

Abraham honored for his volunteer work at Lions Club

The Daily Astorian

Longtime Astoria Lions member Carl Abraham has been nominated to the Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation Hall of Fame. He is being honored at a celebration and presentation at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the second floor Community Room at Clatsop Retirement Village, 947 Olney Ave., with refreshments to follow. Community members, present and former Astoria Lions members and Oregon Lions are welcome to attend.

Some of his many accomplishments include receiving the Melvin Jones, Helen Keller and Norman Ross awards; sponsoring over 25

members to join the Astoria Lions Club; going on 15 Lions sight missions to foreign countries at his own expense; and securing a used ambulance and coordinating efforts to get it in service for emergency medical transportation in a Mexican community.

He has also made many trips to Vision Quest carrying donated eye tissue, used his skills as an optician with the Oregon Lions Club sight programs, served in all offices of his local club multiple times, and given countless hours raising funds for Lions' programs by recycling newspapers, barbecuing at events and other club activities.

Caregivers can learn techniques for elder care at free class

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Oregon Care Partners is hosting a free, instructor-led class, "How Communication Influences Care in the Non-dementia Adult Population," from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 6 at Comfort Suites Columbia River, 3420 Lief Erikson Drive. There is no cost, thanks to funding by the state of Oregon.

The class is designed to help anyone who cares for an

aging person develop communication strategies and techniques to support a positive approach to behavioral challenges common in older adults, such as anger and withdrawing. Individuals who provide care for an aging family member or loved one, as well as those who work in professional caregiver settings, public safety or social work, are invited to attend.

To register, go to OregonCarePartners.com

SELF-HELP GROUPS

Al-Anon (Astoria) — 7 p.m. Tuesday, Peace Lutheran Church, 565 12th St.; 12 p.m. Wednesday, First United Methodist Church, 1076 Franklin Ave. For information, call 503-325-1087; 7 p.m. Thursday, Crossroads Community Church, 40618 Old Highway 30, Svensen. For information, call 503-458-6467.

Al-Anon (Clatskanie) — 7 p.m. Monday, Faith Lutheran Church, 1010 N.E. Fifth St., Clatskanie. For information, call 503-728-3351.

Al-Anon (Nehalem) — 7 p.m. Monday, Riverbend Room, North County Recreation District, 36155 Ninth St. For information, call 503-368-8255.

Al-Anon (Seaside) — 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Seaside Public Library, 1131 Broadway, call 503-810-5196 for information.

Al-Anon (Tillamook) — 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, St. Albans Episcopal Church, 2102 Sixth St., call 503-842-5094 for information; 9 a.m. Thursday, 6505 Headquarter St., Tillamook; noon Friday, 5012 Third St., call 503-730-5863 for information.

Al-Anon Family Groups information, Oregon Area Al-Anon website. oregonal-anon.org

Alateen (Tillamook) — 4 p.m. Monday, 5012 Third St. For information, call 503-730-5863.

Alcoholics Anonymous — To find a meeting in Clatsop County, call 971-601-9220, in Tillamook County, call 503-739-4856, or go to aa-oregon.org

Celebrate Recovery — 6 p.m. Thursday, The Table Church, 852 Broadway, Seaside. Faith-based 12-step program designed to help anyone

struggling with hurts, habits and hangups, including drugs and alcohol, anger, co-dependence, domestic abuse or sex, food or pornography addictions. Being religious not required. Free dinner and child care provided. For information, call D.B. Lewis at 503-741-5977.

Eating Disorders Anonymous — 1:10 to 2:10 p.m. Wednesdays, River Zen Yoga, 399 31st St. A 12-Step program. For information, call Susan Williams at 510-417-5553.

Men's Sexual Purity Recovery Group — Tuesday nights. Part of the Pure Life Alliance (purelifealliance.org) in Portland. For information, call the confidential voice mail at 503-750-0817 and leave a message.

Narcotics Anonymous — The Northwest Oregon Area of Narcotics Anonymous (NWO-NA) holds meetings in Clatsop County. For full schedule details, as well as upcoming special events, call the Helpline at 503-717-3702, or go to nworegonna.org

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) (Astoria) — 5 p.m. weigh-in, 5:30 p.m. meeting Tuesday, First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St. For information, call Trisha Hayrynen at 503-298-9058.

TOPS (Seaside) — 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. meeting Tuesday, North Coast Family Fellowship Church, 2245 N. Wahanna Road. All are welcome. For information, call 509-910-0354.

