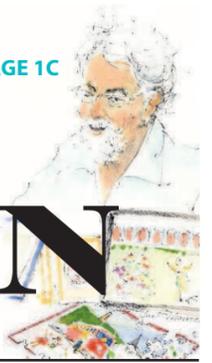


THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 70

WEEKEND EDITION // FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017

ONE DOLLAR



Arts and culture a boon to county

Events brought in \$13 million in 2015

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County reaped more than \$13 million in 2015 from arts and cultural organizations.

The finding comes from a national study conducted by economists at the

Georgia Institute of Technology and funded by Americans for the Arts, an advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. The economists focused on data from 22 nonprofit organizations in the county.

Randy Cohen, vice president of research and policy at Americans for the Arts, presented the findings at a gathering of local artists and public officials Thursday night at Buoy Beer Co.

After including the Portland and Eugene metro areas in previous studies, the organization coordinated with the Oregon Arts Commission and the Arts Council of Clatsop County to analyze data on the North Coast.

"This is the first time in the county that we've had some hard data," said Don Frank, chairman of the arts council. "We don't have to just stand up there and say it. It's like, 'Here, read it.'"

The survey also found that arts in the county support 359 full-time equivalent jobs, add \$6.7 million in household income for local residents and \$1.3 million in local and state government revenue.

The aggregate amount of money spent, including for overnight lodging, meals and souvenirs, by the more than 160,000 arts and cultural event attendees was more than \$10 million. Out of all the visitors who traveled

from outside the county to an attend an art event, 66 percent said they visited the county specifically for that event.

More than 300 communities participated in the study across the country. Nonprofit art organizations were found to have contributed \$166.3 billion to the national economy, or more than 4 percent of the U.S. gross

See **BOON**, Page 7A

Clean needles, but no exchange



No takers on first day of pilot program

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County public health officials stood by with plenty of clean needles Thursday afternoon and were ready to exchange them with anyone in possession of a used one. But they went home at the end of the day with the same stock.

Public Health Director Michael McNickle, Public Health Nurse Sheri Salber and Kerry Strickland, founder of Jordan's Hope for Recovery, hosted the first in a series of needle exchange opportunities at Peoples Park in Astoria. They found that illegal drug users are hesitant.

McNickle said it would take time to develop trust. He spoke to people earlier this week who may be able to spread word, handing out a number of informational cards.

See **NEEDLES**, Page 7A

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
ABOVE: Sheri Salber, a county public health nurse, displays a clean syringe that can be traded for used ones at the needle exchange program in Astoria. BELOW: Salber, left, Michael McNickle, center, and Kerry Strickland spent Thursday afternoon at Peoples Park in Astoria waiting to provide food, water and clean syringes.



'IT'S ALL ABOUT BUILDING TRUST. WE WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW WE'RE NOT GOING TO ARREST THEM OR DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.'

Michael McNickle |
Public Health director

Helping after a hurricane

Local vacation rental companies donate after disasters

By BRENNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — When Brian Olson saw the path of destruction Hurricane Harvey left in Texas in August, his reaction was a sense of grief and a desire to help.

But soon after, the co-owner of Beachcomber Vacation Homes in Cannon Beach had another thought.

"These people are just like us. We in Cannon Beach could be in the same boat," Olson said.

Many vacation rental property management company owners lost homes they rent in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. Destroyed or damaged rental properties mean no income for the foreseeable future.

Olson couldn't help but think what he would do as a property manager if a tsunami were to ravage the homes he makes his living off of on the North Coast. So Olson and several other vacation rental managers from around the country collaborated with the property management software LiveRez.com to create LiveRelief. The nonprofit collects donations and coordinates efforts to support property managers who are struggling after the natural disasters.

See **HELP**, Page 7A



Submitted Photo
LiveRez's Sharon Keefe assesses the damage Hurricane Harvey inflicted on a home in Rockport, Texas.

Vintage dealer plans mall in former Abeco building

Mixed use planned for Astor Court

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

William Hicks, who owns Hollywood Vintage in Portland, is planning a mixed-use shopping mall inside the former Abeco Office Systems storefront on Commercial Street in Astoria.

Hicks plans to call the project Astor Court. He intends to rent square footage to businesses looking for some-

thing less than a full-fledged storefront. Helping him in the endeavor is business partner Rodney Bender.

"I really want to put stuff in here that locals, that residents, as well as tourists, can take advantage of and enjoy," Hicks said, adding he's interested in anything from retail and office space to a deli or antique dealer.

For the past 20 years, Hicks has run Hollywood Vintage in Portland's Hollywood district, offering vintage clothing, accessories, costumes and eyewear. Over the next few years, he's looking to leave Portland and relocate to Astoria, where he bought a

house several years ago.

"What I will do to seed the business, is I have an optical department in Portland, so I'll sell vintage ... and classic-style eyeglass frames," he said.

Hicks has been moving stuff in from Portland over the past week. He will be readying the space for businesses in the next few months.

Hicks imagines a three-story mall with storefronts of varying sizes. He plans to extend the third-story mezzanine around the entire ground floor and punch a stairway to the basement.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian
Rodney Bender, left, and William Hicks are planning a mixed-use mall inside the former Abeco Office Systems storefront at 1332 Commercial St.

See **MALL**, Page 7A

