



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The Doughboy Monument in Astoria with a restaurant in the background was the scene of a stabbing incident last week that has authorities still looking for answers. A group of about 10 people was apparently involved in the fight that wounded Aaron Lee Ashby.

'CONVOLUTED' CASE

Several witnesses, but few answers, after stabbing in Uniontown

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

A brawl that led to a stabbing near the Doughboy Monument in Uniontown last week has produced plenty of witnesses, but few straight answers.

Astoria Police responded to reports of a fight involving a group of about 10 people, who appeared to be transients, shortly before 7:30 p.m. on June 19. Emergency personnel treated Aaron Lee Ashby, 50, of Port Townsend, Washington, for a stab wound near his stomach. Clinton Holmen, 32, of Astoria, was also treated after being knocked unconscious.

Both men have since been released from Columbia Memorial Hospital, and no arrests have been made in connection to the incident.

The investigation

In the ensuing investigation, it has become clear the brawl was at least partially a result of Ashby inappropriately touching the dog of Nickolys A. Glaser, 23, of Spring Valley, New York. But despite the incident's setting — in full view of surrounding businesses and drivers along Marine Drive — not much else is clear.

"Everybody sees things from different perspectives," Astoria Police Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said. "We have the where and when. It's about finding the who, what, why and how. 'Convoluting' is the best word I could use to describe this situation."

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The stabbing incident last week near the Doughboy Monument in Astoria happened early in the evening in full view of several witnesses at a restaurant.



A victim of an assault near the Doughboy Monument in Astoria receives treatment.

Colin Murphey
The Daily Astorian

Warrenton Library bustles at new spot

City looks at larger levy for growth, staff

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Warrenton Community Library has only been open at its new location on Main Avenue for five days and has already signed up several dozen new cardholders.

City staff and commissioners believe the library will only continue to stay busy — if not get busier — now that it has moved from cramped, ramshackle quarters in Hammond to a larger building that used to house the Serendipity Cafe, in the heart of downtown.

But in order to fully fund library operations now and into the future — and allow the library to expand hours, increase from a bare-bones staff or offer new programs — the levy that funds library operations needs to be increased from \$0.095 cents per \$1,000 assessed property value to at least 25 cents, city staff and library board members said. The five-year levy expires this year and any proposed increase will go in front of voters in November.

Going up to 25 cents would give the library only about \$40,000 extra to put

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Gearhart Fire: What price safety?

Public sour on park site

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — The city is looking for alternatives to a new firehouse on public parkland, a proposal that met with strong pushback at a public forum in May.

With some willing property owners, conversations about potential sites are underway.

The current firehouse consists of a cinder-block building at 670 Pacific Way, built in 1958, and is considered outdated and vulnerable to earthquake and tsunami. While built "fairly stoutly," according to geologist Tom Horning, who has served as a consultant for the city and is a Seaside city councilor, the property is likely to flood even in a moderate tsunami, prompting discussion of a new location.

Gearhart has two and possibly three potential sites for acquisition, Mayor Matt Brown said Tuesday, and talks with property owners have begun.

Brown said he hopes to present the new locations, along with cost breakdowns, to the public this fall.

"The park can be an option, but I believe we need to present three options to the general public in a town hall meeting later this year," Brown said.

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Cannon Beach welcomes new building official

Butler leaves retirement to inspect for city

By BRENNNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Alton Butler, Cannon Beach's new, full-time building inspector, knows what it takes to get something built.

Between his early years as a logger, 25 years as an engineer in the National Guard and about 20 years as a building inspector, Butler knows materials, design and regulations.

Butler started earlier this month as building inspector, a position that enforces building codes for safety and compliance on any new construction in Cannon Beach. Before this year, the city contracted with Bob Mitchell, the inspector for Seaside, to do this job.

"After my tour as a Marine, I entered in the engineering unit in the National Guard and found I had an interest in meeting people and keeping buildings safe," Butler said.

Born and raised in Grand Ronde, where he is a tribal

member, Butler moved to Sheridan to work as a logger. In 2000, he was laid off and attended Chemeketa Community College under the federal dislocated timber workers program to get certified as a building inspector.

Since then, Butler has worked as an inspector at Mount St. Helens, Lincoln City, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and McMinnville before retiring. But the opportunity in Cannon Beach made him reconsider, he said.

"It's a good place to retire,"

Butler said. "It's my dream job to do this on the coast. It's a nice community — a good way to finish my career."

While Butler has a good number of code-enforcing years under his belt, some aspects of working on the coast have a learning curve. Some, like compromising with contractors with building plans, can be found anywhere. Living by the ocean means learning a whole new set of flood-plain, tsunami-inundation zone and vacation-rental codes.

But knowing the codes is only half the job, he said.

"Doing public relations is

half my job. Being approachable and being respectful of all people are strengths in this job," he said.

City Planner Mark Barnes said Butler's approachable nature and his experience make him an asset to the city.

"He's very knowledgeable, and he knows how to talk to people," Barnes said.

When Butler isn't enforcing building codes, he said he likes to officiate high school basketball, baseball and football, as well as work on refurbishing a 100-year-old barn back in Sheridan.

"I'm just glad to be here. I feel welcomed," Butler said.



Alton Butler

