

# Johnston: Joined the Astoria Police Department as a 28-year-old recruit

Continued from Page 1A

Johnston, who could not immediately be reached for comment, recalled on Facebook how he joined the police department as a 28-year-old recruit and moved up through the ranks. He was named police chief and assistant city manager in 2014.

Johnston stepped down as assistant city manager earlier this month, describing the dual role as exhausting.

"When I came here I said my goal was to change my little corner of the world," he wrote on Facebook Wednesday announcing his retirement. "I hope I have done so for the better."

"As I move on to other opportunities, I will always hold this time and place as special. I have rolled in your

gutters with those who would harm the community; I have held the hands of victims in pain. You have welcomed me into your lives. I will leave here with plenty of scars inside and out but I will also leave here with a heart that is fuller for the experience," he continued. "I have had the pleasure of working with amazing people in the police department, the city, and the community.

"Your police department is comprised of great people. They want the best for you and the community at large. They cannot do it without you. They need you to be involved in the business of public safety.

"My departure is sudden, but necessary. I hope it will be good for the community and the department. Until we meet again, it was my privilege to

serve you."

Johnston's retirement comes as the department struggles with a short staff. Two officers transferred to the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office earlier this year while one more resigned. Due to the lengthy training period at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem, the department will likely remain short-staffed into next year.

Officers have been required to work overtime shifts, and detectives have had to take on patrol duties. Johnston admitted in April that, "It's going to be a very difficult time for our department."

In a Facebook post earlier this month announcing that he was resigning as assistant city manager, the police chief spoke of the tension in the dual roles.

"It is exhausting," Johnston wrote. "It is also exhausting for my department. The members of my department could not trust that I had their best interest in a primary position at all times. That is not a healthy position to put them in. Members of the community have opined that I may be a part-time police chief. It is clear that the image of a dual role is not one that is healthy for the legitimacy of the department with our community."

Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis said he was surprised by Johnston's announcement. "I didn't know that was coming," he said. "I'm grateful for all the things Brad has done.

"But Astoria needs to make some changes. And I'm confident that they will."



Case Van Dorne co-owns the new Five Zero Trees marijuana store with Joel Jennings and Jason Cain.

## Pot shop: Employs 14 people, 12 local

Continued from Page 1A

In the former Garbo's Vintage Wear on the east side is a showroom with 34 strains of marijuana, along with plant starts, edibles, extracts, merchandise and paraphernalia. Garbo's owner Lynn Hadley purchased the Shanahan Building east on Commercial Street and relocated to the former Custom Threads site earlier this year.

The former 5 Lil' Monkeys children's consignment store on the west has been turned into a large lobby, complete with a mural of the Astoria Bridge covering the western wall. With all the space, Van Dorne said the company hopes to add an educational cannabis experience, similar to an interpretive center.

Adorning the floors, walls, counters and shelves is wood, much of which Van Dorne said has been reclaimed from other places, such as a former mill in Sheridan. Crates from the Fred Meyer grocery store have been turned into shelves for shirts and a table holding plant starts.

"We shoot for an aesthetic that's going to match our surrounding area," Van Dorne said.

### High concentration

Five Zero Trees joins Sweet Relief Natural Medicine on Commercial Street and the Pharmacy in Uppertown,

Nature's Choice Alternative Medicine and Hi Astoria in Uniontown and Hi Cascade Astoria on the South Slope. Sweet Relief's second location on Portway Street closed last year after being damaged in an explosion and fire at a butane hash oil processor located in the basement.

Van Dorne said he feels the knowledge of his staff will set Five Zero Trees apart from other stores, along with quality control of the product.

Open for less than a week, he said Five Zero Trees already employs 14 people, 12 of them locals put through a rigorous training of several weeks with two managers from the Portland area.

The company focuses on organic products and buys from vendors, but the partners also have their own grow site at a farm in the Willamette Valley where Van Dorne said they practice Korean natural farming, which uses other crops purposely grown and fermented to fertilize the soil for the company's marijuana plants.

Van Dorne said he is eager to integrate into the downtown business community and encourages his employees to volunteer locally in efforts such as the Clatsop County Regional Food Bank and beach cleanups. "At the end of the day, we really are just another small, family-owned business."



