

## Astoria Column closed for repairs

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Column is closed for repairs through June.

Workers have erected scaffolding around the popular monument as part of a \$1 million restoration project.

Visitors can still enter the park at Coxcomb Hill and see panoramic views of the Columbia River, the Astoria Bridge, Youngs Bay and Youngs River. But the interior of the column with

the steps leading up to the observation deck is closed.

Angela Cosby, the director of the city's Parks and Recreation Department, said the city hopes to reopen the column by the Fourth of July.

Friends of the Astoria Column, a nonprofit, is financing the repairs for the city through private donations.

Built in 1926, the column is the city's defining landmark. The last major renovation was in 1995.



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian

Scaffolding has gone up around the Astoria Column during a \$1 million renovation project.



Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class April Davis

Oregon Army National Guard soldiers with the 234th Engineer Company stand in formation as they are welcomed home during a demobilization ceremony held in Salem Saturday.

## Camp Rilea company returns to adulation

The Daily Astorian

SALEM — The Oregon Army National Guard welcomed home approximately 180 soldiers of the 234th Engineer Company, 1249th Engineer Battalion, during a demobilization ceremony Saturday at West Salem High School.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown; U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden; U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader; Maj. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, adjutant general in Oregon; Miss Oregon Rebecca Anderson; and other dignitaries attended.

The 234th Engineer Company is headquartered in Warrenton at Camp Rilea and includes a platoon-sized detachment located in Prineville.

The unit mobilized last June to Fort Bliss, Texas, where it conducted training in preparation for deployment to Kuwait.

The soldiers spent the approximately nine-month deployment conducting carpentry, plumbing, electrical and other construction missions throughout Kuwait and the surrounding region.

At Camp Buehring in northern Kuwait, the soldiers installed sidewalks and repaired facilities for training, morale, welfare and recreation.

At Camp Arifjan, south of Kuwait City, the soldiers constructed housing and improved security checkpoints, drainage systems and existing infrastructure to improve security, safety and operations around camp and the Kuwait Navy Base. The maintenance section



Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class April Davis

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, left, and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown welcome home Oregon Army National Guard soldiers of the 234th Engineer Company during a demobilization ceremony held in Salem Saturday.

## Convicted man violates probation, gets 45 months

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

An Aloha man was sentenced Friday in Clatsop County Circuit Court to nearly four years in prison after multiple probation violations.

Robert Eldon Myers III, 27, was on probation after being convicted in three separate cases involving domestic violence against his mother, breaking into a vehicle and stealing items, and possession of methamphetamine. The charges occurred in Clatsop County in August 2013 and September 2014.

Myers — who has about a dozen other previous convictions including assault and resisting arrest — recently violated his probation by breaking curfew and alcohol use. He had other probation violations, but was allowed to continue probation.

At his probation violation hearing Friday, defense lawyer Mary Murk explained Myers suffers from a mental health disorder and would be better suited in the county's treatment court, rather than in prison.

"In order for him to be successful in the community, he is going to need wraparound services," Murk said. "If he is in a prison setting, I don't think he is going to get that level of care."

Myers offered a similar plea to Justice Cindee Matyas, who oversees the treatment court.

"I would love to have a try at your mental health services," Myers said. "At least a chance."

Prosecutor Scott Mc-

Cracken said it is not about the merits of treatment court, but rather that Myers violated his plea deal with the state.

"This is about the fact that he has not succeeded on probation and it is time to revoke him," McCracken said. "It's speculative that treatment court would even be beneficial to Mr. Myers."

As part of the 45-month sentence, Judge Matyas recommended Myers continue drug and alcohol treatment in prison.

"I do wish you luck, and it's really up to you," she said.



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also repaired vehicles and support equipment needed for missions.

With the onset of Operation Inherent Resolve, the operation name for U.S. intervention against the Islamic State group, the 234th Engineer Company conducted engineering assessments and construction missions to expand and improve forward operating bases in Iraq and Jordan.

Near the end of the deployment, as missions in Iraq, Jordan and Afghanistan came to an end, the company helped construct portable and containerized housing in Kuwait.



Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class April Davis

Oregon Army National Guard Spc. Marek Dinges of the 234th Engineer Company holds his 1-year-old son Camden following a demobilization ceremony held in Salem Saturday after a nine-month deployment in the Middle East.

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