



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Theft from vehicles is a common occurrence during this time of year.

Theft wave: 'We have a huge problem right now with drug addiction and drug-related crimes'

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'Take junk'

In Redburn's case, more expensive items like a phone charger, a tactical flashlight and a bottle of cologne were in the car. Instead, just two cheap pocket knives were gone.

"They passed up a whole bunch of stuff to take junk," Redburn said.

Items police have recovered include sunglasses, phones, vaporizers, cigarettes, change, hunting equipment and ammunition. While not certain what the motives were, Workman said the thieves may have been searching for items that could be easily sold — and not identifiable by the owner — in exchange for drugs. He also believes the people involved are locals.

"We have a huge problem right now with drug addiction and drug-related crimes," he said.

For Murray, the timing was telling. His surveillance footage revealed that the thefts took place after 4:20 a.m. Neighbors on the street start bustling around 5 a.m. on workdays.

"He had to have known somehow," Murray said. "They must be career criminals."

Unnecessary risks

Seaside Police Lt. Bruce Holt said thieves typically avoid unnecessary risks.



Authorities in Warrenton say a recent spike in vehicle break-ins, which began in October and continued into November, took place mostly at night.

"Opportunists usually see something in the car and say, 'Holy smokes, his door is unlocked,'" Holt said.

As authorities continue to investigate the theft wave, the venue will likely switch from residential neighborhoods to shopping mall parking lots.

Thefts inside cars parked near stores are an annual holiday tradition for law enforcement. Workman said that while unlawful car entries and thefts typically rise this time

of year, he does not foresee the recent spree becoming an aggravating factor. The criminals involved may have been deterred by the recent arrest.

"I think it got out that we were doing more patrols and ramping things up," Workman said.

Nonetheless, police expect thefts to rise again as people leave holiday presents in their cars, unlocked, and hurry from shop to shop.

"People go shopping and

they're ready to fill up their cars," Holt said. "If they're wrapped, it's even more intriguing."

Whether at home or elsewhere, police ask residents to lock their doors and report any suspicious activity.

For their part, the Murrys are looking into installing \$600 worth of new security cameras. It will mark their third security camera upgrade since moving to the area five years ago.

Port: Boat pulled out to prevent further contamination

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Port Executive Director Jim Knight said the Port needs to remove the vessel or pay rent to tug- and barge-builder Hyak Tongue Point, which bought the former Navy base from Washington Development Co. after the Port terminated its lease.

The boat's previous owner was Thomas Lewis, according to a Port property seizure list. He came in several years ago for repairs and abandoned the vessel before it began to sink in the night, Knight said.

"The Port, I still would say wisely, pulled that vessel out of the water to prevent any further contamination of the Columbia River, which was at risk because of the fluids still aboard the vessel," Knight said. "We, at our expense, pulled it out, tried to track down the owner for compensation and were unable to do that."

The Port seized the Recruit and tried to sell it, but nobody was interested. Ever since, the boat has sat on stands on the tarmac.

The Port had a proposal from an excavation com-

pany to tear the vessel apart but didn't initially realize it would also need contractors to remove harmful substances such as dirty bilge water and oil to avoid contaminating the site, Knight said.

The cost of disposing of the vessel adds to the \$2 million staff estimates the Port has lost operating North Tongue Point over the past eight years.

Port Commission President Frank Spence pointed out how Warrenton Marina staff recently pulled out of the water and demolished the 43-foot fishing boat Western Skies. Port Operations Manager Matt McGrath noted that they were on dirt in Warrenton, whereas North Tongue Point is on asphalt feeding into a stormwater treatment system.

"With these contractors, there are several of them that can come out of Vancouver and pump the fluids out," McGrath said. "We can get the bilge water out ourselves."

Staff hopes to have new proposals for demolishing the boat by the next Port Commission meeting, Knight said.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The 74-foot fishing boat Recruit was abandoned at North Tongue Point several years ago and towed onto land by the Port of Astoria after it sank.

Marijuana: 'This is a democracy. ... The community has decided'

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But according to Kabeiseman, the statement of policy in the comprehensive plan is general, and does not identify any particular uses that are prohibited. None of the identified provisions mention or discuss marijuana in any way. The ordinance that spells out where and how marijuana shops can operate does not violate the plan just because it allows for marijuana facilities to exist, he said.

"What I think would improve quality of life and what you think would improve quality of life is not necessarily going to mesh. I love seafood restaurants, but if you are allergic to seafood, your quality of life would be enhanced without them," Kabeiseman said. "The plan says, 'the fundamental principle of the plan is to foster a community with a strong sense of place which provides its residents the quality of life that they desire.' The plan requires city councilors to consider what quality of life means to the city. The vote of the people is one way they can see it, and Cannon Beach voted to not prohibit marijuana facilities."

There were other points Frei had made about the plan the attorney did not address in the memo. The fact Five Zero Trees operates multiple stores across Oregon, Frei argues, conflicts with the plan's guideline to promote "small-scale, family-owned" businesses and the plan's goal to "encourage the provision of permanent housing in downtown by providing zon-

ing incentives for mixed-use structures which incorporate housing."

Kabeiseman said in the interest of time he narrowed down some of Frei's points in an effort to "capture the essence" of his concerns about quality of life and character.

