

ASTORIANA

LIBRARY BASEMENT A TREASURE TROVE



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Astoria Library Director Jimmy Pearson looks at George Flavel's father-in-law's will — one of the many historical treasures in the Astoria Library basement. As the library gets ready for a renovation, the artifacts will be inventoried and moved to new homes.

Inventory of items soon to get underway

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Library's basement contains a trove of documents, treasures and artifacts of Astoriana. For decades, the dark, dry space has stored assorted city records and valuables donated by local families.

Against one wall are the city's handwritten ordinances from the late 19th century bound in bulky, weathered tomes. Against another is a collection of antique Finnish books.

See *ASTORIANA*, Page 4A



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Astoria Library Director Jimmy Pearson shows one of the oldest items stored in the library basement — the Slusher family's German Bible from 1728, which was brought to the U.S. in the 1880s.

Burned worker blames businesses

Injured in explosion at pot production facility

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Several local property and business owners have been named as defendants in a lawsuit brought by a worker burned in the October explosion and fire at Higher Level Concentrates in Astoria.

Jacob Magley, who was working at Higher Level when an explosion scorched the commercial marijuana production facility, filed suit late last month in Multnomah County Circuit Court against three people and 11 businesses for violations of fire protection and workplace safety laws. The suit seeks more than \$8.9 million in damages.

The list of defendants named by Magley's attorney, Jonah Flynn, starts with William "Chris" West and Jason Oei, along with their companies High Tide Biological, Higher Level Concentrates and Astoria Trading Co.

Playing with fire

The suit claims Oei was dabbing — inhaling the smoke from butane hash oil pressed against a heated surface — while West was using an open extraction process to make oil. "This created a source of ignition, causing the (liquid petroleum) gas vapors emitted from the (Whip-It!) canisters used by West during the extraction process to ignite and explode."

See *LAWSUIT*, Page 4A

Oregon jobs recovery lags in some rural areas

Overall number higher than pre-recession peak

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon now has more jobs than before the Great Recession but some rural areas are still lagging behind, according to the state economist.

After the financial crisis a decade ago, Oregon lost roughly 8 percent of its jobs, said Mark McMullen, the state economist.

Since then, the state has not only regained all those lost jobs but also increased the overall number by 6.5 percent from the pre-recession peak, he said during a hearing Monday before the House Committee on Economic Development and Trade.



Mark McMullen

See *JOBS*, Page 9A

Democrats want to take Portland's rental rules statewide

Landlords would pay relocation costs

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — Just days after Portland passed an ordinance requiring landlords to pay relocation costs to tenants evicted without cause, some state lawmakers are working to expand the ordinance statewide.

Seventeen Democratic legislators heard from some 200 tenants about how the housing crisis has affected them during

a forum Saturday at Highland Christian Church in northeast Portland. The lawmakers also heard residents' views on statewide legislation to mimic the Portland ordinance on no-cause evictions and a proposal by state House Speaker Tina Kotek to lift the statewide ban on rent control.

The event was organized to give a voice to tenants who have less access to the Legislature than powerful landlord lobbying groups, said Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, D-Portland, chairwoman of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing.

"We are going to work very hard this year in the Legisla-



Paris Achen/Pamplin Media Group

House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, speaks at a forum at Highland Christian Center in northeast Portland Saturday. The event was organized to give a voice to tenants.

ture to eliminate no-cause evictions," Speaker Kotek said,

eliciting applause and cheers from the crowd. "... This is a

fairness issue."

During the event, Kotek said she met residents of the Titan Manor apartments in Portland's St. Johns neighborhood, where more than 50 tenants were evicted without cause after a California management company bought the property.

One of the tenants, Coya Crespin, a single mother of two, said she was heartened by the turnout of lawmakers and tenants Saturday.

"To see all of these people and to see how the community wants to band together, it makes me feel like Portland is

See *RULES*, Page 9A

