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ONE DOLLAR

## 'A GRACEFUL EXIT' is as important as a graceful entrance'



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis talks to another attorney on the phone in his office in Astoria.

### Veteran prosecutor will leave office after nearly 25 years

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
*The Daily Astorian*

Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis, a local prosecutor who built a national reputation as an advocate for the death penalty, truth in sentencing and crime victims' rights, will not run for re-election.

The courtroom veteran informed his staff on Wednesday he will retire when his four-year term ends in January 2019, nearly 25 years after his appointment to restore an office tainted by corruption.

"A graceful exit is as important as a graceful entrance," Marquis said. "I've sort of been thinking about this for a year or two or maybe longer."

Voluble and combative, Marquis was elected six times since Gov. Barbara Roberts appointed him in 1994.

Marquis, 65, remembered the unusual circumstances that brought him to Astoria in the first place. His predecessor, Julie Leonhardt, was recalled and convicted of framing two police officers for drugs in an attempt to clear her fiancée of criminal charges.

A chief deputy in Deschutes County



The Daily Astorian

In this October 2000 photo, District Attorney Josh Marquis addresses the court during a murder trial.

before Leonhardt was removed, Marquis drove to and from the North Coast for six weekends in anticipation that he might get the job.

"I didn't know if it was the kind of place I would like, and I wanted to talk to

people," he said.

Marquis' first election — his only contested one — came just two months after being sworn in.

See **MARQUIS**, Page 7A

**'I'VE SORT OF BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR A YEAR OR TWO OR MAYBE LONGER.'**

Josh Marquis | Clatsop County district attorney

### MEASURE 101

## Voters will weigh new taxes

Health care for 350,000 people in the balance

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Daily Astorian*

The state began mailing out ballots Tuesday for Measure 101, which asks Oregon voters to affirm or overturn more than \$300 million in new taxes on hospitals and other health care providers over the next two years approved by the state Legislature.

Ballots are due by 8 p.m. Jan. 23. Clatsop County officials recommend placing them in an official dropbox within two weeks of that date, rather than mailing.

Proponents arguing "yes" on the measure say the money is needed to avoid up to 350,000 low-income residents potentially losing health care.

Opponents arguing "no" claim the additional revenue is an unnecessary and unfair tax that could be funneled to things besides Medicaid.

Funding Medicaid is a state and federal partnership. Hospitals pay a 5.3 percent tax on net revenues. Once matched by the federal government, the money is returned to them as a group and redistributed. The Legislature this summer passed House Bill 2391, a \$670 million health care provider tax to fill a gap in Medicaid funding over the next two years and avoid closing a newly constructed psychiatric hospital.

The package includes a 0.7 percent tax on net revenues of hospitals that is not returned, but placed in a state fund for health care. Republican state Reps. Julie Parrish of West Linn, Cedric Hayden of Roseburg and Sal Esquivel of Medford gathered around 84,000 signatures to place the 0.7 percent tax on the ballot.

A "yes" vote on the measure would affirm the 0.7 percent tax on hospitals, as well as taxes on insurers, the Public Employees Benefits Board and coordinated care organizations. A "no" vote would repeal the taxes.

Democrats wanted the election conducted in January, saying if the measure is overturned lawmakers would need to deal with a huge funding gap when they return to Salem early next month.

More than 160 health care, education, union and advocacy groups have come out in support of the measure.

Patty Wentz, a spokeswoman for the Yes on Healthcare campaign supporting Measure 101, met with The Daily Astorian's editorial board last week. With her were Erik Thorsen, CEO of Columbia Memorial Hospital for the past 15 years; Dr. Katrina McPherson, a pediatrician at the hospital; Debbie Morrow, a member of the Warrenton-Hammond School Board, youth support nonprofit Warrenton-Hammond Healthy Kinds Inc. and the Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization; and Andy Davis, a data analyst for Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc.

See **MEASURE 101**, Page 7A

## Astoria alley used as public bathroom

### Downtown business owners alert the city

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Daily Astorian*

The owners of Erickson Floral Co. on Commercial Street downtown had to deal with almost daily instances of public defecation and urination in the alley next to their shop throughout December.

John and Rosie Samp believe a group of homeless people who camped in front of the empty J.C. Penney store-

front are primarily to blame.

Over the years, people have often found the narrow 13th Street alley that runs between Commercial and Duane streets a convenient, semiprivate place to relieve themselves. The Samp and other nearby business owners routinely pitch in to clean it up, washing down the walkway and painting over stray bits of graffiti.

But December was bad, John Samp said. Really, really bad. He and his wife caught people in the act or saw the evidence constantly.

"It could be day, it could be night," Samp said.

On Tuesday, he brought his concerns to the Astoria City

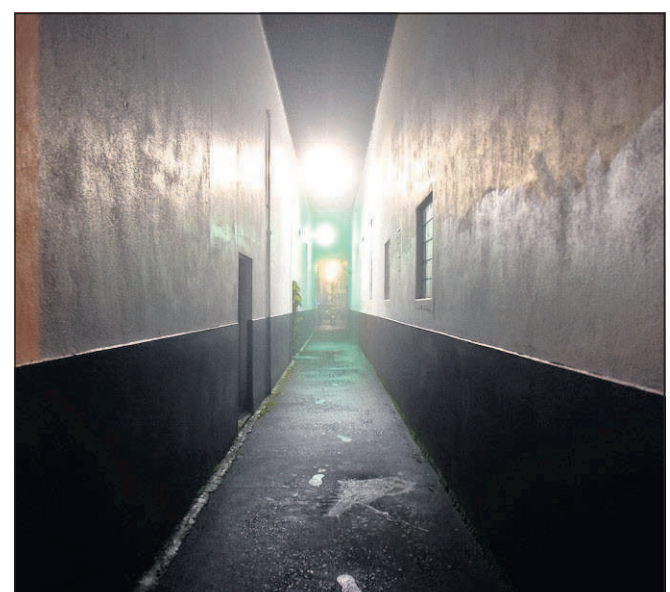
Council. His shop has been at its present location since 1985 and he has always helped keep the alley clean, he told councilors. Now, with the uptick in issues that could affect health and human safety and impact tourist foot traffic, he wanted the city to pitch in some money for cleaning supplies.

"I'll volunteer my time," he told them, adding, "I'll adopt the dang thing."

At the end of the meeting, Samp met with department leaders and will be given city-owned supplies.

Public urination and defecation tied to a perceived

See **ALLEY**, Page 7A



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The 13th Street alley in downtown Astoria between Commercial and Duane streets was a common place for people to relieve themselves in December.



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