



# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR



Photos by JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Column glows teal in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Column will remain lit throughout the month of April.

## ALIGHT WITH AWARENESS



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard gather under the Astoria Column during an event in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month Friday.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Sharon Moore, a specialist in the SA Peer Center, speaks during a ceremony in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month at the Astoria Column Friday.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

People gather at the base of the Astoria Column to listen to speakers during a ceremony in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month Friday.

## Astoria backs off dog park

Mayor cites budget woes at parks and rec

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

Ruh, roh. The Astoria City Council Monday night backed away from a dog park because of budget constraints at the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

The council had made finding a dog park one of its goals for this year and had zeroed in on a potential deal with Columbia Memorial Hospital to temporarily use John Warren Field, the former football field of the Astoria High School Fishermen.

But with the Parks and Recreation Department already struggling with upkeep at existing parks, the council voted 4-0 at the request of Mayor Arline LaMear to remove a dog park from its priorities.

See DOG PARK, Page 12A

## Cost of burials jumps

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

The cost to bury a loved one at Ocean View Cemetery just got more expensive.

Fees will jump by 40 percent through June and then go up another 10 percent in July. Annual fee hikes are also possible for the next several years.

The Astoria City Council voted 4-0 Monday night for the fee increases to help improve patchy maintenance at the city-owned cemetery in Warrenton.

The average cost had been \$1,660 for burial and \$655 for cremation, which was considerably lower than public and private cemeteries in Oregon. The fees had not been increased since 1996.

Budget cuts during the recession caused the city's Parks and Recreation Department to eliminate staff at Ocean View and ration maintenance.

See BURIALS, Page 12A

## Mink industry thrives despite threats

Farmers bolster security, practice sustainability

By JOHN O'CONNELL  
Capital Press

Kevin Flynn once evaluated U.S. military bases for security breaches and protected convoys from attack.

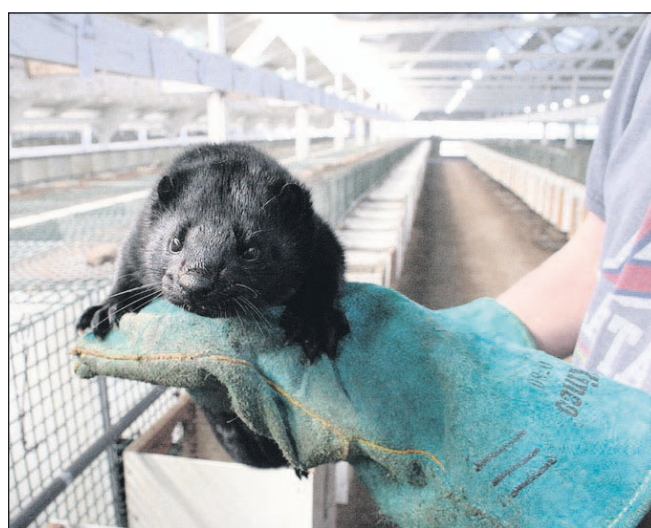
Nowadays, Flynn puts those battleground skills to use for mink farmers, checking their operations for vulnerabilities and advising them how to avoid the threat of attacks by animal rights extremists.

In the five years he's been in charge of mink industry

security, working for Oregon-based Fur Commission USA, Flynn's results have prompted the Canadian fur industry to solicit his services, and the European industry is looking into modeling its security program after his approach.

Flynn's pedigree includes 18 years in domestic law enforcement, employment with the U.S. Army military police and U.S. Air Force Security Forces and private security contracting in the Middle East.

He's convinced farm security will become more important for other sectors of animal agriculture — and even for farms that grow genetically modified crops — as activists



MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI — EO Media Group

Joe Ruef holds a mink at his farm in Mount Angel.

broaden their focus.

"It's a new area," Flynn

said. "There was definitely a vacuum there, where nobody

was applying any of this to the farms."

With U.S. pelt sales peaking at \$400 million in 2013, the mink industry represents a tiny niche in U.S. agriculture. It remains, however, a large target for harassment by animal rights extremists, Fur Commission USA Executive Director Michael Whelan said. He said mink producers were victims of 20-25 attacks per year from the late 1990s into the early 2000s. Since then, the number of attacks has dropped dramatically, with about 15 recorded during the past decade; 13 of those occurred in 2013.

See MINK, Page 12A

