



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 148

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016

ONE DOLLAR

MOVIE // THE FINEST HOURS



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary watch "The Finest Hours" during a special screening at Neptune Theater in Long Beach, Wash., on Friday. BELOW: Members of the U.S. Coast Guard come in from heavy surf training near the North Jetty on Friday.

HOLLYWOOD ENDING FOR DARING SURFMEN

Thriller about rescue a source of pride, honor for Coasties

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

LONG BEACH, Wash. — U.S. Coast Guardsmen traveled en masse to theaters over the weekend to see "The Finest Hours," the Disney thriller about one of the service's most famous rescues at sea.

What some senior surfmen from Station Cape Disappointmentsaw was an homage to one of the greatest operations in Coast Guard history, a bit of drama and a reminder of how far their lifesaving technology has come.

The movie recounted the rescue of 32 of 33 mariners trapped aboard the stern section of the SS Pendleton, an oil tanker

split in two by rough seas and run aground on a shoal. The rescue crew, coxswain Bernard Webber and three other Coast Guardsmen from Chatham, Massachusetts, was awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal, one of the highest honors in the Coast Guard.

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Astoria may ask voters for pot tax

3 percent local tax would bring levy to 20 percent

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Voters in Astoria may be asked in November whether to impose a local tax on recreational marijuana.

Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston is recommending the tax to help offset what he describes as an increase in marijuana-related police calls since the drug became legal in Oregon last year.

"We do see a local impact from this new business in our community," Johnston said. "To be honest, as a police department, we're now forced to spend more time thinking about marijuana than we did prior to its legalization, which is kind of counterintuitive."

While most of the calls are about legal activity, Johnston said, police still have to spend time explaining the law. "As with most of the work we're doing these days, it's not enforcement work, but it's that community resource work," he said.

The City Council on Monday night is expected to discuss putting the local tax option on the ballot.

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Former CB fire chief amends lawsuit, ups ante

Public records request yields CB Fire District warnings

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The former Cannon Beach fire chief is seeking more money and relief from retaliation and harassment in his lawsuit against the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District.

An amended complaint ups the damages Mike Balzer seeks to more than \$677,000 and asks for the reinstatement of his employment benefits.

Balzer also asks the court for relief from "further retaliation or harassment" after his firing in October.

Balzer was fire chief from January 2012 until Oct. 12, when the fire district's board voted 4-1 for his discharge. Balzer's original contract term ran through June 2017.

In the amended complaint filed in Clatsop County Circuit Court last week, Balzer said the board retaliated against him because of

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'MUSIC SPEAKS TO THE INNER SELF'

Love-themed three-singer recital planned Sunday in Nehalem

CANNON BEACH — Even before she talked, Susan Buehler sang; that's what her mother often told her.

Now a voice and piano instructor who gives private lessons out of her Cannon Beach home, Buehler's living — really, her whole life and that of her husband, John — has revolved around music.

"I know that that's not always the norm. Generally, people have a job and they do something else. But that, literally, has been pretty much our whole livelihood, on and offstage," she said.

EVERYDAY
people

The soprano is hosting and performing in a recital at St. Catherine Episcopal Church, located between Nehalem and Manzanita, on Sunday. (Yes, that's Super Bowl Sunday, but the recital runs from 2 to 3:15 p.m., 15 minutes before kickoff.)

In honor of Valentine's Day, the recital is all about

love — romantic love, unrequited love, love lost, love found, love of spring, love of God, filial love, brotherly love — "a real expression of all the colors of love," said Deac Guidi, a performer.

Guidi, a bass-baritone from Warrenton and one of Buehler's students, will join her onstage, along with Adam Schwend, a baritone from Tillamook who directs the United Methodist Church Choir in Nehalem; hence, the show's title: "Love x 3: A Celebration in Song."

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