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

People cool off in the waters near Youngs River Falls on Wednesday as temperatures in the area climbed over 90 degrees in some parts of Clatsop County. Find more photos capturing people beating the heat online at DailyAstorian.com

## Heatwave: Lower temps expected for weekend

Continued from Page 1A

Portland beat the record for Aug. 2 with a high of 103 degrees. The previous record for that date had been 96 degrees in 1986 at the Portland Airport and 100 degrees in 1939 in downtown Portland. The all-time record still stands at 107 degrees.

The heat wave triggered a state of emergency announcement by Gov. Kate Brown as the hot, dry and windy conditions combined with forecasts for thunderstorms increased the threat of wildfires. The declaration will enable the Oregon National Guard to mobilize resources to help the Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office with firefighting efforts.

An excessive heat warning remains in place today for the region. Temperatures in Astoria are expected to soar above Wednesday's with a predicted high of 97 degrees; in Portland, today could end up being the hottest day of the year at 106 degrees.

### Heat wave

The heat wave hit the coast at a time when dozens of boats were out on the Columbia River for the Buoy 10 recreational fishery and the Clatsop County Fair was in full swing.

It caught everyone by surprise.

Temperature is relative. In other parts of the country, and even the state, no one would think twice about a 93-degree day in the middle of summer. On the coast, such high temperatures are rare and the people and animals who live here aren't used to them.

Or, in the words of National Weather Service meteorological technician Gerald Macke, "We're not accustomed to this 107-degree nonsense."

When issuing warnings — whether for excessive heat or snow — meteorologists must take regional differences into account.

### Pig woes

At the fairgrounds, 4-H organizers, kids and parents



Participants in the 4-H competition at the Clatsop County Fair in Astoria cool down their animals on Wednesday as temperatures in the area rose to more than 90 degrees in some places.



Hundreds of people flocked to the waters off Cannon Beach on Wednesday as temperatures in the area soared and were expected to rise even higher today.

rushed around trying to keep animals cool. They spread ice donated by local seafood processing plants on the floors of chicken, sheep and pig pens. Rabbits stretched out next to frozen bottles of water. There were box fans everywhere: some on the floor, pointing at the backs of cows; others dangled from poles above enclosures, kept in place by twine or daisy chains of plastic zip ties.

"Last week, they didn't say it was going to be this hot,"

said Sandra Carlson, Clatsop County 4-H coordinator with Oregon State University Extension Service.

At the outdoor arena, girls wearing full equestrian gear — breeches, boots, shirts buttoned to the throat, long-sleeved riding jackets and helmets — lined up with their horses. Later, Kaitlyn Landwehr leaned back in a chair outside her horse Jake's stall. She was resting, but also keeping an eye on him to make sure he didn't start to show any

signs of heat sickness.

The animals everyone was most worried about, however, were the pigs. Swine can't regulate their body temperature by sweating in the way people can, or by panting as dogs can. They find other ways to keep cool, like wallowing in mud, for example. At the fairgrounds, they're stuck. They can burrow through the wood chips in their pens and reach the indoor arena's concrete floor, but this only provides a small amount of relief.

To keep the pigs cool, swine supervisor Tim Clark and his crew rigged up a misting system, last used in 2015, all along the pig enclosures. Many 4-H kids supplemented this with hand-held spray bottles, giving their pigs an extra misting here and there.

On top of worrying if their pigs will behave in front of the judges, kids in 4-H now also had to worry about their animal's health overall.

"They've been working for this all year and to have overheating animals is an extra layer of stress," said Carlson. But, she added, "It's also about learning lessons."

The coast is expected to cool down somewhat this weekend with temperatures in the 70s.



Bud tender Bob Roughton waters the vegetative starts sold at marijuana store Five Zero Trees.

## Bistro: Stevenson hopes to research more dog-friendly dishes

Continued from Page 1A

"It's the only restaurant that I know of that actually offers a meal for a dog," Hayes said. "It was great. I came down right from work and didn't have to worry about feeding Gracie."

With popularity growing, Stevenson said he plans to expand by working with local dog shops to sell his dog dinner to-go in refrigerated, compostable cups.

"When people go to the

beach, they aren't thinking about bringing dog food. So owners could benefit from the convenience of having an on-the-go dog meal they can buy," Stevenson said.

Stevenson hopes to research more dog-friendly dishes to diversify the menu. But, for now, it seems like the dogs are loving everything about the dish except for one thing.

"Gracie cleaned the bowl," Hayes said, "but she left the parsley garnish."



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The Bistro in Cannon Beach now offers a new menu for dogs and chef/owner Jack Stevenson said the reception so far has been overwhelmingly positive.