

Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

The Astoria budget includes money for a new police officer.

## **Budget:** Chief Spalding says his biggest priority is to fully staff the patrol force

#### Continued from Page 1A

Still, the city was able to increase its lodging tax rate at the beginning of the year and funnel some of the extra money to the Parks and Recreation Department in an effort to stabilize the department's funding. Meanwhile, marijuana tax revenue will fund the new police officer position — a use of the money city councilors had pushed for in past discussions.

But even with this additional money, city departments will operate on tight budgets, Estes said at budget committee meetings. The parks department will need to be especially cautious. This year is the first attempt to capture the real costs of running the department without substantial transfers from the city's general fund to fill in the

Loran Mathews, the chairman of the budget committee, asked during budget hearings in April if the increase in police staff meant an officer would be assigned to Clatsop County's drug task force, an interagency team that investigates drug activity in the county.

Police Chief Geoff Spalding said that while the task force does need assistance and there are major drug problems in the county, his biggest priority is to fully staff the department's patrol force. There is not much time for proactive enforcement, he said. But he does hope to build the department back up to a place where it can be involved in teams like the drug task force, or add back a school resource officer.

In addition to a new officer, the police department will combine two part-time positions to create a full-time records specialist position this fiscal year.

The budget also contains 3 percent increases in sewer and water rates. The city estimates this will add approximately \$4.20 each month to a residential bill based on the use of 7,500 gallons of water. The City Council is expected to vote on the increases later this month.

There will be no increase to the combined sewer overflow surcharge, which stands at 97 percent of the basic charge and consumption charge water users pay. The city is in the middle of completing sewer improvements to meet federal Clean Water Act requirements and reduce the flow of wastewater into the Columbia River after heavy rains. The surcharge goes to help pay for the project and has increased slowly over the years.

### **Methane:** The Nautilus will start its journey next week in San Francisco

**Continued from Page 1A** 

But only around 100 seep sites had been identified until a couple of years ago, when scientists began surveying with new multibeam sonar technology aboard the research vessel Nautilus, owned and operated by the Ocean Exploration Trust.

The new sonar allows researchers to rapidly locate and map the methane seeps. Researchers have mapped nearly 40 percent of the ocean floor along the Cascadia Subduction Zone with the Nautilus' sonar, Merle said, and hope to cover more on this expedition. An onboard remotely operated submersible — Hercules is deployed to collect samples of gas, methane hydrate, water, fauna and rocks near the seeps, which often support a diverse array of life.

In their survey, researchers found that much of the methane below an ocean depth of 1,600 feet was solidified hydrates, while higher up it usually appears as a gas in bubble streams. One theory is that warming seas turn the hydrates into carbon dioxide gases and contribute to ocean acidification, Merle said.

Leading the upcoming expedition is Tamara Baumberger, a researcher with the Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies operated by Oregon State and NOAA at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. On the previous expedition, Baumberger sampled some of the bubbles and found chemical signatures pointing to the source of the methane.

"When methane is in sea-

water, it often is oxidized into carbon dioxide by microbial activity, which can keep much of it from reaching the atmosphere," Baumberger said in a news release about the previous expedition. "The downside, of course, is that the newly formed carbon dioxide is also a problem and it can both reach the atmosphere and increase ocean acidification.'

Methane released into shallow water reaches the atmosphere quicker because bacteria in the water has less time to oxidize the gas, Baumberger said. Part of the new expedition is trying to map and study more shallow-water methane seeps.

Whether methane could be economically extracted from the ocean floor remains a question. Several countries have explored mining the hydrates as an alternative energy source. But the deposits are widely distributed, said Robert Embley, an Oregon State geophysicist and lead scientist on the previous expedition.

"One concern is what would happen during a major Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake," Embley said in a release. "It would add more permeability to the sea floor, add more pathways for the methane to escape, and increase the potential for its release to the atmosphere."

The Nautilus leaves San Francisco next week and will survey all along the Cascadia Subduction Zone through the end of the month, including just south of the Astoria canyon. Video of the dives by Hercules will be made available at nautiluslive.org

### Seaside: The ballroom, meeting rooms will be expanded

#### **Continued from Page 1A**

for upgrades. Overall, the new project adds about 10,000 square feet to the existing facility, for a total of 55,000 square feet, an increase of nearly 19 percent.

The ballroom and meeting rooms will be expanded; struction team — including as crews were already at restrooms and staircases relo- Keely O'Brien of O'Brien work ripping out concrete economy through the winter

will be replaced throughout. A two-story addition on the east side of the building will overlook Broadway and the Necanicum River.

Under Monday's cloudless sky, members of the City Council and the key players of the design and concated. Carpeting and lighting and Co. Construction in Can- on the east side of the build- months and year-round."

non Beach, project manager Jason Stegner of Klosh Group LLC and Michael Schmidt of Portland's Holst Architecture — marked the official launch of the 15-month project.

A steady thump-thump accompanied the ceremony, ing. Barber, city councilors and building officials leaned into their shovels as cameras shutters clicked and dirt

"The city fathers showed great wisdom in coming up with this idea 40 years ago, Barber said. "It has become



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Work is underway in Seaside.

