

Warrenton recognizes community heroism

30-year reserve police officer also honored

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Police Chief Mathew Workman recognized three citizens who stepped in at a crucial moment to help save the life of a boy who was struck by a van last September.

U.S. Airmen Beth Rowley and Ryan Smith, and John Meiners — a veteran of the Lewis & Clark Fire District and the fire board president — received citizen commendation awards for “their compassion, bravery, and willingness to help (the victim).” Without their intervention, the child could have died, Workman said at Tuesday’s City Commission meeting.

On the morning of Sept. 11, Rowley and Smith witnessed the child get run over by the front tire of the van, which was slowing down, on Southwest Ninth Street as he ran into the street.

Smith rushed to the scene, shouted at the driver not to move the van, called 911 and aided the severely injured child. Rowley also called 911, helped calm the boy’s distraught mother and then tried to comfort the child.

Meiners, who happened to be driving by, offered his assistance until emergency personnel could arrive.

When Officer Robert Wirt arrived, he heard the boy screaming in pain and saw Meiners stabilizing the child’s neck and Smith stabilizing his body.

“If not for their decisive action, of Airman Smith and Airman Rowley, I believe the child ... probably would have been run over by the rear tire of the van as well,” Workman said. “If not for the care and comfort



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian
From left: U.S. Airmen Ryan Smith and Beth Rowley, and John Meiners, a veteran of the Lewis & Clark Fire District and the fire board president, received citizen commendation awards for their help in saving the life of a severely injured child last September.



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian
Warrenton Police Department Reserve Officer James Rankin (foreground right) holds his certificate of appreciation — presented to him by Police Chief Mathew Workman (foreground left) — for his nearly three decades serving the department. Behind them, Administrative Assistant Dawn Shaw and City Commissioner Rick Newton applaud Rankin’s achievement.

provided by Airman Smith, Mr. Meiners and Airman Rowley, the child’s injuries would have undoubtedly been even more serious, and he might not have survived.”

Workman said that the police department, to be successful, must partner with its citizens.

“We can’t be everywhere at once, and we can’t always be on the scene when something

happens,” he said, “so we rely on our citizens to step up, do the right thing and to help when they can.”

In other business Tuesday: • Workman also honored Reserve Officer James Rankin, who, on March 27, will have served in the police department 30 years.

“Jim’s been a great, great asset to my department, ever since I’ve been here in 2008. Come to find out, Jim’s been a great asset to this department for a long, long, long time,” Workman said, amiably teasing Rankin.

“The officers that showed up tonight, they didn’t have to. They came because Jim is a well-respected member of my department, and a well-respected member of this community,” he continued, adding that Rankin, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years, has “done a lot of service in his life, and he continues to do so.”

• Mayor Mark Kujala proclaimed April Child Abuse Prevention Month.

• The City Commission unanimously passed an ordinance vacating the south 10 feet of Eighth Street.

Electrical fire renders Seaside property ‘uninhabitable’

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Firefighters responded to a structure fire at a house at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Roosevelt Drive in Seaside Tuesday afternoon.

The house sustained \$90,000 in damage to contents and property, and a neighboring home also suffered damage, Division Chief Chris Dugan said at the scene.

The fire started at the garage next to the home, Dugan said. No one was hurt, but the house is not habitable.

A second-alarm call brought firefighters from Cannon Beach, Gearhart, Warrenton and Lewis & Clark. An estimated 30 to 40 firefighters fought the blaze.

The fire was under control in about 10 to 15 minutes, Dugan said.

The homeowner was not in the home, but the renter was. He called 911 and Seaside Fire and Rescue responded.

The cause is most likely



Jeff Ter Har/For EO Media Group

Fighting the blaze Tuesday afternoon in Seaside.

electrical in nature. “It’s pointing in that direction, but it’s not official,” Dugan said.

Content loss was estimated at about \$30,000 and damage to the structure about \$60,000. About \$1,000

was done to the neighboring property.

The property was insured, and the renters had renters’ insurance, Dugan said.

R.J. Marx and Lyra Fontaine contributed to this report.

The Farmacy plans to grow pot in basement

Second grow operation approved in Astoria

The Daily Astorian

The Farmacy will grow marijuana in the basement of its dispensary on Marine Drive in Uppertown.

The Astoria Planning Commission voted unanimously Tuesday night to approve a permit for the growing and processing operation, finding the project consistent with light manufacturing in a commercial zone.

The project is the second commercial marijuana growing operation in Astoria. In November, the Planning



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The Farmacy, a dispensary in Uppertown, plans to have a marijuana growing operation in the basement.

Commission approved a pot growing site for a warehouse off Industry Street.

The Farmacy, a medical marijuana dispensary, is selling recreational marijuana under a state law that permits the sales through the end of

the year while the state establishes licensing.

Nicholas Palazzo, The Farmacy’s owner, has applied for a retail license. He said he intends to sell the marijuana he grows in the basement in his shop upstairs.

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