



WHEN HOURS BECOME DAYS
WEEKEND BREAK • PAGE 1C

A GUIDE TO LOCAL CRAFT BEER
SPECIAL SECTION • INSIDE



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Raymond Furr picks up a piece of trash on Highway 101 near Gearhart on Wednesday as part of his campaign to clean up the roadway from Coos Bay to Astoria.

Coos Bay man picks up litter, one mile at a time

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

White plastic bags with the word “CARE” spray-painted on the side have popped up along U.S. Highway 101 in Clatsop County.

They all come from one man, Raymond Furr, who since July has dedicated every day to picking up trash on the scenic highway from Coos Bay to Astoria.

With garbage picker and trash bag in hand, Furr bundles the waste he finds for the Oregon Department of Transportation to pick up. His mission to raise awareness about the consequences of litter operates out of one vehicle and donations from inspired onlookers.

“I saw a problem that I didn’t feel anyone else was doing anything about,” said Furr, who also goes by Raymond Block. “It’s been a long, long walk. I’ve never done anything like this. But I wanted to raise awareness and set a precedent to show we are not doing enough soon enough.”

The campaign is a part of Leaven No Trace, a trash collecting group Furr started to empower communities to be accountable for their litter.

Throughout his journey, Furr has filled about 30 to 55 bags of trash a day. On the southern Oregon Coast, it would take about 10 to 20 miles to accumulate that much litter. But as he has moved north through Tillamook and Clatsop counties, it has only taken about 3 to 5 miles of walking to stuff that many bags.

Since starting Leaven No Trace two years ago, Furr and others have gathered more than 100 tons of garbage throughout Oregon.



Traffic continually whisks by Raymond Furr as he picks up trash along Highway 101 near Gearhart on Wednesday.



Raymond Furr, who has been picking up trash along the side of Highway 101 since July, said he averages about 30 to 55 bags of trash per day.

‘I wanted to stop and pick it up’
His passion for litter removal started locally at his home in Coos Bay. Every

time he drove up and down the highway, the amount of trash he saw bothered him. His love for the environment is deeply rooted in memories of family hiking and camping trips.

“I just felt my foot twitch on the gas pedal — I wanted to stop and pick it up,” Furr said.

Eighty percent of what he finds is plastic — water bottles, bubble wrap, single-use containers. Other items, like used diapers or chewing tobacco cans, are a lot less pleasant.

But Furr has encountered obstacles that go beyond gross.

A Coos County jury found Furr, 37, guilty of misdemeanor disorderly conduct in February in a case that stemmed

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Astoria sitting on pot money

City silent on local tax as state clarifies rules

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

There is money sitting in Astoria’s coffers that City Finance Director Susan Brooks can’t talk about.

The payments represent the first installment of a local 3 percent tax on the sale of recreational marijuana, but the revenue doesn’t appear on budget documents and no

one else at City Hall knows how much has come in. Brooks, like others across the state, had to sign a confidentiality agreement when Astoria asked the Oregon Department of Revenue to collect the tax on the city’s behalf.

Meanwhile, Coos Bay, operating under a similar confidentiality agreement, included an amount in its monthly financial report — though, like some other tax revenue the city collects, the local marijuana tax money was not singled out by name, Coos Bay Finance Director Suzanne Baker said.

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Plastics on the half shell

Researchers examine microplastics in shellfish

By **KEN CHRISTENSEN**
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Sarah Dudas doesn’t mind shucking an oyster or a clam in the name of science.

But sit down with her and a plate of oysters on the half shell or a bucket of steamed Manila clams, and she’ll probably point out a bivalve’s gonads or remark on its fertility.

“These are comments I make at dinner parties,” she said. “I’ve spent too much time doing dissections. I’ve done too many spawnings.”

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Lodging tax changes possible in Cannon Beach

Discussion planned for November

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach might require travel companies like Airbnb and Expedia to pay taxes directly to the city.

In the hospitality industry, it is becoming increasingly common for hotels and vacation rental owners to sell rooms through intermediary companies, which then take a

cut of the profits. Hotels and vacation rental owners pay the lodging tax whether the rooms were booked through an intermediary or not.

City Attorney Tammy Herdener and City Finance Director Laurie Sawrey said they want to require companies like Airbnb to file taxes on the profits made from the sale of the room directly with the city.

Sawrey said keeping large companies accountable for providing the information necessary for the city to file tax returns is proving to be a challenge, and she hopes requiring them to work directly with the city can help reduce these issues.

City councilors plan to discuss an ordinance change in more detail at a November work session and hope to get more input from the lodging industry in the meantime.

In the past year, Cannon Beach took in more than \$3.8 million in lodging taxes.

“If a hotel sells 100 rooms to an intermediary, we have no tracking mechanisms to see who they sold them to,” Sawrey said at a City Council work session earlier this month. “From the intermediaries, we want more info of who they purchased the room from.”

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R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Cities on the North Coast are discussing how to tax and regulate vacation rentals.

