



Photo Courtesy of Petty Officer 1st Class Zac Crawford
A member of U.S. Coast Guard's Vessel Boarding Security Team is hoisted to the deck of the motor vessel Ironwood by an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter during a multi-agency test of the readiness of the participants to handle various threats.

Senators write in support of Newport Coast Guard base

Wyden, Merkley want funding in Coast Guard spending plan

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have urged the Office of Management and Budget to include funding for U.S. Coast Guard helicopter bases in Newport and in Charleston, South Carolina, in the Coast Guard's budget.

The Coast Guard had sought to close the helicopter bases last year in a cost-saving move, but several lawmakers, arguing that the bases provide critical search and rescue operations, stepped in to get Congress to keep the bases open.

"We understand all too well the financial pressures facing the Coast Guard and other agencies and departments, particularly as the result of sequestration and Congress' stop-and-go budgeting," said the letter signed by the Oregon Democrats last week. "We're doing our part to secure scarce resources though the congressional appropriations process for the vital air stations."

Newport is home to a largest grossing commercial fishing fleet in Oregon, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Operations Center, Oregon State University research personnel and a large recreational fishery.

Officials from the Coast Guard have said the agency can still meet its national standard of two-hour rescue times using MH-65 Dolphin helicopters from Air Station

North Bend to the south and MH-60 Jayhawk helicopters from Air Station Astoria to the north. The neighboring bases are roughly 45 minutes to an hour in flight time from Newport.

The possible closure has faced widespread opposition from commercial fishermen, recreational boaters, surfers and local politicians. Supporters of the Newport base say the cold water and rough seas along the central Oregon Coast demand a quicker response time.

A Coast Guard helicopter was first placed at Newport in 1987 after public outcry over several accidents, including the capsizing of the commercial fishing boat Lasseigne in 1985 that killed three commercial fishermen.

The nonprofit Newport Fishermen's Wives, which campaigned for the helicopter after the Lasseigne, had filed a federal lawsuit to try to block the most recent attempt at closure. The city of Newport, Lincoln County and the Port of Newport had joined the lawsuit, which was dismissed in April.

The Coast Guard argued that the lawsuit was moot because it no longer planned to close the base and had been blocked by Congress.

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Oregon, a ranking member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee overseeing the Coast Guard, has criticized the stagnant budgets he said led the Coast Guard to propose ill-advised closures of the bases in Newport and Charleston.

For suspected thieves, the bling was the thing

Wearing stolen jewelry helps land three in jail

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

CHINOOK, Wash. — Two women traded necklaces and rings for locking stainless steel bracelets last week, after police allegedly caught them showing off jewelry that had been reported stolen.

Kandiss Lynn Atlass Wardell, 23, of Chinook, Washington, and Tracy Lynn Webb, 45, of Long Beach, were arrested Thursday for suspicion of methamphetamine possession and second degree possession of stolen property. Wardell's friend, Darrin Paul Nichols, 25, was also arrested on suspicion of meth possession.

Thieves stole jewelry and other items from a home in the 27200 block of X Lane in

Ocean Park in early October, according to the Pacific County Sheriff's Office.

Detailed descriptions of jewelry

The burglary victim provided deputies with detailed descriptions of the missing pieces of jewelry, and that helped them close in on their suspects. During the course of their investigation, deputies learned the names of people who were rumored to have helped with the burglary, or taken possession of the stolen items.

When deputies went to visit one of the suspects — Wardell — at her residence in the 800 block of Bussone Lane in Chinook, they discovered a necklace hanging from the rear-view mirror of her parked car. Police confiscated the necklace as evidence. The victim later confirmed that it was one of the stolen items.

Deputies then went to visit Webb at her home in the 4100 block of 180th Place in Long

Beach, in hopes of recovering more of the stolen property. While talking with Webb, an observant deputy noticed that she was wearing a ring that fit the description of a stolen item, and took it as evidence.

Deputies returned with warrants

Last Thursday, deputies returned to the residences on Bussone Lane and 180th Place to serve search warrants.

