

R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian  
Opponents of Gearhart's RV zoning change said visitors could set up at Bud's or Venice RV Park in Seaside.

## Gearhart OKs RV holidays

Resident's plea is heard by council

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — It's not often that a city resident can float an idea at a public meeting and have it become law.

Gearhart's Jim Schultz went before the City Council in 2015 asking for a way to host friends and family in recreational vehicles on his property. To do so would require a change in the city's zoning code.

Last week, city councilors adopted an amendment to permit occupancy of an RV for up to four days, twice a year.

According to terms of the amendment, the RV must be parked at a residence off the city right-of-way. The permit may be revoked at any time.



Jim Schultz

### Legislative remedy

"I guess I'm the guy who started it," Schultz told the City Council at Wednesday's public hearing. "We would have friends come down and bring a trailer and go to the Fireman's Ball and spend Memorial Day weekend, or I'd have my trailer parked there and the grandkids would want to go for pizza and we'd have boys' night out in the trailer."

When Police Chief Jeff Bowman advised Schultz his family time in the RV was against city rules and liable to receive a \$500 fine, Schultz sought a legislative remedy.

"So, going on two years now I've been going to City Council to change it to see if we could stay in the trailer one or two nights and use it as such," Schultz said.

### Opposition

Current city code allows the storage of up to two parked RVs on a homeowner's property.

Opponents of the change pointed to the availability of nearby RV parks and the difficulty of enforcement.

"Parked RVs on small city lots will give the city an image of an RV park," resident Leena Riker wrote in a letter to the council. "Is that what full-time Gearhart residents really want?"

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### ALL HAIL

## Athletes battle elements in 'Daily A' Invitational



Photos by Damian Mulinix/For The Daily Astorian  
Warrenton's Tyler Whitaker won the boys triple jump Saturday with a distance of 39-feet-7.

By GARY HENLEY  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Welcome to high school track and field on the North Oregon Coast.

The 29th annual Daily Astorian Invitational had a little bit of everything Saturday afternoon ... on the track, in the field and in the skies above Seaside High School.

Less than 24 hours after a major windstorm swept through the area, a weather system from the south kept things hopping in Saturday's meet.

### Alternating weather

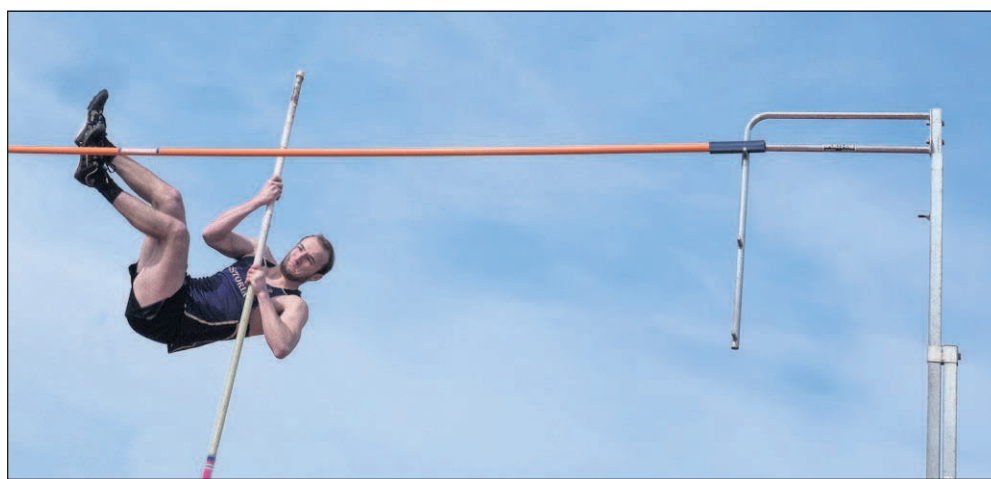
A 10-minute sample:  
At 1:10 p.m., sunshine and a slight breeze,

with some very dark clouds offshore, followed by (at 1:15), a hailstorm of near-biblical proportions. And finally, at 1:20, it was back to a Bob Marley song — the sun was shining and the weather was sweet.

