

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR

## Kidnap ordeal ends, police nab fugitive

Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston speaks at a press conference regarding the arrest of Russell Deviney Thursday.



JOSHUA BESSEX  
The Daily Astorian

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Russell Wayne Deviney, the Everett, Wash., man accused of kidnapping a 15-year-old California girl Saturday, was caught Thursday just outside Cannon Beach.

Cannon Beach Police and FBI agents arrested Deviney, 48, at about 11:15 a.m.

He was found behind a locked gate in a privately owned wooded area south of Cannon Beach.

A passer-by saw Deviney and called the Cannon Beach Police Department.

When Deviney was asked his name, he simply said, "I'm the guy you're looking for."

Deviney is being charged with first-degree kidnapping, first-degree rape, first-degree unlawful

sexual penetration, first-degree sodomy and first-degree sexual abuse.

A nationwide felony warrant had been issued out of Clatsop County Circuit Court for his arrest.

"We cannot go into specific details about the information we've obtained during



Russell Deviney

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## National park hikes fees

Lewis and Clark entrance fees go from \$3 to \$5

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Visitors to Lewis and Clark National Historical Park will notice a slight increase in entrance fees next year.

Beginning Jan. 1, visitor entrance fees at the national park will increase from \$3 to \$5 per person. The annual pass will increase from \$10 to \$20 per person.

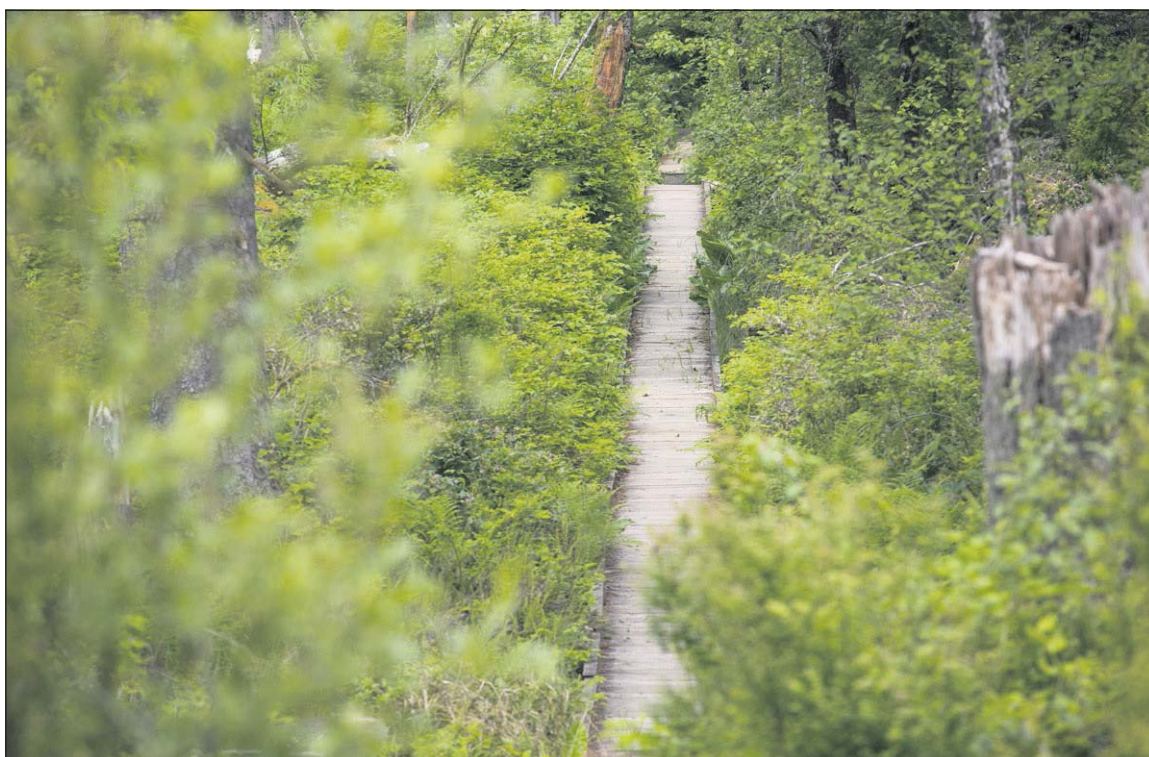
The fee increase, which was first proposed last fall, follows a directive from the National Park Service to update entrance fees at 131 of its 401 public properties for the first time since 2006.

Scott Tucker, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park superintendent, calls the change a modest increase considering the original NPS proposal was to hike day-use fees from \$3 to \$10 and annual fees from \$10 to \$40.

"After carefully considering the impact of a fee increase on visitors and community members, we came to the conclusion that this is the right course of action to improve facilities and services important to visitors," Tucker said.

