

Astoria council backs airport bond measure

Money for Life Flight hangar, other improvements

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council gave its support to a Port of Astoria bond measure for infrastructure improvements at the airport industrial area in Warrenton, including the construction of a Life Flight Network hangar.

The bond would raise \$1.96

million and be used in conjunction with money the port has already received in the form of a ConnectOregon grant.

All five councilors voted in favor of supporting the port's bond, with several citing personal experience and crediting Life Flight with saving family members' lives.

Even while the hospitals here expand, many patients still require trips to Portland, Councilor Cindy Price said.

"I certainly support it," she said.

Councilor Bruce Jones said he also liked the fact that the bond will provide for further growth and expansion at the airport property, making it

more attractive to other commercial entities.

In other business Monday night:

• Mayor Arline LaMear declared May Historic Preservation Month. In the proclamation, the mayor called historic preservation "an effective tool for revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, and maintaining community character while enhancing livability." Instructors and students from Clatsop Community College's Historic Preservation and Restoration Program were present, and several events are scheduled throughout the month to celebrate their craft.



Gary Henley/The Daily Astorian

A plane flies over the Astoria Region Airport. The proposed Life Flight hangar would be built to the left of the row of white buildings.

• The City Council approved a supplemental budget, adjusting for \$88,000 in additional, unanticipated room

tax revenues and a \$36,000 grant reimbursement.

• The council awarded a \$174,500 trestle repair contract to Bergerson Construction to begin critical repair work on trolley trestles on First and Second streets and Columbia Avenue. City staff asked the council to consider using funds from the Promote Astoria fund to pay for the project initially, reimbursing the fund after the anticipated revenue outlined in the supplemental budget comes in.

• The council approved a liquor license for the new Mo's Restaurant set to open at the base of 15th Street this summer.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian
An explosion in October at Higher Level Concentrates left a man with serious burns.

Change of venue sought in fire suit

Worker filed in Multnomah

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Richard Delphia is seeking to move the lawsuit over an explosion and fire in a marijuana processing facility at his building in Uniontown last year to Clatsop County Circuit Court.

Jacob Magley, a contractor working for Higher Level Concentrates, was burned in an October explosion in the basement of Delphia's building at the corner of Portway and Industry streets. Magley's lawyer alleged the owners of Higher Level, William "Chris" West and Jason Oei, were making and "dabbing" butane hash oil, touching off an explosion and fire that gutted the building and left him with serious burns on his upper body.

Magley filed suit in Multnomah County against three people and 11 businesses for damages of \$8.9 million. In Magley's original complaint, his lawyer, Gregory Zeuthen, argued the venue was correct because West and Oei's companies each have agents that receive court processes in Multnomah County.

West, Oei and their companies Higher Level, High Tide Biological and Astoria Trading Co. are being sued for premises liability and violations of the Oregon Safe Employment Act.

Delphia and several of his companies are also being sued for premises liability and violations of the employment law. One of his companies, D&D Gas Inc., was recently removed from the case.

"The actions giving rise to this case all occurred in Clatsop County," John Barhoum, Delphia's lawyer, said in a motion to move the case. "Moreover, many, if not all witnesses reside in Clatsop County. Finally, the parties reside in Clatsop County."

Sweet Relief Natural Medicine, a local marijuana store owned by Oscar Nelson and Gary Reynolds that leases space in Delphia's building above Higher Level's space, is being sued for premises liability. Another of their companies, G.O. Enterprises, was recently added as a defendant in the case.

Under the Bridge Cigarettes and UTB Investments, both owned by local tobacco and marijuana store financier John Harper, were sued for violations of employer liability law, products liability and general negligence.



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