

City Council rebuffs apartment project

Councilors want broader strategy on affordable housing



Zetty Nemlowill



Drew Herzig

property nearby on Commercial Street, submitted a counteroffer of \$15,000. The couple suggested they might use the city lot as a garden for their tenants.

Two other neighboring property owners told the City Council Monday night that they, too, would be interested in buying the city lot.

The appraisal of city land was called into question last year when critics complained that a 12,326-square-foot city parcel near tony Coxcomb Drive was valued at \$15,000. The City Council approved the sale of the city parcel to Dr. William Armington, who wanted additional yard space and to protect his views.

City Councilor Drew Herzig pointed out Monday night that the same appraiser, Steven Weed, valued the city lot at Second Street at \$14,000. "I really think we need to get a different appraiser," Herzig said.

Just before hearing Kirk's request, the City Council had agreed to move forward with an affordable housing strategy

that includes a vacant house registry, stricter code enforcement, more infill and redevelopment in neighborhoods, smaller lot sizes, accessory dwelling units in garages, and a possible crackdown on vacation rentals.

Yet councilors were apprehensive about selling the city lot to Kirk for an affordable housing project.

"I think it's premature to sell this property given that we just approved an affordable housing strategy that includes an overhaul of the development code, including downsizing lots to make them buildable," City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill said.

Mayor Arline LaMear said afterward that there appears to be consensus on the City Council to wait for the vacant house registry and potential policy changes before selling city land for affordable housing projects like Kirk's.

"It was unfortunate that this happened to this gal because I think she came in good faith with this proposition," LaMear said.

Embezzling bookkeeper gets three years

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

A woman who embezzled more than \$250,000 over three years while working as a bookkeeper for a small residential treatment facility in Seaside was sentenced Monday to three years in prison for violating her probation.

Karen Anne Noel Saber, 55, of Astoria, was originally sentenced last year to five years probation. She was ordered to pay back \$30,000 within a year by liquidating her property. After a year, she was required to pay \$500 a month until the \$250,000 was paid in full.

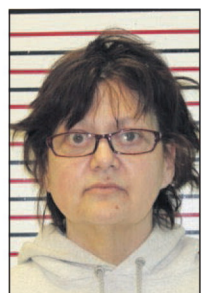
Since being placed on probation last year, Saber has only paid \$622.50.

Judge Paula Brownhill revoked Saber's probation Monday since she failed to pay the minimum of \$30,000. Saber was arrested last month on a warrant, and appeared in court Monday for the probation violation hearing.

In addition, Saber violated her probation by failing to report a new address to her probation officer.

She pleaded guilty in July 2014 to embezzling the money from the prior owners of Awakenings by the Sea in Seaside. She

pleaded guilty to 36 counts of first-degree theft during the second day of a trial in Clatsop County Circuit Court.



Karen Anne Noel Saber

The Seaside-based residential facility opened in 2007. It is now operated by different owners for women-only addiction treatment.

Saber was hired in 2009 after being recommended. She suggested the company begin using direct deposit for employee payroll. From 2009 to 2012, Saber is believed to have pocketed thousands of dollars by putting state and federal payroll tax payments into her own accounts instead of submitting them to the Internal Revenue Service.

When threatening letters began showing up in the spring and summer of 2012 from the IRS, the president of the facility hired a certified public accountant to go over the bookkeeping.

The information was then turned over to the Seaside Police Department.

Astoria man pleads not guilty to role in heroin OD

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria man arrested last week for delivery of heroin in connection to an overdose death of a Warrenton man pleaded not guilty Monday in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Sean Anthony Hill, 26, pleaded not guilty to five counts. The charges are unlawful delivery of heroin, unlawful delivery of methamphetamine, unlawful posses-

sion of heroin and two counts of unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

Hill is accused of being the one who allegedly provided heroin to Matthew Norris, 24, who was found dead from an apparent heroin overdose at a residence on the 4600 block of Cedar Street in Astoria.

The exact cause of Norris' death is pending toxicology results from the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office.

Upon his arrest, Hill was

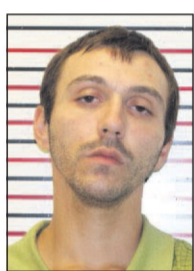
also found to be in possession of methamphetamine, leading to the related charges.

According to the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office, Hill will not be charged with homicide or manslaughter, but can still face prison time for the drug charges.

Hill remains in custody on \$50,000 bail. His next court hearing is an early resolution conference later this month.

The Astoria Police Department is still seeking ad-

ditional information regarding the case. People with information are asked to contact Detective Nicole Riley at 503-298-2533 or by email at nriley@astoria.or.us.



Sean Anthony Hill

Death of suspect in shootout with police ruled a suicide

Associated Press

PORTLAND — The death of a fugitive involved in a chase that ended in a shootout with police along Highway 26 has been ruled a suicide.

The Oregonian reports the

state medical examiner's office said Monday that 36-year-old Andrew DeHart died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his head. Initial reports indicated that he had been killed by police gunfire during the Wednesday incident.

Dr. Larry Lewman, who conducted the autopsy, says the officers' bullets never struck DeHart, who was wanted in connection with an assault near Vancouver.

Sheriff's Sgt. Bob Ray says DeHart shot at patrol cars, dis-

abling one of them, as he fled from police on the highway.

The chase, which started in Seaside, ended after officers fired on DeHart's truck as he exited a tunnel.

The shooting continues to be investigated.

Providence Seaside offers pain education

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — A pain education class, "Understanding pain: With Knowledge Comes Power," is 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 13 in Education Center A (lower level) at Providence Seaside Hospital, 725 S. Wahanna Road.

The class is designed to help understand how pain works in the body and brain. Those attending will learn about what pain really is, and how much one's own actions and thoughts can improve pain.

There is no charge for the class, but registration is required. To register, go to www.providence.org/classes or call 800-562-8964.

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I Am Thankful

This is the time of year when we reflect on our lives and our blessings

There are many that list something they are thankful for each day in November on social media.

On Thanksgiving Day, The Daily Astorian will dedicate a full page in our classified section to the community, allowing a time to share something you are thankful for.

There is a 20 word maximum for each submission. This allows more people to participate.

How to participate:
email your "I am thankful" to- hlarkins@dailyastorian.com
or mail to- The Daily Astorian, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103,
Attn: Holly Larkins
Deadline: November 20th at 5pm.