



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 99

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015

ONE DOLLAR



The evidence of the drugs is displayed after a February 2014 bust at a residence on Alameda Avenue in Astoria. Courtesy Clatsop County Narcotics Task Force/File Photo

France falls silent

Police hunt fugitive, name mastermind

By LORI HINNANT and SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press

PARIS — France fell silent Monday to remember 129 people killed by Islamic State militants as police failed to corner a key escaped accomplice and officials named the alleged Syrian-based mastermind of the attacks, who remained beyond their grasp.

President Francois Hollande led his stunned, jittery nation in one minute's silence at the University of Sorbonne, while thousands more clasped hands outside some of the bullet-riddled nightspots where extremists struck Friday night during a half-dozen attacks that also wounded 350.

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HEROIN USE ON A 'NEW HIGH'

Cheaper prices, availability, prescription drug abuse fuel rise

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

In August, a 35-year-old pregnant woman was found unconscious at the Rivershore Motel after a heroin overdose. The drugs she took not only killed her, but also her unborn child. In October, a 24-year-old man was found dead in a house on Cedar Street. At his feet was a drug kit for using heroin. Fresh needle marks were on his arm

Police say the tragic deaths show how a heroin epidemic across the nation, fueled by cheaper prices, greater availability, diminished stigma and the related abuse of prescription painkillers, has reached smaller cities like Astoria.

Heroin use has more than doubled nationally among young adults over the past decade, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported, and nearly half of all heroin abusers — 45 percent — are also addicted to opioid pain relievers like hydrocodone, oxycodone and morphine. The CDC has said that the rate of heroin-related overdoses nearly quadrupled between 2002 and 2013.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, in the annual national drug threat assessment released this month, ranked heroin and prescription drugs as the most significant drug threats to the United States.

"We are a microcosm. We see everything the metro areas see, just on a smaller scale," Astoria Police Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said. "There are things happening here that people are not aware of."

Heroin has surpassed methamphetamine and other drugs as the largest threat to Clatsop County, according to Sheriff Tom Ber-



A hypodermic needle in a camp near the Skipanon River Trail found in September 2014. Daily Astorian/File Photo

gin. Drug trends are cyclical, Bergin said, but in recent months the majority of cases relate to heroin.

"I think heroin has reached a new high as far as usage goes," he said.

Availability

The current threat is mostly due to a rise in availability and an increase in new and younger users. Young people are experimenting with heroin the same way past generations experimented with alcohol or marijuana. Heroin is being packaged in tar and powder form, taking the stigma away from using a needle to inject the drug.

With more marijuana being produced legally in the United States, law enforcement officials say, drug cartels are upping their production of illegal drugs, including heroin.

Most heroin in the United States is imported from Mexico. The drug is usually transported to Oregon from California along Interstate 5 or U.S. Highway 101.

A report from the Oregon High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program found more than half of the officers surveyed said heroin availability rose in their areas last year, primarily in counties bordering I-5 and in the coastal communities along Highway 101.

"Historically, a problem largely confined to Portland, Oregon, heroin use has spread to smaller cities and rural areas in the HIDTA region," the report states.

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Carbon, 'pay by the mile' taxes on the table

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A panel tasked with recommending transportation finance options to Gov. Kate Brown met last week to discuss the options of a carbon tax and a pay-by-the-mile tax.

The Governor's Transportation Vision Panel is supposed to recommend short-term and long-term options to pay for and improve the state's transportation system by March. Members of the transportation finance subcommittee that met this week include: chair and Marion County chief administrative officer John Lattimer; state Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario; Susan Morgan, Douglas County commissioner and Oregon Transportation Commission member; Tom Potiowsky, director of the Portland State University's Northwest Economic Research Center and a former state economist; and Rollie Wisbrock, a former

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There's a high-schooler in the brewhouse

At 17 years old, Astoria High School senior Brendan Coberly isn't the first person you'd expect to find taking a class in a brewery. But there he was bright and early on Veterans Day at Buoy Beer Co., learning how to make wort for the brewery's cream ale with the help of Dan Hamilton, a homebrewer and one of the company's co-founders.

Coberly is Buoy Beer's foray into exposing students to the trades and a growing craft brew industry.

"I had previously brewed with my uncle, like homebrewing in his house before, and I was just kind of interested in it," Coberly said. "And



then this opportunity arose, and I thought it would be a good experience."

Coberly goes to Buoy Beer several times a week to follow Hamilton, a former high school counselor, learning about the ingredients that go into Buoy's beer, the process of brewing, maintaining equipment and marketing and distributing beer regionally.

The experience is technically Coberly's sixth class, af-



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Brendan Coberly is interning at Buoy Beer.

ter advanced placement calculus, English, personal finance, psychology and leadership

courses at the high school, along with football, wrestling and other campus activities.

Coberly said his career goals aren't necessarily in brewing, although he is interested in brewing, engineering and renewable energy.

Hamilton said with the time constraints Coberly face, he tries to make the experience more career-exploratory than intensive education in brewing. But by the end of his time at Buoy Beer, Coberly will use the brewery's pilot system to turn out a batch of his own.

"We really need the old-fashioned apprenticeship thing back again," said Hamilton, who bemoans the

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