

# Stabbing: No arrests have been made

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Burgess and Jantes said they helped the injured man and applied pressure to his wound until emergency personnel arrived. He also suffered cuts above his left eye and on both lips.

Astoria Police found the man and woman near Bay Street minutes later. Police searched the scene and interviewed multiple witnesses before eventually bringing the two in for questioning. The couple was identified as Nick-olys A. Glaser, 23, of Spring Valley, New York, and Erika N. Rasmussen, 21, of Okchela, Oklahoma.

The wounded man, identified as Aaron Lee Ashby, 50, of Port Townsend, Washington, was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital shortly after 7:30 p.m. Police said Ashby was treated for an injury that was not life-threatening and admitted overnight for observation.

Another man, Clinton Holman, 32, of Astoria, was taken to the hospital after



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

**Emergency personnel attend to a stabbing victim in Astoria near the Doughboy Monument Monday night.**

allegedly being kicked repeatedly. Police said Holman was treated and released.

Astoria Police said the altercation reportedly started after Ashby allegedly touched

Glaser's dog inappropriately. Ashby also reportedly also assaulted Holman.

No arrests have been made. "This is a very complex, convoluted situation

involving numerous people," Astoria Police Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said in a statement. "Detectives will be working on collecting surveillance video from the area, and following up with witnesses in an attempt to determine exactly what happened. We would ask that anyone who believes they witnessed this incident, who has not already spoken with police, contact Detective Ken Hansen at the Astoria Police Department."

Melisa McKinley, 21, of Seaside, said she could sense people in the group were under the influence of intoxicants.

"I could tell they were definitely on something," she said. "They were just chilling and then decided to fight."

When police and emergency personnel left the scene after 8:30 p.m., the partygoers returned to the restaurant for the baby shower.

"That was crazy," McKinley said. "This will be one memorable baby shower. That's for sure."

# Property: 'It's definitely a safety problem'

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## Signs

Olvey's property feels like a cross between an art project, a museum and a political protest.

His signs spell out a one-man crusade against societal dilemmas and ills in general and the city government, legal system and media in particular. The signs, some of them small essays, detail his complaints against all of these groups as well as illuminate problems with the house, problems he blames on the city.

For the most part he favors black or blue type against a white background and reserves bright colors for decorative elements. There are exceptions, though. One sign on high-light-bright yellow paper states, "Termite trained to dig trench for climbing gas line." Nearly every letter is in a different color.

Olvey's concerns are interspersed with a colorful collection of objects: plastic fish flutter on a line overhead, a magnifying glass points down at a miniature can labeled "Dirty Old Man Repellent," a small statue of an ostrich leans over with its head stuck in the sand on the dashboard of one of the four cars rusting in his yard and is labeled, "Astoria City Council."

## 'D' in Derelict

The signage and decor are fairly new, said Olvey's nearest neighbor, Harry Staples, whose house is so close to Olvey's the men could open their windows and almost pass a cup of sugar back and forth if they wanted to.

Before the signs, there was a lot more trash and the yard was even more overgrown, Staples said. He has nothing against Olvey personally, but he believes the property, without a doubt, qualifies as a nuisance.

"It's definitely a safety problem," he said. "If his house caught on fire, which it is certainly prepped to do, I wouldn't have much time to react and it certainly would take mine right with it."

He can tell stories about the feral cats and large river rats the property attracts and the damage some of these animals have done to surrounding properties.

In 2014, Olvey attempted to purchase an undeveloped lot adjacent to his property from the city. His offer was denied after Staples and a handful of other neighbors and concerned Astorians showed up at a public hearing and spoke against the sale.

"Mr. Olvey capitalized the 'D' in derelict building ordinance," one neighbor testified.

## Sinking into the ground

Olvey claims a sewer the city installed at the front of his house has caused his yard to flood and his house to sink and made it impossible for him to make the improvements the city desires.

"Every year that house goes farther down into the ground," he said. On the phone, he describes local policymakers and law enforcement as "crooks."



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

**One neighbor said 'Mr. Olvey capitalized the 'D' in derelict building ordinance.'**

# Cannon Beach: Petition outlines grievances

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opportunity to write to them or come to offer any different ideas."

A petition outlining grievances with the plan started circulating about a week ago. As of Monday, the petition had 114 signatures, though many who signed live outside of Cannon Beach.

The petition, started by Voyages Toy Co. owner Jeremy Clifford, argued that timed parking would "negatively impact the relaxing atmosphere" of the town, "increase traffic congestion when cars need to be moved," and "not allow visitors enough time to enjoy the restaurants and browse through the local shops."

Clifford said there hasn't been any evidence to show that higher turnover would lead to higher sales in a town like Cannon Beach.

"We want people to come out to the beach and then come into town to shop and eat in our restaurants. Three hours isn't enough time to do that," Clifford said. "Believe me: I want to make more money. And if I thought for one minute I thought the time limit would bring more cus-

tomers in my store I'd support it, but I don't believe it."

