Astoria balks at pawn shop gun ban

City Council may consider stricter rules

By DERRICK DePLEDGE The Daily Astorian

Astoria will not ban the sale of used guns at pawn shops, but the city might impose stricter regulations on pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers to discourage trading in stolen goods.

City Councilor Cindy Price called for a vote on a ban Monday night, but was rebuffed when no other councilor agreed to second her motion. At a November work session, Price and Mayor Arline LaMear had discussed potential restrictions on pawn shops and used gun sales because of a new pawn shop opening on Commercial Street downtown.

Price tied the issue to the prevalence of guns in the United States and the deadly toll from gun violence.

"I think it's an important statement for Astoria to make," she said. "At least it's important to me."

The mayor and other city councilors were uncomfort-



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian Astoria may impose stricter regulations on pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers.

able with a ban, but did direct staff to draft possible regulations on pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers.

Interim Police Chief Geoff Spalding told the City Council that existing regulations do not go far enough to ensure effective oversight. The new rules could involve permitting and licensing, holding periods and computerized transaction systems. The city may purchase software that would allow police to view transactions to search for stolen property and guns.

Several secondhand dealers said they are already burdened by regulation and pressed the City Council to explain what problem the city is trying to solve. "We all work together, because nobody wants bad things to happen," said Neil Christensen of Gun & Boot & Gear, which sells used guns out of M&N Workwear in Suomi Hall in Uniontown.

Bernie Bjork, a former commercial fisherman and Port of Astoria commissioner who has a building with the secondhand store Mallternative on Marine Drive, warned of over-regulation.

"Rules and regulations is what got our current president elected," he said of President Donald Trump. "Way too many rules and regulations."

The City Council voted 4-1 to ask staff to come up with new regulations, with Councilor Zetty Nemlowill casting the only "no" vote. Nemlowill said afterward in a text that she does not object to a better registry system for pawn shops but would not apply it to secondhand dealers. "Imposing a potentially costly and time-consuming task on small business owners of secondhand stores in Astoria is unjustifiable," she wrote.

In other business Monday night, the City Council:

• Granted a 2.5 percent pay raise to City Manager Brett Estes after a performance evaluation held in executive session.

Estes, who was hired as city manager in 2014, will now earn \$125,838.

• Approved a \$29,262 contract with Arbor Care Tree Specialists of Astoria to remove hazardous trees at several city parks.

The vote was 4-1. Price voted "no" because of concerns about cost and the inclusion of a Douglas fir at Shively Park she does not believe should be cut down.

• Adopted an ordinance that expands the police department's ability to tow vehicles for noise complaints, like car alarms.



AP Photo/Matthew Brown

3A

Washington state last year began requiring facilities that receive crude oil by rail to notify the state officials in advance of shipments.

Crude oil in Washington state tops 1 million barrels per week

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Figures show railroads ship more than 1 million barrels of crude oil across Washington state each week.

The Spokesman-Review reported information from October 2016 through September of this year indicate railroads shipped nearly 56 million barrels of crude oil across Washington in 82,000 rail cars. Most of the oil trains enter the state from Idaho, transporting light crude from North Dakota.

requiring facilities that receive crude oil by rail to notify the state officials in advance of shipments. The information is shared with emergency managers along the rail route. The Department of Ecology later publishes quarterly reports summarizing the volumes.

The state says railroads began shipping crude oil through Washington in 2012, and volumes have increased over time.

Washington's reporting rule also applies to pipelines, which must report information about crude oil volumes twice per year.

The state last year began

New audit takes a hard look at state's efforts to boost graduation

By PARIS ACHEN Capital Bureau

The Oregon Department of Education has failed to help school districts use data to identify students most at risk of not graduating on time, according to an audit released today by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office.

For instance, students who change school districts during high school have graduation rates about 30 percent worse than those who remain in the same school system. The group makes up more than 25 percent of high school enrollees, yet the education department does not track, analyze or report their graduation performance.

The percentage of Oregon students who graduate on time has inched up for the past five years — even with increases in the number of credits required, but the rate remains third worst in the nation. Only 75 percent of Oregon public high school students graduate on time. The average rate nationwide is 84 percent.

leader in education," Secretary of State Dennis Richardson said. "Oregon students deserve a world-class education, and it's ODE's job to show how to get there."

The audit also found that more than 70 percent of students who don't graduate on time come from low-income households. The likelihood of their failure to graduate often becomes evident as early as middle school, yet the education department has neglected addressing middle-school performance and improving the transition to high school, according to the audit.

Auditors said the state could improve graduation rates by identifying specific groups of students who are struggling and targeting programs toward them. The education department's plans have focused on students of color, migrants and English language learners. But auditors found that the agency could yield better results if it also tracked and used improvement tools among students who transfer between districts, come from low-income households and are in middle school.

