

Fire district adds 'new-used' ladder truck, virtually free

Acquired through military surplus program

By KATIE WILSON
EO Media Group

OCEAN PARK, Wash. — With more multi-story buildings going up on the Long Beach Peninsula, a ladder truck recently acquired by Pacific County Fire District 1 through a federal military surplus program is an important addition to the department's fleet of firefighting engines and trucks, Fire Chief Jacob Brundage says.

For the past decade, the department has relied on the Long Beach Fire Department's ladder truck. If firefighters needed to cut through a roof to fight a top-story fire or ventilate a building, rescue a person from a top floor or respond to a fire at a multi-occupant structure such as condos or apartments, they would call on Long Beach. If

the ladder truck was available, it would head north. If it wasn't, Fire District 1 firefighters would have to get creative with the ladders and techniques on hand.

"If someone had to evacuate to a third story balcony, we don't have a ladder big enough to reach them," Brundage said.

Long Beach has always been generous with its ladder truck and crew, but Fire District 1 responds to more of these kinds of fires, Brundage said, and added that, in such emergency situations, every minute counts. It has long made sense for the department to try to get its own ladder truck, for firefighter safety and to ensure it can respond effectively to many types of fires.

This recent acquisition was not in the budget.

Then, about a year ago, the department heard a ladder truck could become available through the Firefighter Property Program, managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Such trucks rarely wind up as surplus, Brundage said. Often they will be shuffled around to other federally managed areas or departments, Indian reservations for example. Sometimes they are sent to other countries. This particular truck was in use at a naval submarine base in Bangor near Bremerton, Wash. It was an opportunity Fire District 1 couldn't ignore.

"It took some paperwork and some time and we got it, which is fantastic," Brundage said.

It only cost the department



Submitted Photo
Fire Chief Jacob Brundage checks out a "gently used" fire truck recently acquired by Pacific County Fire District No. 1.

the gas to get up there and bring it back to the peninsula, though it will have to put approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 down to outfit the truck with things like extrication equip-

ment and breathing apparatus, modify the station door to accommodate the large vehicle and train firefighters in both how to use the truck as well as how to integrate

it with the other engines and trucks when responding to calls.

"It was essentially turn-key for us," Brundage said.

The 1998 ladder truck has been well-maintained and received close to \$250,000 in upgrades and servicing before the department got it. The naval base upgraded all of its hoses and cables.

The truck is not in service yet. The department is waiting until it is fully equipped and firefighters have completed the necessary training; it hopes to have the truck in action by the end of September.

The ladder truck joins Fire District 1's six pumpers, four water tenders and four brush trucks. With the ability to hold 250 gallons of water, the ladder truck will replace a 25-year-old pumper.

Clatsop County fills human resources post

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Manager Scott Somers announced Tuesday the hiring of a new human resources manager for the county.

Elizabeth Lawless has nine years experience in human resources and personnel work with various organizations. Most recently, Lawless worked as the human resources director for a health care provider in Wichita, Kan.

She is a graduate of the University of Oregon.

"I am thrilled to join the team," she said. "It sounds like an exciting place to work."

Lawless is expected to begin on or around Sept. 1, and will oversee human resources for the county's 202 employees.

She replaces former Human Resources Manager Dean Perez, who left Clatsop County earlier this year to become HR director in Bothell, Wash.

Astoria home invasion suspects reach plea deals

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Two of the six suspects connected to an Astoria home invasion in April have reached plea agreements.

Tasha H. Van Dolah, 34, of Tillamook, and Kevin John Morse, 26, of Astoria, recently pleaded to a lesser charge of third-degree robbery. Both were originally charged with 13 counts of robbery, assault, burglary, unlawful use of a weapon, theft and menacing.

Morse was sentenced Tuesday to three years probation. If he violates the probation, he will face four years in prison.

Van Dolah has a sentencing hearing in August, when

she will receive the same sentence.

She and Morse acted as lookouts during the home invasion where Anthony Victor Lane and Joseph Vernon Armstrong entered the residence on the 300 block of Alameda Avenue wearing masks and demanded money and cellphones, according to court documents.

Armstrong, 31, of Tillamook, and Lane, 30, of St. Helens, allegedly struck two men with firearms and batons and took items from the home. They then reportedly stole two purses, a cellphone, a stereo speaker and fled the residence in a

Oldsmobile Bravada, court documents state.

The assaulted men had significant head and body injuries. Two other women were injured in the residence from pepper spray.