And that's how it was Saturday, as the clouds, wind, rain and sunshine alternated every 15 minutes. Through it all, the athletes were running, jumping and throwing their personal bests.

Had the meet been scheduled for Friday, it would have been canceled, said Seaside coach Jeff Kilday. As it was, meet organizers were not able to set up for things until Saturday morning.

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Astoria senior Cole Olson won the boys pole vault by clearing a height of 9-feet-6 at Saturday's meet in Seaside. More photos from the invitational online at DailyAstorian.com/sports



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
Astoria Armory Executive Director Robyn Koustik points to a section of the Armory roof that was damaged during a windstorm on Friday in Astoria.

## Storm damages roof of Armory

Gallons of rainwater leaked into building

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Getting ready for Friday's skate night, Astoria Armory Executive Director Robyn Koustik said she got a call from one of her volunteers.

"The volunteer got here before I did," she said. "She's like, 'It's raining in the armory.'"

A large area of the building's tar paper and shingles had ripped off and started fluttering in the high winds Friday, letting water seep through the roof boards and onto the court and the lobby, where volunteers from the Armory and the U.S. Coast Guard were nearing completion of a remodel.

"It was raining as hard outside as it was inside the building," Koustik said of the surreal scene inside the community center.

Koustik said she and local contractor Randy Stemper went to City Lumber to buy 1-by-4-foot boards. Stemper and two others then ascended the roof of the Armory in high winds to nail down the tar paper. She said nearly 10 volunteers showed up throughout the night to help mop and vacuum an estimated 100 gallons of rainwater, preventing the gym floor from being damaged. A hole had to be cut in the lobby's roof to allow water to drain from the VIP mezzanine above, after which fans were set up to air out the building.

### Group got lucky

Mike Davies, president of the nonprofit Friends of the Armory volunteer board, said the group got lucky that someone noticed the issue early.

"It was surprising, because obviously that roof has been through a lot of storms," he said, adding the roof had been repaired in 2013 to prevent leakage.

Early this week, he said, the Armory will bring in contractors to assess roof and water damage to the lobby.

Events are canceled for the coming week. Koustik said the goal is to reopen by Skate Night Friday.

The Armory had to shut down the basement earlier this year after testers found lead residue in several locations exceeding federal health thresholds. The Armory tested after The Oregonian released a story about lead contamination

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## Jack's Country Store in Ocean Park is a family affair

Downer learned from his parents

OYSTERVILLE, Wash. — Tom Downer was 16 when his family moved to Ocean Park, Washington, from Longview in 1969. His folks, Jack and Lucille Downer, had recently purchased Henrichson's Grocery in Ocean Park — a store with a long family history on the north end of the Long Beach Peninsula.

Soon a new sign read "Jack's Country Store" and the Downer family was making its own brand of history on the peninsula and beyond.

Though its name and loca-



tion have changed more than once since it was established as Morehead & Co. General Merchandise store in 1885 when Washington was still a territory, Jack's is now recognized as the oldest continuous retail business in the state.

After graduating from Ilwaco High School, eventual ownership of his parents' store was the furthest thing from Downer's mind. "But," he said, "my four years at Seat-

le University gave me a lifetime's fill of city life."

Over the next quarter century, Downer worked alongside his father, absorbing his distinctive business philosophy "Actually, philosophies," Downer said. "He had several." He shares some of his dad's notable character traits, as well.

More than one customer has noticed Downer picking up litter in the parking lot in the early mornings "just like Jack did every day." And, it seems a given that advice or instructions are a freebie with or without a purchase in the hardware department.

"Jack was a firm believer

in stocking what other sellers didn't carry. He kept a list of customer requests — things they hadn't been able to find 'anywhere' and soon those items would appear on the shelves. He also felt it wiser to put his money into building inventory rather than spending it on advertising," according to Downer, "and he often added to his stock by purchases at liquidation sales."

— Sydney Stevens

Tom Downer followed his parents into business at Jack's Country Store in Ocean Park, Wash.

Sydney Stevens/  
For EO Media Group

