



'Inspired by the Column'

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WEEKEND EDITION



Warriors win 'Match of the Year'

SPORTS • 7A

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ONE DOLLAR



Belongings line the ground in the bushes near the Astoria Riverwalk.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Great gun divide

In the West, heritage and landscape shape rural and urban views of guns

By ERIC MORTENSON Capital Press

In Hermiston, 184 miles east of Portland and 180 degrees politically turned, gun shop owner Nick Goit engages almost daily in "open carry," meaning he wears a holstered pistol on his hip as he walks about town.

"Over here, if you see someone coming down the street with a gun, you don't automatically assume they're going to shoot things up," Goit said.

Do that in Portland, however, or Seattle, Eugene or other urban areas, and people would most likely be alarmed. There is an urban-rural divide over firearms that seems every bit as stark as the divisions over farming practices, wildlife, land and water use and natural resources.

With guns, however, the disagreement sharpens in the wake of yet another mass murder, this time the

See DIVIDE, Page 8A

The homelessness dilemma

Police, public seek solutions to problems caused by some on the street

By KATIE WILSON For The Daily Astorian

Nearly every day in the last two weeks, Clatsop County law enforcement has responded to at least one call involving homelessness, responding to everything from transient camps discovered on private and city property to complaints about homeless individuals who are drunk and wandering the streets.

All summer, police in Astoria and Warrenton have dealt with more homelessness-related calls than officers can ever remember — and more complaints about public defecation and urination than Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston and Deputy Chief Eric Halverson can recall in all their years here.

In Astoria, a mayor-appointed committee formed in August is working on a list of recommendations about how to address homelessness broadly across the community, but it may have already landed on at least one small solution to one particular problem: Public bathrooms.

While bathrooms in downtown businesses are open to paying customers, there are few actual bathrooms available for the homeless to use. There is the bathroom at the transit center on Marine Drive, the public bathrooms on 12th and



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The Astoria public restrooms on Exchange Street.

'... Things happen to good people that cause them to become homeless.'

Elaine Bruce

director of social services for Clatsop Community Action, an organization that works with the poor, homeless and near-homeless

Exchange Street and the bathrooms under the Doughboy Monument at the corner of Columbia and Marine Drive. And beyond these, the great outdoors.

Now, the coalition, led by Johnston, hopes to place at least three porta-potties along the Astoria Riverwalk, an area that sees a lot of foot traffic by homeless and transient people.

Johnston is very supportive of the idea, but says the city will need to think carefully about where and how it will place these bathrooms. "That seems like such a com-

mon-sense solution, but over my career, I've seen a lot of vandalism to porta-potties," he said.

Still, it is clear, he added, that homelessness and all the issues that come along with it — large and small — are now a community dilemma.

The 5 percent

"The concept of homelessness is very vast," said Elaine Bruce, director of social services for Clatsop Community Action, an organization that works with the poor, homeless and near-homeless.

Groups like the mayor-appointed coalition are primarily focused on a small percentage of that overall population: the ones who prey on the community and other homeless people. Those are the 5 percent who are "actually causing the issues," Bruce said.

"The other 95 percent are usually just fine (behaviorally)," she explained. "They may be down on their luck. They may have entered the homelessness cycle. ... Things happen to good people that cause them to become homeless."

In Warrenton, Chief Mathew Workman and his officers deal every year with illegal campsites in city limits. The campsites aren't allowed under city code and, as in Astoria, the garbage and human waste that gets left behind can quickly become a community health issue. Most of the campers are homeless or transient people, who, when an officer stops to chat, move along without any fuss.

"They aren't necessarily trying to cause you any trouble," Workman said. "There are people who take care of themselves and their stuff and that's just the lifestyle they choose."

In other instances, though, police encounter aggressive individuals, men or women who don't want to move, who suffer from severe and often untreated mental illnesses, who are grappling with substance abuse issues. This is the 5 percent Bruce is referring to, and this is also who have kept police busy in both cities as an unusually warm and sunny summer has morphed into a mild fall.

See DILEMMA, Page 3A

Outsiders may buy in to Oregon weed biz

Liquor commission OKs temporary marijuana rules

By PARIS ACHEN Capital Bureau

Investors from outside Oregon may be able to join in the state's nascent recreational marijuana industry under new rules by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

In deference to legislative leadership plans to lift residency restrictions on marijuana operations, the rule allows the commission to keep license applications by non-residents under review until 30 days after the 2016 session.

See WEED, Page 9A

From cancer survivor to state ambassador

Seaside woman lobbies in D.C. for cancer research

By KATHERINE LACAZE EO Media Group

SEASIDE — When Lois Fitzpatrick heard the fateful words "you have cancer" in 1995, she worried she would not even get to see her daughters, then 9 and 14 years old, advance from elementary school and graduate high school.

"It just tore my heart apart for fear of them," said the 63-year-old Seaside resident.

Now, two decades later, she is the proud mother of two daughters with graduate degrees, a cancer survivor and Oregon's lead ambassador for the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network.

Fitzpatrick said she is emboldened in her advocacy work by "a fire in my gut."

"It's just the right thing to do," she said. "I feel I speak for those who cannot speak for themselves: those who are too sick, too afraid,

too worried, who are dead and those who do know yet that they may have cancer."

Becoming cancer-free

Fitzpatrick's journey started in 1995 when she was diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer — although her tumor was closer to the size of a stage 2 tumor. Physicians told her she needed a double mastectomy, but she declined, since the research she did conducted her she did not need the surgery. She went through

See RESEARCH, Page 9A

Lois Fitzpatrick (second from left), of Seaside, the lead ambassador from Oregon for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, met with Oregon Rep. Suzanne Bonamici in Washington, D.C., for ASC CAN's signature event, the annual Leadership Summit and Lobby Day in September. Fitzpatrick was accompanied by Cancer Action Network staff member Noe Baker (left) and volunteer Paula Messenger (right).



Submitted Photo

