



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A knife was found in this alley near the scene of the stabbing last week in Astoria. Authorities are still in the process of conducting forensic analysis to determine if it was used in the assault.

## Stabbing: Cause of fight in question

Continued from Page 1A

### Witness accounts

Most of the people at the scene of the brawl quickly fled. Glaser and Erika N. Rasmussen, 21, of Ochelata, Oklahoma, were taken to the Astoria Police Station for questioning but later released.

Witnesses attending a baby shower at the nearby El Tapatio restaurant that night indicated Glaser had allegedly stabbed Ashby with a knife provided by Rasmussen. But interviews with witnesses, people of interest and victims have produced alternative explanations.

Some say Rasmussen allegedly stabbed Ashby herself, while others recall Ashby causing the injury to himself, Halverson said. Witnesses at the baby shower also said Glaser had allegedly kicked Holmen repeatedly, though others say Ashby was the aggressor who may have knocked him unconscious.

### What's the cause?

The exact cause of the fight is also in question.

John White, who was working at the Nature's Choice Alternative Medicine marijuana dispensary at the time of the brawl, believes Ashby's desire to find marijuana may also have played a role in the fight.

Glaser and Rasmussen had purchased marijuana from the dispensary — just a few feet away from the Doughboy Monument — prior to the incident, he said.

Soon after, a couple of baby shower attendees walked



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Several individuals in the area of a stabbing incident in Astoria on June 19 were searched and then held briefly by authorities before being released.

Ashby toward the area near the dispensary, where they covered his wound as he leaned against a window near the dispensary. White recalls a bleeding Ashby saying, "All I wanted was some weed."

White recalled seeing Rasmussen — knife in hand — walk quickly toward an alley area before briefly falling out of view. She then returned to the scene of the fight seconds later to encourage Glaser to leave, he said.

White was taking a break from his shift in the alley later in the week when he spotted a knife with a 4- to 5-inch blade and what appeared to be blood stains. His boss then

snapped a picture of the knife and reported it to police, who went to the dispensary to collect it shortly after.

Forensics tests on the knife likely will not be completed for several weeks, Halverson said. The dispensary has also turned in surveillance video from the night of the stabbing to police.

### Moved on

Ashby, Glaser and Rasmussen likely are no longer in Astoria, Halverson said. Ashby has since been arrested on a warrant from Washington state, while Glaser and Rasmussen have moved to another area.

White no longer works

at the marijuana dispensary. He and the dispensary's general manager gave different accounts of his departure.

The Clatsop County District Attorney's Office is still reviewing witness testimony and other evidence in the case to determine if charges will be filed. Police, meanwhile, will continue to sort through evidence in the hopes of finding more clarity to a violent incident that is relatively rare in Astoria.

"At the end of the day, we need to present a provable case to the District Attorney's Office," Halverson said. "Sometimes these things do not move quickly."

## Library: Staffed by two part-time employees and multiple volunteers

Continued from Page 1A

toward new programs or staff, City Manager Linda Engbretson said.

"We've run conservative for a very long time," said Librarian Nettie-Lee Calog. "We can stay frugal."

The funds levied currently aren't enough to fund the library, said Commissioner Rick Newton during a work session Tuesday, pointing out that the library required a transfer of funds from the city budget's general fund.

Mayor Henry Balensifer and recently appointed Commissioner Mark Baldwin pushed for more, though. They asked city staff and library board members to give them the "full picture" of what the library needs and wants, and bring back numbers that reflect an even bigger increase to the levy, in addition to the proposed 25-cent increase.

For comparison, a police levy voters passed assesses 28 cents per \$1,000 property value and only covers a single position, city staff said.

"And we're talking about a whole library," Newton said.

The city is still figuring out what it costs to be at the new location. They simply haven't been in the building long enough to know what a full month's worth of utility bills looks like, Finance Director April Clark said.

Nor do they know what it will cost to be in the building during the winter. Meanwhile, the needs of the library have changed. The new location is much bigger and the uptick in business makes managing the large space more difficult.

"It used to be I could run the place by myself because

you (could) see everything that's going on," Calog said. "That's not going to happen here."