While speaking with Wardell, deputies suspected that she was wearing another ring that had been reported stolen, and took it off of her finger. They also located other allegedly stolen items from the burglary inside her home, which the victim later identified.

Deputies also discovered suspected meth pipes, a small amount of suspected meth, and digital scales that are commonly used to weigh drugs for sale.

Deputies also located sev-

eral articles of drug paraphernalia including suspected methamphetamine smoking devices and digital weight scales commonly used to weigh narcotics. The deputies arrested Nichols while searching the Chinook residence.

The second search warrant was then served at Webb's Long Beach residence. Deputies found suspected meth and suspected drug paraphernalia at Webb's residence, but did not find any additional stolen items.

Deputies are still following up on leads connected to the burglary.

In the press release, Sheriff Scott Johnson praised his deputies for their efforts.

"Even though our patrol division remains critically understaffed, I am very proud of the commitment and professionalism that our deputies displayed while investigating this incident," Johnson said.

Gun-rights initiative passes by wide margin in Coos County

Associated Press

COQUILLE — Voters in Coos County overwhelmingly approved a ballot measure that seeks to prohibit enforcement of new gun laws.

With most votes counted in

Tuesday's election, the initiative was passing 61 percent to 39 percent.

It follows a new state law that requires background checks for private, person-to-person gun sales.

The measure seeks to pro-

hibit the use of county funds to enforce the background-check mandate or other new gun restrictions that may pass in the future. It also directs the sheriff to determine whether gun laws violate the state or U.S. constitutions.

The initiative was proposed by an optician from Bandon who says the background check mandate infringes on 2nd Amendment rights.

Legal experts say the court system is the proper venue for sorting out constitutional rights.

Proposed ballot measure would allow grocers to sell liquor

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A group backed by Oregon grocery stores filed paperwork Wednesday for a ballot measure that would allow grocers and other retailers to sell liquor.

The proposal, which could go before voters in the 2016 election, would end the state's monopoly that dates to the end of Prohibition in the 1930s. Currently, only the state can import and distribute liquor from its warehouse in Milwaukie. Hard alcohol is sold exclusively at state-licensed stores that keep a percentage of the proceeds.

The initiative would allow private liquor distribution and warehousing. Most retailers that currently sell beer and wine could also sell distilled spirits, though gas stations would still be prohibited.

"They already know how to responsibly sell alcoholic beverages," said Pat McCormack, a spokesman for Oregonians for Competition, the group created to pursue the initiative. "Let's cut the state out of the business of selling liquor and increase its focus

on alcohol law enforcement." The initiative also would strengthen penalties for people who sell alcohol to minors.

The grocers proposed a similar initiative for the 2014 election, but they ultimately dropped it when they decided to change the language and ran out of time to collect signatures. Grocers will need just over 88,000 valid signatures to place the initiative on the 2016 ballot.

Craft distillers are critical

Critics say privatizing the liquor system would harm Oregon nascent craft distilling industry because it would be harder for small players to compete for shelf space in a grocery store.

Rob Patridge, chair of the Oregon Liquor Control Com-

mission, said he doesn't see people clamoring to upend the liquor system.

"I think Oregonians generally have been satisfied with the way they're able to obtain liquor," Patridge said. The OLCC doesn't take a stand on ballot measures, he said.

With the threat of privatization looming, the OLCC voted earlier this year to create up to 17 new liquor stores in the Portland area. It's currently seeking applications to run them.

Privatized in Washington

Washington state voters privatized liquor sales in 2011 after an expensive campaign funded largely by Costco Wholesale Corp.

Alcohol sales provide the state's second-largest source

of revenue after income taxes, contributing \$250 million to the state general fund during the last two-year budget cycle.

BBQ Pork Rib Dinner
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NOVEMBER 6th & 7th 9AM-4PM

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Proceeds from the sale will be used to support a variety of resident activities

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.**

30th Anniversary Celebration & Open House

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