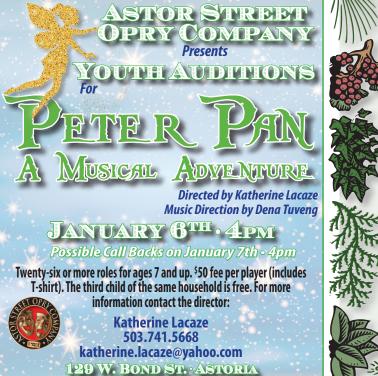
collect data on individual students' grades and credit attainment to analyze and identify: when students most often fall behind, courses with high failure rates, and how performance in specific courses affects graduation. The agency then needs to draw from education research and practices in successful districts to better support students in transition and in schools with midrange graduation rates, the audit said.

"The ODE must aggressively assess and assist school districts if they are to provide the help students need to be successful in school and graduate on-time," Richardson said.

Auditors acknowledged that the education department and schools face some limitations in financing some of the work needed to boost graduation in the state. The state Legislature does not fully fund schools, as prescribed by the state's Quality Education Model.

Colt Gill, acting deputy superintendent of schools, largely agreed with the findings of the audit.

"Many of the themes in the audit are consistent with what



we have identified in recent years, and we look forward to using the audit results to move our work forward," Gill wrote in a Thursday letter to Audits Division Director Kip Memmott.

Some statewide plans and funding to boost on-time graduation already are in the works. Those plans focus on reducing chronic absenteeism, preventing students from dropping out and increasing access to college-level courses in high school and to career technical education. The state's twoyear budget allocates \$170 million to increase graduation rates and \$7.4 million to reduce chronic absenteeism. Full-day kindergarten also started in 2015 to try to help students' long-term outcomes.

"We need Oregon's Department of Education to step up its game and assume its leadership role to make Oregon a

Auditors recommended that the education department



Christmas with their families, there will be no newspaper on Monday, December 25th. Our offices will also be closed.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

MONDAY

DECEMBER 25TH

So that our employees can enjoy



We will reopen on Tuesday, December 26th, and delivery will resume as usual.

Happy Holidays!

THE DAILY ASTORIAN Evening listings TUESDAY

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TUESDA	Y E	VENING	6	A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach				DECEMBER 19					
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8 KGW	-	KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)	Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	The Voice (N)		The Voice "Live Fin	ale: Part Two" (N)			KGW News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show	
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29 ESPN	(29)	(4:00) NCAA Football Boca Rator	Bowl (L)	SportsCenter The d	ay's news in the world	of sports. (N)	SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		
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32 DISN		Jessie Bunk'd		Raven's Home			ADisneyHolidayCe				Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	
34) FAM		(4:30) Elf ('03, Com) (:40) ★★ Ch						nas Vacation ('89) Be			The 700 Club		
65 FMC		(5:00) The Heat ('13) Sandra Bullo	ock. (:20) ★★ The Heat (2013, Comedy) Meliss	sa McCarthy, Michael I			(:40) FXM Presents	★★ Just Married ('	03, Comedy) Brittany	Murphy, Christian Ka	ne, Ashton Kutcher.	
36 LIFE	(36)	Grey's Anatomy	Dance Moms		JamieandDougPlus	One Jamie and Doug	welcome their new o	laughter. (N)	(:10) To Be Annound	ced	Dance Moms		
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39 FS1		(5:30) NCAA Basketball Morehea	d State vs. Butler (L)	Soccer Kick in for He			TMZ Sports (N)	Skip and Shannon:			s topics of the day.	Speak for Yourself	
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46 A&E		Who Killed Tupac? "Crips vs. Bl				Who Killed Tupac? "Devil in a Red Suit"						(:05) Tupac "East Coast vs. West Coast"	
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48 DISC		Moonshiners Moonshiners			Moonshiners		Moonshiners "Legends of the Shine" (N) Interrogation "The Killer Collective" (N)						
49 NGEO		Movie To Be Announced					To Be Announced				To Be Announced		
50 TNT		Bones "The Maiden in the Mush			M.Crimes "Conspira		Major Crimes (N)		M.Crimes "Conspira		Law & Order "Now		
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53 FOOD		Chopped	Chopped		Chopped "Waffles for		Chopped "New Yea	ar's Bash"	Chopped "Cocktail		Chopped "Hearty P	arty"	
54 HGTV		Fixer "A Veteran Home Makeover" Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper			Fixer Upper (N)			House Hunters (N)			
56 FX		(5:00) *** Dawn of the Planet of the Apes ('14) Jason Clarke, Gary Old			★★★ Jurassic World (2015, Adventure) I						ld ('15) Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Pratt.		
57 CNN		Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Tonight With		CNN Tonight With		Anderson Cooper		Anderson Cooper		CNN Tonight With		
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61 CNBC		Shark Tank						Shark Tank				Paid Program WatchWhat (N) Beverly Hills	
63 BRAV						Beverly Hills "Reunion Part 3" Pt. 3 of 3						Beverly Hills	
64 TCM		(5:00) *** Peyton Place (1957,			*** Imitation of I			1		d and the Beautiful			
65 SYFY		*** Resident Evil: Afterlife (Futurama		Futurama	Futurama	Futurama		Futurama	Futurama	
162 RFD	(162)	(5:30) Cattlemen (N) Women's F	odeo Horseman. "ADM A	Allaince Nutrition"	Chris Cox	Rural Eve. News	Ag PhD	Cattlemen to Cattl	emen	Women's Rodeo	Product Showcase		