**Evening listings** THE DAILY **ASTORIAN TUESDAY** 

TUESDA	ΥE	VENING	4			A - Charter Asto	ria/ Seaside - L - Ch	arter Long Beach					JUNE 5
Α	L	6 рм	6:30	7 рм 🥌	7:30	8 рм	8:30	9 рм	9:30	10 рм	10:30	11 PM	11:30
(2) KATU	(2)	KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	Roseanne	The Middle	Black-ish	Black-ish	Splitting Up	Splitting Up	KATU News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
КОМО	(4)	KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Roseanne	The Middle	Black-ish	Black-ish		Splitting Up	KOMO 4 News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
KING	(5)	NBC News (N)	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	America's Got Tale	ent "Auditions 2" (N)			World of Dance "T	he Qualifiers 2" (N)	KING 5 News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show
(6) KOIN	(-)	KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Burden of Pro	of"	<b>Bull</b> "Witness for th	ne Prosecution"	48 Hours: NCIS (N)		KOIN 6 News (N)	(:35) Colbert
KIRO				KIRO 7 News (N)		NCIS "Burden of Pro		<b>Bull</b> "Witness for th		48 Hours: NCIS (N)		KIRO News (N)	(:35) Colbert
(3) KGW		KGW News at 6:00	p.m. (N)	Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	America's Got Tale	ent "Auditions 2" (N)			World of Dance "T	he Qualifiers 2" (N)	KGW News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show
(9) KRCW	(3)	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	The Flash "Mixed Si	ignals"	The 100 "Exit Wou	nds" (N)	News at 10 (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
(IO) KOPB		10 Ask-Old House Business (N)				Best Trains NAmerica Profiles and storie		of historic and scenic railroads.				Age Reversed	
(12) KPTV	(12)	6 O'Clock News (N)	. ,	Family Feud	Family Feud	Beat Shazam "Episo	ode Two" (N)	Love Connection	'Episode Two" (N)	10 O'Clock News (I	N)	News (N)	Page Six TV
(E) KPDX	(-)	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)		9 O'Clock News (N	1)	Family Guy	Amer. Dad 1/2	The Game 2/2	The Game
KCPQ	(13)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Beat Shazam "Episo	ode Two" (N)	Love Connection	Episode Two" (N)	Q13 NEWS AT 10 (	N)	News (N)	The Simpsons
(20) TBS	(20)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Last O.G. (N)	Conan (N)	
KZJO			Friends	Mom	Modern Family		Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
29 ESPN		(5:00) NCAA Softball	Division I Tourname	nt (L)	SportsCenter The d			SportsCenter With	Scott Van Pelt (N)	SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
		Skateboarding Stree		Kickboxing Glory 54				NBA Draft: On the Clock		First Take The hottest topics in sports are		debated.	
(31) NICK	(31)	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Keep It Spotless	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
(32) DISN	(32)	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	Bunk'd		Andi Mack 1/2	Raven's Home	Stuck in Middle	DuckTales	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	Andi Mack	Bunk'd
(34) FAM		*** 10 Things I H				The Fosters "Turks			member ('02, Rom) Sh			The 700 Club	
(35) FMC		Movie (50) Hotel Transylvania 2 (15) Voices of Selena Gomez, Adam Sandler. (35) FXM Presents The Three Stooges (12) Chris Diamantopoulos, Sean Hayes. (50) FXM Presents										A Good Day to Die	Hard Bruce Willis.
(36) LIFE		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	,	To Be Announced		To Be Announced	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	To Be Announced	
								Mariners at Houston Astros Site: Minute Maid Park Houston		. Texas		Post-game	
(39) FS1								TMZ Sports (N)   Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sp				s topics of the day.	NHRA NHRA in 30
							Friends		7, Drama) Kate Winsle				
(44) COM			The Office				Drunk History	Drunk History	Drunk History			The Daily Show (N	The Opposition (N)
(45) HIST		Forged in Fire "The		Forged Fire "Ultima		Forged in Fire "The		Forged in Fire "Th			Brothers in Arms" (N)		
46 A&E										Marcia Clark Investigates The First 48			
(47) TLC							Little People "A Lot to Think About" (N)					(:05) Little Peo. "A Lot to Think About"	
48 DISC		Deadliest Catch "Cl		Deadliest Catch "Fi		To Be Announced	g (,	Deadliest Catch	(,	Exp. Unkown "Lost		Expedition Unknow	
								Bobby Kennedy: After JFK (N)				Genius "Picasso: Chapter Eight"	
50 TNT								Animal Kingdom "In the Red" (N) Animal Kingdom					
		51) (5:25) ** Hancock (2008. Action) Charlize Theron. Will Smith.   *** The Bourne Ultimatum (2007. Action) David Strathairn. Matt Damon.   HUMANS (SP) (N)											s ('11) Aaron Eckhart.
(52) USA						WWE Super Smack					The Cromarties (N)		Modern Family
		Chopped "Gold Med		Chopped		Chopped (N)		Chopped "Million-	Dollar Meals" (N)	Chopped "Clock Sh		Chopped "Judges F	
		Fixer Upper		Fixer Upper		Fixer "Family Seeks	Spacious Upgrade"	Good Bones (N)	(,		House Hunters (N)		House Hunters
56 FX		(5:30) ★★ <b>R.I.P.D.</b> (2)									" Reunion, ruination a		Legion
(57) CNN		Cuomo "Primary Ele			Election Results" (L)				v Election Results"	Cuomo "Primary Ele		CNN Tonight "Prim	
58 FNC					Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight				The Ingraham Angle		
						Shark Tank		Shark Tank				Paid Program	
							Below Deck: Mediterranean (N)					Watch What Below Deck	
64 TCM		(5:00) The Broadway							Ruby Keeler, Joan Blon		(:45) The Love Parad		
G5 SYFY		Face Off "Amusing A		Face Off "Journey In			nto Fear, Part II" 2/2				Futurama	Futurama	Futurama
(162) RFD			Women's Rodeo	Downunder Horser		Chris Cox	Rural News (N)	Ag PhD	Cattlemen to Catt		Women's Rodeo	Product Showcase	
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