

Smoking banned in Astoria parks

City Council also rejects rezoning for vacation rental

By DERRICK DePLEDGE

The Daily Astorian

Smoking will soon be banned in Astoria parks.

The Astoria City Council voted 4-1 Monday night to ban smoking and other tobacco use in parks to help promote healthier living, decrease exposure to second-hand smoke and reduce litter.

The city's ban will also apply to smoking marijuana, which is already prohibited in public under state law.

The ban, which takes effect in 30 days, was adopted

with no significant public opposition. City Councilor Russ Warr voted against the prohibition, however. He explained in August that he has "a real, basic problem deep in my heart when people ban things that are legal to do just because they don't like them."

Clatsop County agreed to ban smoking and other tobacco use in county parks earlier this year.

In other business Monday night, the City Council:

- Rejected Clatsop Community College's request to rezone the Josie Peper Building at 16th Street and Franklin Avenue from high-density residential to general commercial.

The college had reached an agreement to sell the property to a buyer who wanted to convert the building into a second home and vacation rental, but

the sale was contingent on the rezoning.

Neighbors told the City Council earlier this month that a vacation rental is not appropriate for the neighborhood. The rezoning request would have also covered the college's Performing Arts Center next door to the Josie Peper Building.

- Agreed to proceed with the cash purchase of a new ladder truck for Astoria Fire Department.

The fire truck, which was included in the city's budget for this fiscal year, will cost about \$950,000. The City Council has approved using money carried over from last fiscal year to pay for the new vehicle.

- Authorized spending more than \$42,000 on social-service grants to nonprofit community organizations,

including Clatsop Community Action, The Harbor and Helping Hands.

The Astoria Rescue Mission, a Christian ministry that helps the homeless, withdrew a request for a \$4,000 grant. During the budget process, City Councilor Drew Herzig had questioned whether the group adheres to the city's nondiscrimination policy as it relates to women and same-sex couples.

The Astoria Warming Center, which provides emergency shelter for the homeless on cold nights, might seek the grant money now available.

- Approved a \$16,000 contract with Walker Macy, a Portland based landscape architecture and urban design firm, to study options for a mixed-use library and housing project at Heritage Square.

Police assist suicidal man off Astoria Bridge

The Daily Astorian

Astoria Police responded to a report of a suicidal man on the Astoria Bridge early Monday morning who had a sword and was threatening to jump if anyone came near him.

Police closed the bridge upon arrival at about 12:06 a.m. They found the man seated on the railing of the bridge with his legs dangling over the side.

Officer Lance Shepherd negotiated with the man for

about an hour. At one point, the man slipped and fell to the roadside, which allowed officers to rush the man and take him into custody.

The man, who has not been identified, was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital for treatment.

The sword that was initially reported was not located on the scene.

Astoria Police were assisted at the scene by the Oregon State Police, Warrenton Police Department and the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office.

Pacific Power plans outage for Cannon Beach on Wednesday

The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Approximately 2,800 Pacific Power customers near Cannon Beach will have their electricity interrupted overnight Wednesday and into Thursday morning so crews can replace a structure that supplies power to the area.

The outage is scheduled

to begin at 11 p.m. Wednesday and will be restored by 5 a.m. Thursday, although power will be returned at the first opportunity. The area affected begins at the junction of U.S. highways 101 and 26 and goes south along Highway 101 to Arch Cape.

Street lights will be out in the area, and Pacific Power reminds anyone traveling in

the area during that time to take extra care.

Crews will also use the outage to perform maintenance on the Cannon Beach substation.

"We want to thank our customers ahead of time for their patience," said Sheila Holden, regional business manager, in a release Monday. "Replacing the structure and working on

the substation equipment will improve reliability and should make for fewer and shorter outages in the future."

If customers have questions about the planned outage, call Pacific Power at 888-221-7070. Any outages during that time in other parts of the community should continue to be reported to Pacific Power at 877-508-5088.

Man saved by county's high angle rescue team

The Daily Astorian

The Clatsop County High Angle Rescue Team assisted the Astoria Fire Department Monday afternoon with a saving a man who fell off a ladder at a residential construction site.

David Anya, 32, of Beaverton, was working on the upper level of the site in Astoria when he fell off a ladder to the floor below. Anya fell about 15 to 20 feet.

His injuries and location required assistance from the rescue team.

Anya was carefully put

into a basket by rescue personnel then carried over to a larger access point for hoisting. A raising system was built on the upper floor.

Anya was safely lifted out of the basement by the rescue team and traversed to the side to complete the extrication. He was transported to Columbia Memorial Hospital for treatment. His condition is unknown at this time.

The Clatsop County High Angle Rescue Team was assisted on scene by the Astoria Fire Department, Clatsop County Sheriff's Office and Medix Ambulance Service.

Library, educators hold classes to help preschoolers learn crucial reading skills

The Daily Astorian

The Northwest Regional Education Service District is holding a free class for adults to help their preschool-age children read better.

The service district and the Astoria Public Library partnered to provide the class to parents of preschoolers to make sure they have the information and resources needed to help their children be ready for school. The class covers skills children need before they learn to read, how children learn to read and how to help develop

children's brains during the crucial years before school.

The class, offered in English and Spanish, provides a activities to do with children, a free book for children to take home, pizza, childcare and a gas voucher if needed for travel to class. It runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 30 at the service district's Clatsop County office at 3194 Marine Drive in Astoria, near Safeway.

Substance abuse class at college

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College will hold a class on drug and alcohol use in the workplace from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 13.

An instructor from the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries will provide an interactive presentation on substance abuse and issues such as drug and alcohol testing, privacy concerns, disability accommodation and policies and handbooks.

The presentation takes place on the college's main campus, 1651 Lexington Ave., and costs \$75.

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