



Submitted Photo

Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman, right, poses with Rock Rakosi, of the Myrtle Point Police Department, during the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police conference.

## Warrenton Police chief honored at state conference

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman was honored at the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police conference last month with the President's Award for his role with the association's scholarship and membership committees.

Workman, an association member since 2004, is the co-chair of the scholarship committee and membership committee.

Each year, the association awards \$1,000 college scholarships to students who plan to enter a law enforcement or other criminal justice career. As a scholarship committee member, Workman goes through all the applications with the committee and decides who is awarded.

Last year, seven students were awarded the scholarships.

A \$2,000 scholarship is also awarded to assist one chief from a smaller agency to

attend the annual International Chiefs of Police Conference.

Last year, Astoria Police Chief Brad Johnston was awarded the scholarship and attended the annual conference, which was held in Chicago. This year's international conference is being held in San Diego.

On the membership committee, Workman helps vet new applications. Most recently, the committee began creating rules for someone to be removed as a member if they are decertified as an officer.

Every local police agency in Clatsop County is a part of the state association. Along with Workman, members include Johnston, Gearhart Police Chief Jeff Bowman, Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham and Cannon Beach Police Chief Jason Schermerhorn.

The association has about 300 members, including more than 100 police chiefs around Oregon.

# Warrenton man gets two years in prison in sex abuse case

## Abused teenage boy last fall

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

A predatory sex offender who sexually abused a 16-year-old boy while living in Warrenton last fall was sentenced Monday in Clatsop County Circuit Court to more than two years in prison. Sidney Sean Mecham, 35, pleaded no contest to third-degree sodomy, third-degree sex abuse, unlawful delivery of marijuana, furnishing alcohol to a minor, interfering with mak-

ing a report, menacing, harassment, endangering the welfare of a minor and failure to register as a sex offender.

Mecham is listed by Oregon State Police as a predatory sex offender following a 1999 conviction in Multnomah County. Despite having lived in Warrenton since July, Mecham reported his address as an apartment complex in southeast Portland.

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Office and Warrenton Police arrested him in December at a residence on the 100 block of N.W. First Street in Warrenton.

Mecham reportedly met the victim by chance at a

local park last summer and became a family friend. He provided the victim with marijuana, alcohol, and showed him sexually explicit material.

The abuse began in October. The victim was able to stop the abuse in late November and came forward to family members after further harassment from Mecham.

Family members then notified the Sheriff's Office.



Sidney Sean Mecham

Between October and December, Deputy District Attorney Dawn Buzzard said, Mecham sent the boy 567 calls or texts, mostly during the night.

"The victim is having a difficult time struggling with this," Buzzard said. "He had what he thought were feelings for this older man, but has come to realize it was not just illegal, but a wrong relationship that he was being taken advantage of."

As part of his 28-month prison sentence, Mecham is ordered to have no contact with the victim and pay a \$1,000 civil fine.

## City provides loan guarantee for windows at armory

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council agreed Monday night to provide a \$90,000 loan guarantee for window restoration at the Astoria Armory.

The restoration is part of a broader \$590,000 improvement plan by the Friends of Astoria Armory to turn the historic building into a profitable event venue.

The nonprofit is taking over the Armory from Craft3, a community lender that helped rescue the building in 2014. The city had provided a loan guarantee on the Craft3 purchase.

The nonprofit is hopeful a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan will help finance the takeover and the bulk of the improvements. But since the USDA loan cannot go for window restoration, because the repairs are not tied to revenue generation, the city will backstop that portion of the project.

The loan guarantee, which will come from a city revolving loan fund, will be in place

for five years.

In other business Monday night, the City Council:

- Voted 3-1 to take no action on an application by Annie's Saloon to sell distilled spirits.

The strip club, which can now sell beer and wine, is seeking an expanded license from the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. Annie's will have to serve food and have dining seats as a condition.

City councilors can only make recommendations to the state commission, which has the final say.

Astoria Police had recommended against a liquor license for Annie's in 2012 but were overruled by the City Council.

Police Chief Brad Johnston said there has been a reduction in the number of police calls to Annie's since 2012.

Johnston told the City Council that it was unlikely the state commission would reject the application. He urged the council to either recommend the expanded license or take no action to help preserve the police's re-

lationship with the strip club. The state commission views a "no action" vote the same as local approval.

While a majority took John-

ston's advice, City Councilor Cindy Price voted "no," explaining that she wanted to stand with residents who have complained about problems at the strip club.

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Sarah Kangas, a physical education teacher at Warrenton Grade School

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