

# POINT of view

*'What would you cut in the federal budget?'*



*"Not the military. Cut congressmen's pay."*

**Jamey Wilson, Astoria**



*"Defense spending. Because I feel our government underfunds important areas like mental health and education."*

**Jack Wetzel, Kansas City, Missouri**



*"I don't know that I'd cut it completely, but reduce spending on welfare."*

**Abbie Adams, Knappa**

## Ilwaco cuts down on public info request hours

By KATHERYNN HOUGHTON  
EO Media Group

ILWACO, Wash. — To get a handle on a sudden increase in public records requests, Ilwaco has created new regulations that could delay public access to city documents.

The city's new rule limits staff time processing public records requests to 22 hours a month. The City Council unanimously passed the amendment on Jan. 11 after a former city planner and his wife filed multiple requests for information.

Ilwaco Mayor Mike Cassinelli said the spike in requests cost Ilwaco too much time and money.

"This just protects the city from someone using public records requests as a tool of harassment," Cassinelli said.

He said the city didn't look for other solutions to reduce staff effort toward public requests before making the amendment. City Hall is now looking at switching to a new server that could save staff time, Cassinelli said.

Throughout 2015, the city received 24 public records requests — 11 during the final three months of the year, according to the city's records logs.

According to city docu-

ments, processing public request since October cost Ilwaco \$6,000. The city didn't document the amount of money spent processing public records before the increase.

### Leading conflict

Ryan Crater and his wife Natasha filed six of the 11 records requests the city received since October. Many of the requests were for city documents. Some were broader, like a request for all of the mayor's emails from 2014 to 2015 tied to public business.

Crater said they filed the requests to discover what the city does behind closed doors. He said he also wanted to learn more about Ilwaco before running for City Council. A position is not up for election until 2017.

"If it takes a thousand PDRs to get the information I need for my campaign and to understand how the city operates, then so be it," Crater wrote in an email to the City Council and Chinook Observer. During the 2015 election, Crater ran an unsuccessful write-in campaign under the banner of holding accountable a mayor he said had free-rein over the city.

Crater worked as the city planner until Cassinelli canceled a contract with the Columbia River Estuary Study

Taskforce — which removed Crater's position — without consulting the council.

Crater said he doesn't intend to sue the city, but plans to take legal action in response to "personal attacks." He said his experience is an example of how the city operates unchecked.

"The public records issue is just one aspect to how this city handles stuff," Crater said.

### Previous cases

At least three Washington cities have created similar amendments and two led to lengthy legal battles.

In *Forbes v. the City of Gold Bar*, the Washington Court of Appeals recognized there are situations when a city needs additional time to fulfill a request.

According to court documents, Susan Forbes accused the city of failing to respond to her public records requests.

In 2010, Gold Bar spent roughly \$70,000 processing requests, according to court documents. Based on a review of the city's resources, city officials limited staff time fulfilling requests to 12 hours a month.

The court ruled Gold Bar's response was "reasonable in light of the difficulty the city had in retrieving the information and the efforts it expended."

In *Zink v. Mesa*, the state Supreme Court ruled the city of Mesa violated Washington's Public Records Act when it limited the amount of time responding to public records requests to one hour a week.

Mesa had a population of fewer than 500 people and one part-time city employee. According to court documents, from 2002 to 2005, Donna Zink and her husband filed between 68 and 172 requests.

The court decided Mesa discriminated against Zink since the limit was created in response to her requests. Toby Nixon, the president of Washington Coalition for Open Government, said Washington is waiting on a third case to test the previous rulings.

Nixon is a Kirkland councilman. He said Kirkland set a limit on how much of its annual budget would go toward records requests. He said they felt confident in the regulation because it was based on the average amount of money Kirkland spent processing requests over two years.

"It's tricky because a city needs to protect itself, but regulations can delay producing records," Nixon said. "There's especially a risk if this happens in response to a city beef."

## ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

### Astoria 5-Day Forecast

**Tonight**  
Periods of rain  
47°

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs

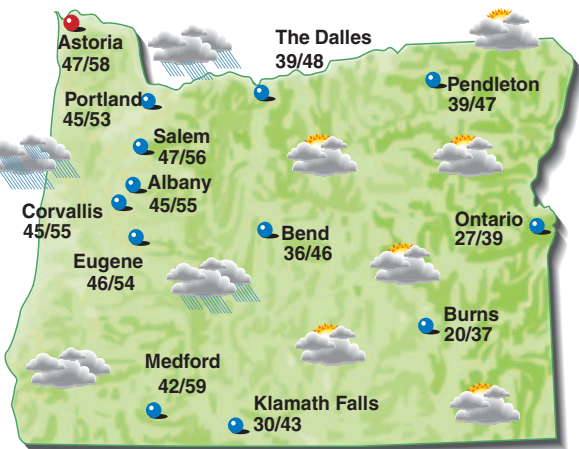
**Thursday**  
A thick cloud cover with a little rain  
58° 47°

**Friday**  
Cloudy with a couple of showers  
54° 42°

**Saturday**  
Mostly cloudy with a couple of showers  
51° 41°

**Sunday**  
Mostly cloudy, a little rain in the p.m.  
50° 41°

### Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2016

### Almanac

Astoria through Tuesday.

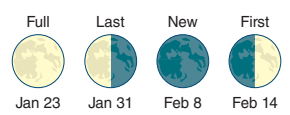
Temperatures	High	Low	Normal high	Normal low
High	49°	37°	50°	38°
Low	49°	37°	50°	38°
Normal high	49°	37°	50°	38°
Normal low	49°	37°	50°	38°

Precipitation

Yesterday	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date	Normal year to date
0.78"	4.97"	6.56"	4.97"	6.56"

### Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	5:02 p.m.
Sunrise Thursday	7:50 a.m.
Moonrise today	2:22 p.m.
Moonsset today	4:35 a.m.



### Regional Cities

City	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Baker City	37	27	c	36	29	c
Bend	42	36	pc	46	36	c
Brookings	53	48	r	60	49	r
Eugene	49	46	c	54	45	r
Ilwaco	50	46	r	54	48	r
Klamath Falls	38	30	sh	43	36	c
Medford	52	42	r	59	41	c
Newport	51	48	r	57	46	r
North Bend	56	49	r	63	48	r

City	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Olympia	49	40	c	55	42	r
Pendleton	48	39	pc	47	42	c
Portland	51	45	c	53	45	c
Roseburg	51	45	pc	59	44	r
Salem	52	47	c	56	47	r
Seaside	51	47	r	56	48	r
Spokane	39	33	c	41	35	c
Vancouver	49	45	c	52	44	r
Yakima	42	36	pc	40	34	sh

### Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: Constellation Cepheus looks like a child's drawing of a house high in the northwest in early evening.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

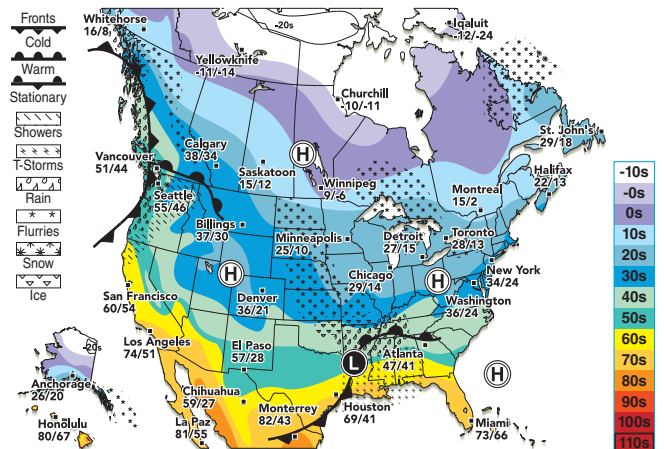
### Tomorrow's Tides

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High	Time	Low
	10:47 a.m.	9.7 ft.	4:45 a.m.	3.0 ft.
	none		5:56 p.m.	-0.5 ft.

### National Cities

City	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	43	36	sh	47	41	r
Boston	31	20	s	30	17	s
Chicago	23	11	sf	29	14	c
Denver	45	25	c	36	21	pc
Des Moines	25	17	c	27	17	c
Detroit	23	12	sn	27	15	pc
El Paso	67	38	s	57	28	s
Fairbanks	0	-13	pc	-1	-11	pc
Honolulu	80	65	r	80	67	pc
Indianapolis	24	12	sn	27	17	c
Kansas City	30	23	c	29	16	sn
Las Vegas	61	41	pc	61	40	pc
Los Angeles	67	50	pc	74	51	pc
Memphis	42	32	r	44	29	r
Miami	70	57	pc	73	66	pc
Nashville	40	27	sn	42	36	r
New Orleans	71	58	sh	70	46	t
New York	37	25	pc	34	24	s
Oklahoma City	44	29	c	41	27	sn
Philadelphia	35	25	pc	36	23	s
St. Louis	30	20	pc	34	22	c
Salt Lake City	38	21	sn	36	22	pc
San Francisco	59	48	pc	60	54	c
Seattle	51	44	c	55	46	r
Washington, DC	33	24	sf	36	24	pc

### Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities. Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

## Fishing writer to speak at Fly Casters

The Daily Astorian

The Rainland Fly Casters meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the social hall of Peace Lutheran Church, 565 12th St. Native Astorian Dave Hughes, a nationally known writer of fly fishing books and articles, is presenting the program, "Matching Hatches Simplified." All are welcome.

