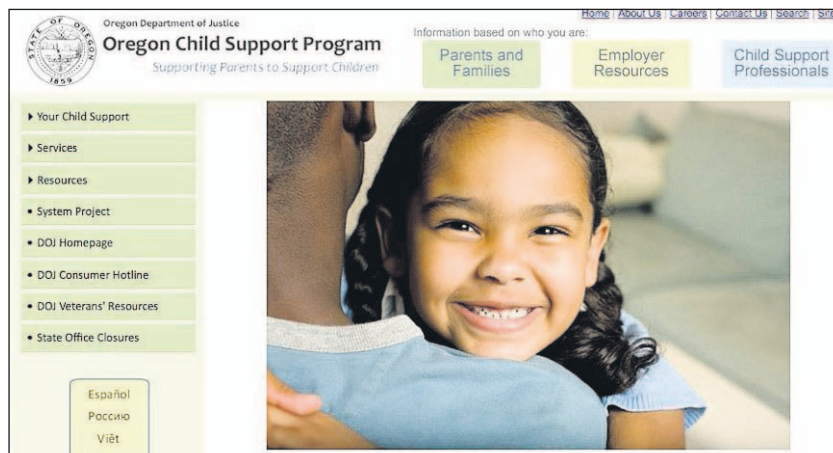
State websites may not be secure

Out-of-date software leaves web visitors vulnerable to attack

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregonians who used state websites to pay child support, file unemployment claims and renew their vehicle registration in recent months were vulnerable to attackers who could intercept Social Security numbers and other sensitive information.

The state and private contractors left the door open to what is known as a "man in the middle attack" by using outdated encryption protocols on some websites. In that scenario, the attacker intercepts data as it's passed from the sender



Outdated encryption software on several websites operated by the state of Oregon, including one used for making online child support payments, have put user data at risk.

to the intended recipient.

A spokeswoman for the Employment Department said Thursday that, to her knowledge, no one's personal

information had been compromised due to the weakness.

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