

Astoria doctor under investigation for violation

The Daily Astorian

William Myron Ferrin III, of Astoria, agreed to retire his medical license while the Oregon Medical Board continues to investigate him for violating a previous order.

In 2010, Ferrin, a gastroenterologist, was ordered to be on probation after he practiced medicine under the influence of alcohol. His medical license was suspended for one year as part of the order.

In December 2008, Ferrin performed three colonoscopies and three esophagogastroduodenoscopies (a test to examine the lining of the esophagus,

stomach, and first part of the small intestine) in one day while under the influence of alcohol. Practicing medicine while under the influence breaches medical ethics, places patient safety in jeopardy and constitutes gross negligence, according to the state medical board.

Earlier this year, the state board opened an investigation after receiving information that Ferrin was not complying with the 2010 order due to unprofessional and dishonorable conduct. The state board has not detailed the information against Ferrin, who retired his license in October while under investigation.

Clatsop Community College employee arrested for arson

The Daily Astorian

A part-time employee at Clatsop Community College was arrested for first-degree arson after police investigated suspicious fire damage found Monday on the floor area of the college's science lab.

Erin Engleson, 37, of Naselle, was arrested Tuesday morning in connection to the fire.

The arrest followed a police investigation into a report by the college.

The amount of damage was minimal, police said, and estimated at \$250. Under state law, first-degree arson is committed if, by starting a fire, a person intentionally damages protected property of another. Protected property includes any structure, place or thing that is customarily occupied by people including public buildings. First-degree arson is a class A felony with a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in prison and a \$375,000 fine.

Watershed council to host salmon presentation

The Daily Astorian

VERNONIA — The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council is presenting "Nehalem Basin Salmon Abundance Trends and Forecasts for 2015" by Chris Knutson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife North Coast Watershed District manager, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Thursday at the Vernonia Grange, 375 North St.

The doors open at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments; the free presentation starts at 6:45 p.m.

Knutson will provide an update on the latest coho and Chinook salmon populations in local rivers. After the presentation, the council is holding a business meeting.

The watershed council, a citizens' group and tax-exempt nonprofit corporation committed to improving watershed health and native salmon population recovery, is seeking additional members for the board of directors. For information, go to <http://unwc.nehalem.org> or call 503-429-0869.

Trooper puts down cows after crash: 'It's heart-wrenching'

Injured cows were trapped in trailer after wreck

By ALISHA ROEMELING
The Register-Guard

WALTERVILLE — Oregon State Police Trooper Anthony Mathews shot the cow dead.

And then he had to do it again and again.

"It's heart-wrenching," Mathews said at the scene along Highway 126 west of Waltherville, where a truck pulling a trailer with 68 cattle overturned Tuesday afternoon. "They're more or less like pets, and it's hard, but you have to do what's right for them and not let them suffer."

Mathews, a wildlife division trooper with state police, was assigned to kill a total of 12 injured cows trapped inside the trailer.

Mathews said he'd had to kill animals before, mostly wildlife.

As the shots from Mathews' handgun rang out, bystanders and emergency crew members winced and plugged their ears. Mathews was equipped with ear protection to cancel out the sharp sounds.

Mathews said there were "many more" animals already

dead within the trailer.

Carcasses likely taken to dump

Once confirmed dead, the cows were dragged from the trailer with a long metal cable and placed into another trailer. A co-owner of the truck and trailer, Ron Langley of Monroe, said the carcasses would likely be taken to a designated dump, as they could not be used for meat.

"A lot of them have broken legs and bones," Langley said of the animals. "There's no way for us to get them up or use them, so we have to shoot them."

Langley works for Apache Transport, a Junction City company that hauls livestock and construction materials.

The owner of the cows was also on the scene and helped troopers decipher which animals could be salvaged.

The truck driver had minor injuries and was not taken to a hospital, law enforcement officials said.

The truck sheared a tree and also struck a power pole, which downed lines and cut power to several nearby homes and businesses.

Several cows escaped to field

Following the crash, several

cows escaped to a nearby field through a hole in the top of trailer, according to state police trooper Sgt. Vonn Schleicher, who said he was unsure how many cows were alive, dead or injured. The trailer likely was ripped open on impact, Schleicher said.

The cows that remained trapped inside the trailer could be heard mooing and kicking the metal trailer, prompting officials to decide to shoot the "severely injured" animals, Schleicher said.

The area where the truck overturned has been the scene of multiple crashes over the years, according to several neighbors.