Hughes grew up fishing the streams and rivers of the North Coast and wrote the outdoor column for The Daily Astorian before moving to Portland in the 1980s. His first published book was "An Angler's Astoria," which was reprinted in the past few years. He also writes a regular column for two national fly fishing magazines. One of his most recent publications is "Pocket Guide to Western Hatches."

## Career skills course available at The Harbor

The Daily Astorian

The Harbor is offering a career skills readiness course for all current and potential clients. Participants will meet on Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m., starting Friday, at The Harbor's Peer Center, 1361 Duane St. Some materials

covered in this course include: communication skills, creating a resume, professional manner and attire, and accessing community resources. These skills are vital to men and women fleeing intimate partner violence as they seek autonomy. A recent study found that between 21 to 60 percent of

victims of domestic violence lose their jobs due to reasons associated with abuse. Furthermore, many victims are isolated within the home, limiting their employment experience and skills.

For questions, contact Meredith Payton at Meredith@harborbmw.org or 503-325-3426.

## Memorial

**Friday, Jan. 22**  
DIEGO, Marcella — Visitation from 5 to 8 p.m., Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary, 1165 Franklin Ave.

**Saturday, Jan. 23**  
DIEGO, Marcella — Recitation of the rosa-

ry at 10:30 a.m., Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m., St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 1465 Grand Ave. Graveside service follows at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton, then a reception at St. Mary Star of the Sea School auditorium, 1411 Grand Ave.

## On the record

### DUII arrests

• At 2:20 p.m. Friday, Astoria Police arrested Joanne M. Fenn, 60, of Seattle, for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, reckless endangerment and animal neglect after she caused a two-vehicle crash on the 2800 block of Marine Drive. Fenn was also cited for open container, failure to drive within the lane and refusing a breath test.

• At 5:57 p.m. Friday, Clatsop County Sheriff's Office arrested David Floyd Martin, 58, of Astoria, for DUII on the 91000 block of Walluski Loop in Astoria.

• At 10:46 p.m. Friday, Oregon State Police arrested Preston Knight Devereaux, 71, of Gearhart, for DUII on U.S. Highway 101 and Sixth Avenue in Seaside. His blood alcohol content was measured at 0.14

percent, according to police.

• At 10:49 p.m. Saturday, Astoria Police arrested Kaili Wood, 49, of Astoria, for DUII on the 2200 block of Marine Drive.

• At 10:36 p.m. Sunday, Oregon State Police arrested Marcelo Chassaigne, 65, of Vancouver, Washington, for DUII after crashing his vehicle on U.S. Highway 30 milepost 83 in Knappa.

## Lotteries

### OREGON

**Tuesday's Pick 4:**  
1 p.m.: 1-7-8-2  
4 p.m.: 7-3-7-2  
7 p.m.: 2-8-0-1  
10 p.m.: 2-8-1-7

### WASHINGTON

**Tuesday's Daily Game:**  
0-8-0  
**Tuesday's Keno:** 09-11-12-17-18-20-27-31-32-38-42-43-51-55-67-73-75-76-77-78

### Tuesday's Match 4:

04-08-22  
**Tuesday's Mega Millions:**  
02-17-31-39-47, Mega Ball: 9  
Estimated jackpot: \$30 million.

## Death

**Jan. 5, 2016**  
BARTOLDUS, Richard J., 76, of Honolulu, formerly of Astoria, died in Honolulu.

## Public meetings

**WEDNESDAY**  
Seaside Tourism Advisory Committee, 3 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**THURSDAY**  
Seaside Tree Board, 4

p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

**Cannon Beach Fire District Board**, 5 p.m., executive session, to consult with legal counsel regarding possible litigation, Cannon Beach Fire

Station, 188 Sunset Blvd.  
**Seaside Transportation Advisory Committee**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.  
**Cannon Beach Design Review Board**, 6 p.m., City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.

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The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 10 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits](http://www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits), by email at [ewilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:ewilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

## The Daily Astorian

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