Armstrong and Lane have court hearings scheduled in October.

Amanda Maye Preston, 26, of Tillamook, an alleged getaway car driver, has a court hearing Thursday. She

is being offered the same plea deal as Van Dolah and Morse, according to the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office.

Leticia Vivian Westfall, 21, of Astoria, another alleged lookout, is the only one not charged with the same 13 counts.

She is charged with two counts of hindering prosecution, and is due back in court in October.

Judge Nelson suffers heart attack

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge Philip Nelson suffered a heart attack Saturday.

It is unclear when he will return to court.

In his absence, Trial Court Administrator Lee Merrill will have to decide if it is necessary

to contact the Office of the State Court Administrator and request a judge to preside temporarily.

The state office is able to pull from a pool of retired judges across the state through a Judge Member Program. Judges are able to retire early if they agree to give a certain number of days each year on assignment where

ever they are needed.

Nelson became a Circuit Court judge in 1992, and is the longest-serving elected official in Clatsop County. He is up for re-election at the end of 2016.

He is one of three Circuit Court judges in Clatsop County along with Paula Brownhill and Cindee Matyas.

County seeking volunteers for property tax appeal board

The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners is seeking applications for those interested in serving on the county Board of Property Tax Appeals for the 2015-16 term.

The property tax appeals board hears petitions from taxpayers seeking to decrease their real market or assessed property values. The board also considers requests to excuse penalties or late filings of real or personal property returns.

Applicants must be Clatsop County residents, but cannot be employees of the county or of any tax district within the county.

The Board of Commissioners appoints two pools of

individuals. One consisting of the governing body's designee or a member of the governing body, and the second comprised of non-office holding residents of the county from which the county clerk selects three to serve on the appeals board. Training is provided.

The committee holds several daytime meetings beginning the first Monday in February to hear petitions. The committee adjourns no later than April 15, 2016, with the term ending June 30, 2016.

Application forms for the appointments are available online at www.co.clatsop.or.us or the Clatsop County Manager's Office, 800 Exchange St., Suite 410, Astoria, OR, 503-325-1000.

Applications must be completed and turned in by 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24 to be considered.

College offers outdoor photography course

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College offers an intensive outdoor photography course, "Outdoor Camerawork" from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday with well-known photographer David Lee Myers.

Each day, participants will go out and photograph a series in a variety of locations. The workshop focus is on finding worthwhile scenes; composition and framing; and working with light.

Most hours will be out in the field with cameras, exploring making effective images. Results will be reviewed in class, along with technical tools and settings.

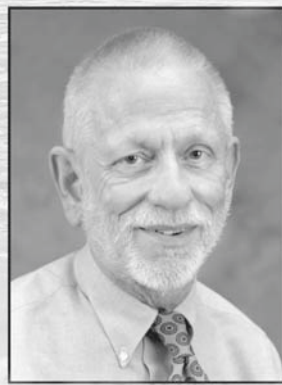
Sprinkled in will be demonstrations of how the camera controls work and how to use the camera for effective expression, starting

with the basics and progressing to most capabilities of modern cameras.

Throughout 40 years of teaching college photography, Myers said he has enjoyed helping people find their own voices to explore the joys and challenges of life. In his decade at Clatsop Community College, Myers introduced a fully digital curriculum. He has lived and photographed in the Columbia-Pacific since 1970, and his work can be seen at www.DavidLeeMyersPhoto.com

Digital cameras will be most convenient for the reviews. Film cameras may be used, but the college does not have developing facilities. The workshop uses the graphics lab classroom, with Photoshop on iMacs. Participants may use those, though Myers' will teach digital processing and printing the following week.

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Q: We miss Bill Dodge! Where do we go to find him?

A: Bill W. Dodge has a soft spot in his heart for Astoria and we have one for him as well. Thanks to Columbia River Maritime Museum and their special relationship with Bill he is at Astoria Sunday Market the first Sunday of each month. He is best known for his whimsical, colorful and often humorous and highly detailed paintings. His depictions of Astoria capture the heart and soul of this maritime community.

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Q: Why does my front load washer smell like mildew...is there a solution?

A: The mildew smell is caused by residual detergent left in the sump of the washer. Most laundry detergent contains protein fillers which are derived from animal fat. Make sure you are using an HE (high efficiency) detergent without these protein fillers. After each use of your washer you should wipe down the rubber door seal and leave the door ajar so the interior dries out. Roby's recommends our Excelsior HE liquid detergent available exclusively at Roby's!



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THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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