The park received 80 comments during a monthlong public comment period that ended in December. Of the 80 comments, three were fully supportive of the increase, 40 wanted a lower increase and 37 were not supportive. Based on the input, Tucker recommended the lowest possible increase to the regional NPS office, which forwarded it to Washington, D.C.

Tucker received word that his recommendation was approved and will go into effect next year. Other national park fee increases will begin as early as Memorial Day.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Visitor fee increases will be used for improving roads and trails — including the Fort to Sea Trail shown here — and help fund handicap accessibility at Lewis and Clark National Historic Park.



Submitted photo

Doug Graham, with the National Park Service, works on the historic steel fence panels at the Salt Works in Seaside Jan. 22. The panels were removed and taken to a local metal fabrication shop, where they were sandblasted, areas of corrosion rebuilt, galvanized, and painted.

The increase will not impact the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation-

### Visitor experience

Tucker said all revenue from the visitor fees goes toward projects directly tied to the visitor's experience at the park.

For instance, renovating his office would not be done with visitor fees, Tucker said, but improving trails and roads would be a focus of visitor revenue.

Previous fee-based projects included the Kwis Kwis Trail extension and South Slough Trail construction, canoe landing improvements at Netul Landing, summer camps, local youth employment and community outreach.

Annually, the park brings in about \$125,000 from visitor fees. The upcoming fee increase would add \$50,000 annually to the park. The additional funds will be used for upkeep at the Fort to Sea Trail,

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## A kick in the wallet

Taxpayers to get \$473 million kicker; state gets \$264 million more to spend

By PETER WONG  
Capital Bureau

State economists are projecting both a \$473 million rebate to taxpayers next year and up to \$264 million more for the state budget in the next two years.

"There is a substantial improvement in the Oregon economy," said Josh Lehner, senior economist with the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.

He and state economist Mark McMullen presented Thursday what McMullen called "an aggressive forecast" to lawmakers on the House and Senate revenue committees.

The additional \$264 million is likely to fuel spending on schools and state services.

Although Democratic majorities pushed through a state school fund of \$7.3 billion in April, Republican minorities and school advocates say the fund should be at least \$7.5 billion.

When lawmakers passed that budget, they also committed at least 40 percent of any additional money from the forecast to schools. That amounts to \$105 million, not counting anything else lawmakers may do.

As soon as McMullen started explaining the kicker projection, a group of students started chanting, "No kicker, no cuts, no ifs, ands or buts."

Oregon State Police escorted them out of the hearing room, and eight of them were arrested later as they continued chanting in a hallway and declined to disperse.

### Projected kicker

The rebate to individual taxpayers, known as the "kicker," is a result of actual tax collections exceeding 2013 projections by 2 percent or more. The projected amount is \$473 million, up from \$349 million in the

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## Warrenton faces steep rate jumps

City had put off double-digit water, sewer hikes

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Shying away from politically unpopular water and sewer rate increases has caught up with Warrenton, where the proposed city budget for next fiscal year calls for steep hikes.

Water rates would go up 15 percent. Sewer rates would rise 2.5 percent. A storm sewer service fee would double to 20 percent of a customer's sewer charge, up from 10 percent.

A household that uses 4,000 gallons of water a month would pay \$115.28, according to city finance staff, compared with \$104.86 today.

Rate studies had recommended double-digit increases to help pay for the city's water infrastructure. But the city had mostly opted for a more conservative track until a 10 percent water rate hike



Kurt Fritsch

was approved for this year.

The city's reluctance to agree to more significant rate hikes was exacerbated by the loss of water revenue over the past few years after a Pacific Coast Seafoods processing plant burned down and Camp Rilea and Gearhart turned to other sources.

"We're playing catch up from what we were advised to do five and six years ago," City Manager Kurt Fritsch said at a city budget committee meeting Thursday night. "And I realize it's difficult to do that politically every year and people don't like to see these increases."

Fritsch suggested the city consider new water and sewer rate studies that might provide a road map for future increases.

Some residents had complained last

year about rate increases and could be stunned by the recommendations in the budget.

"My concern is that I just don't want to see 15 percent (rate increases) every single year," said Paul Mitchell, a spokesman for Columbia Memorial Hospital who serves on the budget committee.

Mitchell said the city has to "find a way to sell the story, make sure people understand it so they're not just feeling that you're shoving it down their throats."

He said residents need to have ownership in the reasons behind the rate increases. "Give them ownership of it," he said. "If they have ownership, it won't be as hard to swallow it. They'll understand it more."

Overall, the proposed city budget for the fiscal year that starts in July is \$29.2 million, up from \$25.2 million this fiscal year.

The city budget committee, which will meet again Thursday, will make a recommendation to the City Commission. The commission is expected to take up the spending plan in June.



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