But Frei disagrees with Kabeiseman's interpretation. He still asserts issues with the application process that led to the eviction of three residents should be enough for the city to deny Five Zero Trees a business license.

"When (the plan) was written, they weren't thinking of marijuana stores yet," Frei said.

Other than a sign permit, Five Zero Trees has all the appropriate permits to operate, City Planner Mark Barnes said.

City Councilor George Vetter said because retail marijuana legalization has been voted on twice — once statewide and again locally — that the outcome of the elections should be respected as what the people want.

"This is a democracy, even if the vote was won by 13 votes, the community has decided," Vetter said.

While city councilors reached a consensus to not move forward with any changes to the comprehensive plan, Mayor Sam Steidel said the exercise should help believe the city should consider re-evaluating the comprehensive plan in its entirety as part of next year's strategic planning — and to think about marijuana retailers as they do it.

Grant: 'We're looking to offer as much as we can'

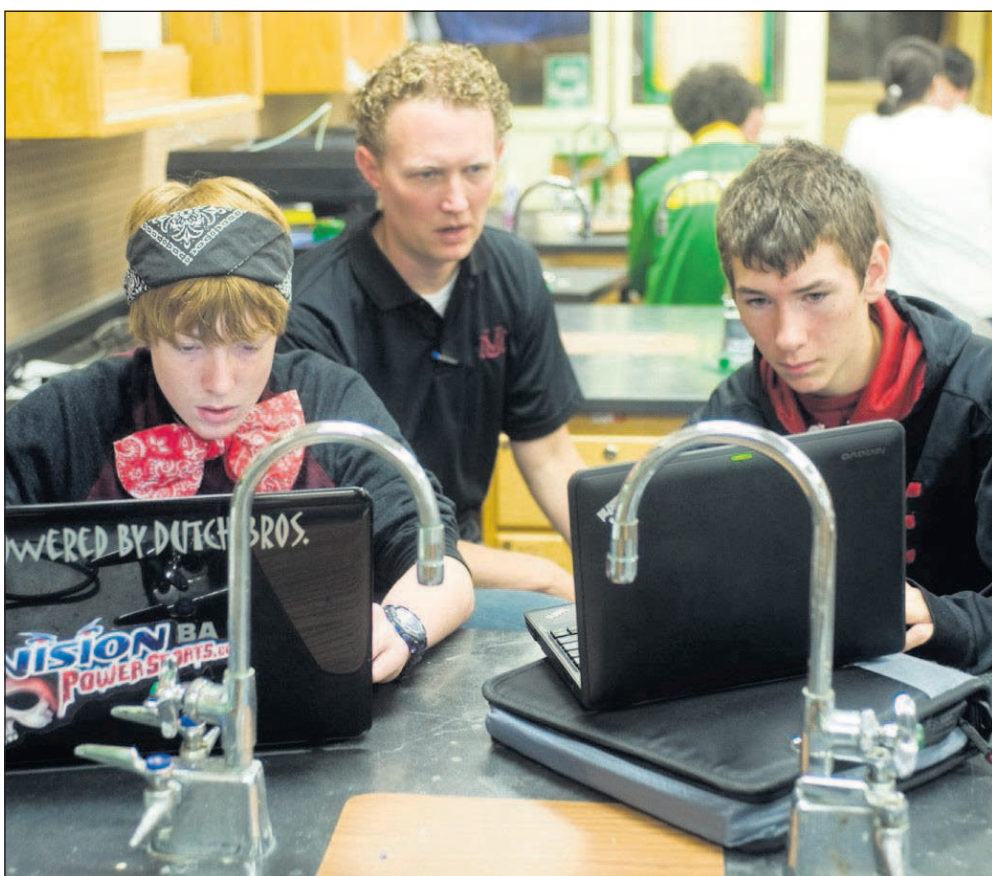
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Superintendent Mark Jeffery said the district is looking at the possibility of a 40-by-80-foot building behind the high school at a cost of about \$150,000 to \$200,000.

"Theoretically, we'd like to do it by next fall," Jeffery said. "But in my experience, that might be an aggressive time schedule."

The school district will couple the career-readiness grant with funds from Measure 98. State voters last year approved approximately \$800 per student to expand college and career-technical offerings and improve dropout prevention. The measure received about half of the money expected by the state Legislature.

While the grant helps kick-start the construction of the Warrenton center, the school district is also trying to certify classes such as a student-run hatchery on the Skipanon River and graphic arts as official career-technical education programs, Jannusch said. Certification involves getting teachers the right qualifications and aligning classes with postsecondary study such as the fisheries technology program at Mt. Hood Community College. But the district can get additional funding by get-



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Josh Jannusch, center, has been with the Warrenton-Hammond School District for 15 years as a science and technology teacher, and was recently named a vice principal at Warrenton High School.

ting students through approved programs of study, he said.

The school district's goal is to start the new programs next year, even if the building isn't finished, Jannusch said. A

\$100,000 portion of the grant will help the district expand summer programs at the high school.

"The hope is even next summer (to) offer some sum-

mer programming around (career-technical education), whether it's welding, manufacturing," Jannusch said. "We're looking to offer as much as we can here on campus."