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ONE DOLLAR

Higher Level duo charged with assault, recklessness



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis reads the indictment against Jason Oei, in the background on a television monitor, on charges related to an explosion at his cannabis extraction business.

Owners of facility that exploded in October

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

William “Chris” West and Jason Oei, the owners of the Astoria marijuana processor that blew up in October, were indicted Friday in Clatsop County Circuit Court on charges of felony assault and misdemeanor reckless endangerment.

District Attorney Josh Marquis said in his indictment that West and Oei had “unlawfully and recklessly, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life,” caused serious physical injury to Jacob

Magley, a worker at the facility who suffered burns in the explosion, by means of the dangerous weapon butane.

Marquis said the two men also created a substantial risk of serious injury to others.

West, 41, and Oei, 44, co-own and operate Higher Level Concentrates, a marijuana processor in the Uniontown neighborhood. An explosion in October rocked the basement they rent from Richard Delphia, gutting the facility and damaging a space rented by Sweet Relief Natural Medicine upstairs.

Magley was sent to a burn unit in Portland for multiple weeks and is suing the two men in Multnomah County Circuit Court for premises liability and violations of the Oregon Safe

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
William “Chris” West, left in the background on a television monitor, was indicted Friday by Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis on charges related to an explosion at a business West owned in Astoria in October.

Erosion, storms cause slides at Ecola State Park



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Ecola State Park Ranger Bo Ensign surveys damage caused to parts of the park from landslides due to unusually heavy rainfall earlier in the year.

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Erosion, winter storms and landslides have shut down Ecola State Park multiple times and cut a popular trail in two in the past year and a half.

Now, more than 40 years after a 1975 park master plan highlighted these same problem areas, the Ore-

gon Parks and Recreation Department is examining some of the same solutions proposed back then.

“The problems at the park date back decades,” said Chris Havel, associate director for the parks department, “and the solutions are really rather difficult if we’re going to stick with the current entrance. And that’s where things get sticky.”

To reroute the washed-out trail between Ecola Point and Indian

Beach is one thing. It will be labor intensive and require funds the park hadn’t budgeted for, but at least with trail-building park management is on familiar territory. A long-term fix for the road leading into the park is another dilemma entirely. Since 2015, the department has spent over \$30,000 on various sections of Ecola Park Road.

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
Heavy construction equipment was brought to Ecola State Park last week to repair damage from a series of landslides that occurred in multiple locations in the park.

‘The problems at the park date back decades.’

Chris Havel
associate director for the parks department

Coffee to French: ‘Simple food done well’

Funky French cuisine takes over coffee spot

EVERYDAY people

CANNON BEACH — At Harding Trading Co., every part of the restaurant is for consumption.

No, it’s not all edible. But as long as it has a price tag, a customer can buy one of the many vintage items that line the walls and adorn the tables of the new French rustic-style restaurant — even some of the tables and chairs themselves.

Whether it be the colorful, antique cookware and

glass chandeliers, the cuisine or a space lighted exclusively by candlelight, every aspect of the restaurant is important together, co-partner Jane Harding said.

“You are coming for more than just dinner. You are coming for an experience,” she said.

The restaurant on Beaver Street transitioned from

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Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian
Jane Harding, co-partner of Harding Trading Co.

Warrenton ponders mayor appointment

Balensifer and Newton vie for top position

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian



Henry Balensifer
Rick Newton

WARRENTON — The Warrenton City Commission is expected to select a new mayor Tuesday night.

The commission will cast votes for two of its own members — Henry Balensifer and Rick Newton.

“We’ll see what the vote is,” said Balensifer, who has been serving as acting mayor since former Mayor Mark Kujala resigned in March. “It is my hope that we can fill

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