The library is staffed by two part-time employees — Calog works 25 hours a week and another employee works only 11.5 hours — and multiple volunteers.

The library has just shy of 4,000 cardholders, primarily Warrenton residents but with several out-of-town users. If voters pass an increased levy, the library board contemplates adding staff, increasing hours of operation and expanding programs and services. For example, none of the library's collection is cataloged in a digital system. Calog and her volunteers still stamp date-due slips in the backs of books.

Since moving into the Serendipity building, the library has gained a host of new volunteers in addition to new library cardholders. Calog has spoken to a number of people who told her they didn't even know Warrenton had a library.

"But now we're right on Main street and people can see us," Calog said after the meeting.

"I think people are going to fall in love with this location," Engbretson said.

She and the commissioners believe the community would support an increased levy. But, Engbretson warned, "there are some folks we're not going to be popular with."

The library board and city staff plan to collect more information about several different levy rate increase scenarios and what they could mean for the library. They will discuss this information with the commission at a future meeting.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Nettie-Lee Calog, Warrenton Community Library site manager, checks out books to Warrenton resident Constance Davis at the old location for the Warrenton Community Library in Hammond in March. The new location in downtown Warrenton is attracting more attention.

## Gearhart: Park is higher than the current fire station location

Continued from Page 1A

### Limited options

After a two-year study of nine locations, the firehouse committee narrowed the choices down to three: Gearhart Park at the corner of South Marion and Pacific Way; the current firehouse on Pacific Way; and Trail's End, directly across from the fire station on the south side of Pacific Way.

"Unfortunately the current location of the fire station would not be approved by DOGAMI (Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries) to build there, and the current condition of the building there is not good," Brown said.

The Trail's End site was eliminated because of low elevation, poor soil quality and public opposition. Locations to the east are vulnerable to flooding from the Neacoxie.

Now, the city is left with only the park site. But at a May public forum, many residents expressed their discontent with the park even being considered as an option. Despite the park's 48-foot elevation — the fire station property stands at an elevation of 27 feet — the proposal met



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Of sites considered, Gearhart Park remains the only one still under consideration.

stiff resistance. Many of those who spoke said they considered the park a part of the "character of the town."

### Is park best choice?

Some city councilors and fire committee members still consider the park location the most optimal for a new firehouse.

City Councilor Sue Lorain, a member of the firehouse committee, said misconceptions arose over the park site in terms of its size, location and elevation. The park is higher than the current fire station, she said at a City Council dis-

ussion in early June, and the location is far more secure in an earthquake or tsunami.

"I would recommend we go ahead with the park, and get rid of misconceptions, and have another town hall meeting at the end of September," Lorain said. "If nothing comes up, I think we go with the park."

Lorain asked councilors to extend the search process until September, and eliminate the current firehouse as a potential location.

"I feel it's important to keep this ball rolling," City Councilor Dan Jesse said at

that meeting. "At some point a large earthquake is going to happen. I don't know when that's going to be. But we should keep propelling this forward. At some point we will have to decide, 'This site is the best we're going to get,' and be willing to move forward, even if we lose."

### What's ahead

At the City Council's June meeting, councilors agreed to continue the location search.

One privately owned site under consideration reaches an elevation of 75 feet, Brown said. The property is close to



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

The Gearhart Firehouse is considered obsolete and at risk in a Cascadia Subduction Zone event.

the condos on North Marion and across from the golf course, Brown said, and conversations with the owner have begun.

"We're starting another conversation with another property owner on North Marion," City Administrator Chad Sweet said Tuesday. "We want to make sure everyone's comfortable with the deal before making it public."

Once new locations are determined, the City Council intends to provide \$5,000 to conduct studies of alternative properties. Money would come from the hazard mitiga-

tion or building reserve funds, Sweet said.

That money could be spent on an architectural rendering, geotechnical studies, determining basic costs or toward an estimator to take a look at the building, location and type of ground to determine what costs would be, Sweet said.

"I would be happy if we could find another spot that was not the park, because I understand all of our attachments to that park," Sweet said. "I'm anxious to see if one of these other real estate dealings and locations could be worked out."