Walmart: Company broke ground in September

Continued from Page 1A

more than 12,000 people in the state. It provides full-time employees with benefits, 10 weeks of maternal leave, six weeks of parental leave and quarterly bonuses based on store performance.

Full-time workers receive assistance obtaining a GED and college degrees, along with one free year of Rosetta Stone language education, Smith said. Employees are also provided up to \$5,000 in assistance to adopt a child.

The 153,000-square-foot store will include apparel, groceries, garden, bedding, bathroom, toys, electronics, automotive and sporting goods departments, along with a Subway restaurant.

Several other tenants will be included around the periphery of the store.

Walmart first announced plans to build on the North Coast in 2009. The site at the corner of Ensign Lane and U.S. Highway 101 in the North Coast Retail Center was selected in 2012. The company broke ground on the store in September.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The new Walmart Supercenter under construction at the North Coast Retail Center in Warrenton will open June 13.

Charges: 'The risk to the public could've been pretty substantial'

Continued from Page 1A

Flames from the fire extended into the laundry room. The fire was extinguished after a water pipe burst and a ceiling sprinkler activated, causing several inches of water to flood the ground floor. The incident caused the hotel to temporarily close.

Dozens of guests from 75 rooms were evacuated and transferred to other hotels in Astoria and Warrenton. No injuries were reported.

Burke was indicted in late January but has been held in a California jail for a separate probation violation.

It is unclear whether Burke intended to cause a fire at the hotel or simply damage property. He has been charged with eight counts of recklessly endangering another person and two counts of first-degree criminal mischief.

"Frankly, the motel was full," Clatsop County Deputy District Attorney Ron Brown said. "The risk to the public could've been pretty substantial.'

Burke has yet to be transferred to the Clatsop County Jail, and an arraignment has not been scheduled.

Sturgell: Hearing on a motion to hold him without bail is scheduled for later this month

Continued from Page 1A

E. Thompson, Sturgell's Salem-based attorney, presented a polygraph test in which Sturgell was asked if he ever offered a bribe. The test showed he was being truthful when he denied making the

Thompson, in a document provided to Brownhill before the hearing, wrote that sitting in jail would be a "hardship" for Sturgell, a crab fisherman. The crab season ends in March.

Thompson also said Wednesday that \$5,000 would be just a "drop in the bucket" for Sturgell — who had posted \$50,000 bail — to convince someone to drop

sex crime charges.

"He went there. They might've broached the subject even, but the offer wasn't made," Thompson said.

But after the meeting, which lasted less than an hour, the father then relayed the information to his daughter.

"His assumption was that he was asked to convey that, and that's what he did," Shimanek said.

The daughter, whom Shimanek described as "upset, scared and concerned," then contacted the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office about the alleged bribe and threat.

"Threats don't have to be explicit. In this case, it was not

explicit but constantly implied," Greenawald said.

In February, two counts of bribing a witness and two counts of tampering with a witness were added to Sturgell's indictment. Leitch was indicted on those same four charges and released Feb. 23 after posting \$25,000 bail.

Brownhill said she will rule on whether to revoke Sturgell's release agreement within the next couple of weeks. She indicated the ruling will depend on further study of case law, specifically whether a preponderance of evidence or a higher standard is required to revoke his release agreement.

Prosecutors previously filed

a motion to hold Sturgell without bail days before his November arrest. It includes statements from three women saying that Sturgell physically assaulted them in the past.

The motion claims that the fisherman showed up to the alleged sexual assault victim's

workplace days after the alleged incident and repeatedly tried to make contact with her. On one occasion, the victim allegedly had to push Sturgell away from her in order to enter her car.

The victim was granted a sexual abuse protection order against Sturgell in February 2016. A hearing on a motion to hold Sturgell in jail without bail is scheduled for later this month.

Leitch is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment later this month. Cunningham, meanwhile, is scheduled for an early resolution conference later

OREGON CAPITAL

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March 6th

Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis

A Columbia Forum Presentation



Josh Marquis is about to start his 25th year as Clatsop County's District Attorney. First appointed by Gov. Barbara Roberts in 1994 after the recall and criminal conviction of his predecessor.

A graduate of the Honors College and Law School of the University of Oregon, he has spent most of his 37 years as a lawyer as a prosecutor, first in Eugene, then Newport, and as Chief Deputy DA in Bend before coming to Astoria. He also spent time as a newspaper reporter and speechwriter in Los Angeles and two years as a criminal defense lawyer. He

lectures and teaches to lawvers and others across the nation and overseas and has been asked to testify four times before Congress. Marguis served as President of the Oregon District Attorneys Association and Vice President of the National DA's Association, on whose board he still serves 21 years later. He is married to City Councilor Cindy Price. For more than 20 years he's been a jazz programmer at KMUN and appeared in SHANGHAIED IN ASTORIA every year since 1994.

TO ATTEND:

For Members: Dinner & Lecture: \$25 each; Lecture only: no charge For Non-Members: Dinner & Lecture: \$35 each; Lecture only: \$15 ea. Appetizers will be available at 6 p.m. • Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will begin after the dinner service is complete and non-dinner members and guests of the audience take their seats.

Forum to be held at the CMH Community Center at 2021 Exchange St., Astoria.

FOR RESERVATIONS OR TO JOIN COLUMBIA FORUM CONTACT: Holly Larkins at 503.325.3211 ext. 227 or hlarkins@dailyastorian.com by March 4, 2018

Columbia Forum is sponsored by:

The Daily Astorian • Craft3 • OSU Seafood Laboratory • KMUN-FM **Cannery Pier Hotel & Spa**

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

(65) ★★★ The Fifth Element (1997, Sci-Fi) Milla Jovovich, Gary Oldman, Bruce Willis

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Evening listings THURSDAY

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Small Town

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