In a year where sales across all businesses have been down due to an unusually harsh winter, Clifford said business owners object to experimenting during the city's busiest season.

"The summer here is our Christmastime for other retailers," Clifford said. "Best practices tells us you don't do tests like this during your busiest season. If there are going to be negative impacts, you don't want them to be huge."

Clifford and others who signed the petition are pleased the city is postponing the plan to get feedback from the community. Ultimately, Clifford said he fears timed parking signage and an increase in parking tickets from violations would negatively impact the quaint, small-town visitor experience — as well as their desire to ever return.

"If (employees parking on Hemlock) is the problem you are trying to solve, then that's a different problem to solve. Let's all agree on that because I want the customers to have easy access to my stores," Clifford said. "But the parking problem in Cannon Beach is larger than that. It's con-

nected to housing, commuting, city infrastructure — it will take many years."

## Clearing up confusion

In an effort to clear up confusion about the city's intention with timed parking, City Councilor George Vetter spent last week walking, measuring and counting all the parking within a five-minute walk of the corner of Morris' Fireside at Hemlock and Second.

In total, Vetter counted spaces for 835 cars the size of a Dodge Grand Caravan. Of those spaces, about 100 are affected by timed parking, he said. Since his experiment, he said he has been speaking with some concerned business owners about what he found.

"My goal was to present the facts," Vetter said. "The negative reactions from people seemed like they were fearing something they didn't know all the facts about. So I wanted to inform them and let them decide."

Vetter said that having a higher turnover rate would give more people a chance to park downtown, which in turn would increase the number of possible customers for businesses. The City Council voted unanimously for the

# Parks fee: Lodging tax increase also mulled

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the city's approximately 3,200 residential water meters, a process Estes estimated could take close to six months to accomplish.

The Parks and Recreation Department faced a \$100,000 budget shortfall this year and is struggling to find ways to sustain itself into the future. The city opted to cancel some free community programs and the City Council has continued to discuss solutions to the department's money woes. In addition to a water meter fee, the City Council has also discussed increasing the lodging tax.

At Estes' suggestion, councilors agreed to combine further discussion of the water meter fee with a discussion of the lodging tax at its meeting July 17. This way, Estes said, there could be a full review of the amount of revenue both options could generate.

## 'Make it fair'

Astoria resident Judy Woodward said parks are very important, but she objected to "unfair fees and taxes."

"If you must add a tax to the water bill to fund parks and rec that doesn't have a connection to public works or our water bill, make it fair," she said during a public comment period. "Base it on water usage, but don't expect a single-person household to subsidize the operation and maintenance of parks and rec for multiperson households."



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

**The city is considering new fees and taxes to help parks.**

City Councilor Bruce Jones said he agreed. Originally, he had supported the proposed \$3 per water meter, per month fee. He says adding the fee to water bills is efficient and cost-effective since a collection system is already in place through the water billing system. But, he added, it isn't his intent to put the burden more on one group of Astorians by charging per meter versus per unit, he said. City Councilor Cindy Price, who has pushed for the fee as a way to quickly raise money for the parks department, said she agreed.

City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill continued to be the only councilor against the proposed fee. She echoed the concerns of resident Roger Lindsley who argued Monday night that the Parks and Recreation Department's services are not connected to the water and sewer services public works provides. The bill-

ing through the Public Works Department reflects the actual costs of essential services, Lindsley said. He was against adding a fee to an "essential city service" to fill the "budget shortfalls of an unrelated department."

## Voluntary fee

Nemlowill told the council Monday she could support a voluntary fee. If a fee is charged, she said it isn't fair to only target residents. Businesses should also pay, she said. In previous discussions, other councilors had wanted to avoid double-charging business owners who also lived in town.

Estes emphasized that the financial issues faced by the Parks and Recreation Department are not the result of mismanagement by parks staff. It is a situation a long time in the making, he and others have said.

Since 1975, the department has added 42 additional parks to its roster and currently maintains 310 acres of parks, trails and natural areas as well as a number of programs and facilities — including the Astoria Aquatic Center — while being severely understaffed. Until recently the department did not operate under a master plan to help guide its decisions.

Parks Director Angela Cosby said she has already begun to lose key staff members and worries about losing more. Any decision at this point would be helpful, she said, since it would give the department a guarantee of future money.

Several people asked the City Council to consider a smaller increase to the lodging tax. The council is considering an increase from 9 percent to 12 percent. Skip Hauke, executive director of the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce, suggested an increase to only 10 or 10.5 percent.

If the council went with an increase to 12 percent, "I think we'd be the highest on the coast," he said. Warrenton has a 12 percent lodging tax, but that ends up applying mostly to camping and trailer spaces, he said.

The lodging tax has been touted as a long-term way to generate money for the department, while the water meter fee was considered a short-term option, to be reviewed a year after implementation.