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ONE DOLLAR

Man Cave passes insurance muster

Questions raised about alcohol liability

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Port of Astoria Property Manager Shane Jensen confirmed Tuesday that the Port's insurers do not preclude coverage because of possible alcohol use. Jensen was responding to the concerns of Port

Commissioners Stephen Fulton and Bill Hunsinger over liability for alcohol use on the agency's property at the Astoria Regional Airport.

Fulton has accused fellow Commissioner James Campbell, his opponent in the May special district election, of condoning a private club — known as the Man Cave — with a bar in a private hangar at the airport. He later called the

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
The entrance to Philip Bales' Man Cave at the Astoria Regional Airport is marked by a collection of conservative stickers.

MORE INSIDE

Stormwater, labor law fines get Port scrutiny on Pages 2A and 3A

Mushen stricken at Port meeting

Taken to hospital for treatment

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

A contentious Port of Astoria Commission meeting Tuesday night was cut short when Commission President Robert Mushen had an apparent medical emergency.

During a heated discussion between commissioners and Port counsel Eileen Eakins



Robert Mushen

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Port of Call works to change its rep



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

A car travels down Commercial Street in front of Port of Call Bistro and Bar as dusk approaches on Monday in Astoria.

New bosses mindful of over-serving

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A state snapshot of drunken driving cases over the past two years suggests a pattern of Port of Call patrons drinking at the downtown bar and later getting arrested.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission gathers drunken driving statistics based on police reports provided by local law enforcement agencies. When a police report includes the establishment where the driver said they had been drinking, that detail is often added to the compilation.

Out of 47 recorded examples in Clatsop County in 2015 and 2016, the state found, Port of Call appeared in 12. The second highest number, from Annie's Saloon, was four.

The examples only represent a fraction of the 250 to 300 DUII cases filed annually in the county, but they reinforce a perception of hard drinking at Port of Call.

"We did have a less-than-stellar reputa-

tion in the community," said Taz Davis, who took over as Port of Call's general manager earlier this year.

Indicator

The state report is based solely on testimony from drivers who have been arrested for DUII. Law enforcement agencies are only required to report the statistics if someone they arrest records a blood alcohol content of 0.20 percent or higher or if they are involved in a crash. Some agencies report more than the minimum, while others do not.

Because complete data would be impossible to fully track, the reports are not intended to be used as a basis for imposing sanctions on bars. But the Oregon Liquor Control Commission does utilize the findings to determine which establishments may be in need of instruction on how to avoid over-serving customers.

"We use the DUII report as an indicator of potential problems," Christie Scott, a liquor commission spokeswoman, said.

New leadership

Marvin James Sawyer, Port of Call's

Florida-based owner, hired Davis, who began working six weeks ago, to shore up the Commercial Street bar and bistro's organizational structure. One part of that organization was ensuring the new manager would be able to prevent over-serving, Sawyer said.

"In coming up with new management and new leadership and organization, it was very important to have someone that shares my values and has a very strict no tolerance policy against over-serving," Sawyer said.

Staff at Port of Call has participated in on-site training from the liquor commission in the past few years on how to avoid over-serving, investigator Marc Warren said.

But bartenders and security personnel have had issues with serving high-alcohol drinks in glasses meant for beer and not checking for or being afraid to question customers who show strong signs of intoxication, Davis said.

"Interaction with our guests is the biggest piece of it," Davis said. "It's a big focus for us to realize how to spot that."

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Gearhart group looks to repeal, replace rules

Measure would redo short-term rental regs

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Opponents to Gearhart's short-term rental rules have borrowed from a national political playbook in a new challenge.

Local residents have filed a petition initiative to "repeal and replace" the rules enacted last fall.

"Both my husband and I would really like to see a more reasonable approach," said Joy Sigler, who with Brian Sigler and Sarah Nebeker are the chief petitioners. "That's why we were motivated to sign it. As is, it's not good for local people. And we're local. You can't get any more local than us."



Joy Sigler

County Commissioner Nebeker represents District 2, which covers Gearhart and the Clatsop Plains and portions of Seaside and Warrenton.

Sigler, owner of the Pacific Crest Cottage, said the city's rules would limit options for her children and hurt her business, based in Gearhart.

"Not only have you taken away the choice that my children should have to rent this short term, you've also eliminated a lot of guests to the community, which is my customer base," Sigler said. "You've hurt me on two levels. And there are a lot of local people who are going to feel the very same way."

Seeking new rules

The city's rules, enacted last October, regulate occupancy limits, parking and property management contact information, among other measures. Vacation rental permits are transferable only by inheritance.

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Slow sign-ups could stall Cannon Beach charter school

Fall opening could be up in the air

By BRENNIA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — With a building lease and recent grant award in hand, plans to open the Cannon Beach Academy this fall are starting to fall into place.

But a few aspects are still up in the air. One, most notably, is that not enough students are enrolled.

For the academy to open its doors, a provision in the contract between the academy and the Seaside School District requires at least 17 kindergarten students and 17 students combined in first and second grades to be enrolled by May 1. If that threshold is not reached, it is possible



Phil Simmons

the school would not be allowed to open in the fall.

As of Monday, only 12 kindergarten students and eight first- and second-graders have signed up.

"When we started this process many years back, a lot of families applied," Phil Simmons, the director of startup operations for the academy, said. "But in that time, families have moved, so it will be a challenge to get the minimum required."

Simmons is still optimistic about reaching the goal. As a charter school, any child in the region can enroll. Marketing materials have been circulated at Seaside Heights and Gearhart elementary schools, helping spread the word.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

The site of the new Cannon Beach Academy is at 171 Sunset Blvd. The charter school is set to be opened this fall.

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