A driver who crashed his state-owned tanker truck last December spilled a load of 11,000 juvenile salmon in the same spot. The driver, who struck a power pole, was later determined to have a blood alcohol level of 0.29 percent, state police said at the time.

The scene at Tuesday's crash was eerily familiar, according to 38-year-old Penny Burns, who said crashes in the area are "a constant problem."

"That's the exact same spot the fish truck crashed," Burns said. "There are so many crashes here. ... I mean look at my

fence, it's had to be replaced because of it."

Burns said she was the first to call 911.

"As soon as I heard it, I came out and saw one (cow) take off," Burns said. "They were all mooing and kicking very loudly."

Burns said the driver got out of the truck quickly.

"The guy was hurt a little, he was bleeding from the head and looked like he may have broken his nose, but he was walking and talking just fine," Burns said.

Speeding a factor

Marlin Lay, 56, said he was arriving home just up the street when the crash happened.

"Speeding is what got him," Lay said. "He hit that tree so hard, he bounced back into the highway."

Lay, who has lived off Cedar Flat Road for more than 20 years, said the area is prone to crashes because of its curves.

"You're going 55 (mph), then all of the sudden it's 45 and the road is curving," Lay said. "There's a sign right there that says 45 and they don't pay attention."

Police said Wednesday that speed was a reason the truck failed to negotiate the turn. The driver was cited for failing to drive within his lane.

Long Beach reverses rejection of property tax increase

By CYNTHIA WASHICKO
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The Long Beach City Council has voted to approve a 1 percent property tax increase for the city, overturning a previous decision to reject the increase.

The tax increase will take effect Jan. 1 and is estimated to bring an additional \$5,848 to the city, said David Glasson, Long Beach city administrator.

At the initial meeting in November, council members Natalie Hanson, Mark Perez and Del Murry voted to reject the tax

increase. At a special meeting a week later, however, Perez and Hanson changed their vote to support raising the city property tax.

The special meeting was necessary, Glasson said, because county rules require the city to either adopt a tax increase or approve a resolution to keep tax levels the same. At the initial meeting the council rejected the increase, but there was no alternative available for members to approve, he said, which necessitated a second meeting to stay in compliance with county requirements.

When she gave her initial "no" vote, Hanson said she didn't understand the ramifications of the tax structure put in place by Initiative 747, a Tim Eyman-sponsored measure which limits state and local governments from raising property taxes by more than 1 percent each year. The measure was instated in 2001, later ruled unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court, and reinstated by the Legislature in 2007.

If the city didn't raise the tax this year, and then found itself in a monetary crisis later, there would be no option to increase

the tax at a later point to meet city needs, she said.

Perez made his initial vote against the increase following a workshop earlier that day on the city's water and sewer budget, which had a substantial amount of carryover funds, he said.

A meeting on the city's streets and stormwater budget changed his mind, however, he said. The budget meeting made it evident that more money was needed for the streets and stormwater fund — which will receive revenue from the tax increase — and that pushed him to change his vote, Perez said.

Astoria hires new city planner

The Daily Astorian

Astoria has hired a new city planner.

Nancy Ferber is originally from Portland and has been working as a project manager for the Musicant Group, an urban planning firm in Minneapolis.

She has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's degree from Portland State University.

Ferber, who starts the job on Dec. 14, will work in the city's Community Development Department, which is led by Kevin Cronin.

"I am very excited to head back to the Pacific Northwest and start building relationships in Astoria," Ferber said in a statement. "Astoria is a great community in a beautiful part of Oregon. I'm looking forward to meeting community members and jumping in on projects."

Mike Morgan had been serving as interim city planner after Rosemary Johnson retired from the post last year. Brett Estes, the city manager and former community development director, wanted to give Cronin, his replacement, the opportunity to hire a new planner.

Warming center schedules volunteer training

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Warming Center is holding a volunteer training from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday.

The public is invited to come find out more about the operation of the Warming Center, and what the volunteer opportunities are. Attending a training does not

commit anyone to volunteering.

The location of the center for this winter is at the First United Methodist Church, 1076 Franklin Ave., in the lower level of the church. Enter through the double doors on the 11th Street side of the building.

For information, email drewherzig@gmail.com or call 503-325-1895.

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A: Get to your files easily
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2) Click "Settings"
3) Click "Personalization"
4) Click "Start"
5) Click on the words "Choose which folders appear on Start"
6) I recommend you click on the oval under "Documents," "Downloads," "Music," "Pictures," however, it is your choice.
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