TOPS (Warrenton) — 9 to 9:45 a.m. weigh-in, 10 a.m. meeting Wednesday, First Baptist Church, 30 N.E. First St. For information, call Marilyn Barnard 503-861-2918 or Glennys Sherman at 503-338-8214.

Texas company cleared to put 3D-printed gun designs online

Weapons made of hard plastic

By LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

They look futuristic, the type of firearms that would-be assassins use in movies: 3D-printed guns made of a hard plastic that are simple to assemble, easy to conceal and tough to trace.

The future is here. After spending years fighting the federal government for the right to do so, a Texas company was given the green light to post blueprints online showing people how to make 3D-printed guns from the comfort of their home.

Gun safety advocates and some law enforcement officials are appalled, worried that this is exactly what criminals and terrorists want: guns that can't be flagged by metal detectors, don't have serial numbers to trace, and don't require the usual background checks. A coalition of gun-control groups filed an appeal Thursday in federal court seeking to block a recent Trump administration ruling allowing Cody Wilson and his company, Defense Distributed, to post blueprints online to create a 3D-printed firearm.

"There is a market for these guns and it's not just among enthusiasts and hobbyists," said Nick Suplina, managing director for law and policy at Everytown for Gun Safety, one of the three groups that have gone to court. "There's a real desire and profit mode in the criminal underworld as well."

Wilson, the founder of Defense Distributed, first published downloadable designs for a 3D-printed firearm in 2013. It was downloaded about 100,000 times until the State Department ordered him to cease, contending it violated federal export laws since some of the blueprints were downloaded by people outside the United States.

But in a reversal that stunned gun-control advo-



Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman

A plastic pistol was completely made on a 3D-printer at a home in Austin, Texas.

ates, the State Department in late June settled its case against Wilson and agreed to allow him to resume posting the blueprints at the end of July. Wilson took to Twitter, declaring victory and proclaiming he would start back up on Wednesday.

Wilson did not return an email seeking comment. His attorney, Josh Blackman, a professor at the South Texas College of Law Houston, declined to comment.

Gun industry experts say the guns are simply a modern-day equivalent of what already is legal and readily available: the ability to assemble your own firearm using traditional materials and methods at home without serial numbers. They argue that 3D-printed firearms won't be a draw for criminals since the printers needed to make one are wildly expensive and the firearms themselves aren't very durable.

"It costs thousands and thousands of dollars to acquire a printer and the files and the know-how to do this. They don't work worth a damn. Criminals can obviously go out and steal guns or even manufacture quote-unquote real guns, not 3D printed," said Larry Keane, executive director of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, which represents gun manufacturers. "If you're a gang banger in L.A., are you going to go out and spend tens

of thousands of dollars to buy a printer to print a gun that doesn't work very well or are you just going to steal one?"

Unlike traditional firearms that can fire thousands of rounds in their lifetime, experts say the 3D-printed guns normally only last a few rounds before they fall apart. They don't have magazines that allow the usual nine or 15 rounds to be carried; instead, they usually hold a bullet or two and then must be manually loaded afterward. And they're not usually very accurate either.

A video posted of a test by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in 2013 showed one of the guns produced from Wilson's design disintegrating into pieces after a single round was fired. Wilson's website will also offer blueprints for AR-style long guns besides its first product: a pistol called the Liberator.

A similar style of firearm was famously used by John Malkovich's character in the 1993 movie "In the Line of Fire" in which he portrays a would-be assassin who surreptitiously brings the firearm into a hotel ballroom, assembles it underneath his dinner table and then tries to use it to kill the president.

Law enforcement officials express concern about allowing the designs for such firearms to be publicly available expressly because they're easy to conceal and untraceable since there's no

requirement for the firearms to have serial numbers.

"When you think about all the rhetoric we here in our nation about tightening our borders and homeland security, and now we're going to put out there for anyone who wants a recipe for how to overcome ... TSA airport screenings or any other metal detector," said Rick Myers, executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association. "It's absolutely insane."

The State Department decision came amid an obscure administrative change — begun under the Obama administration — in how the weapons are regulated and administered. Military grade weapons remain under the purview of the State Department, while commercially available firearms fall under the Commerce Department. The settlement with Wilson determined that 3D-printed firearms are akin to more traditional firearms that aren't subject to ITAR, or International Traffic in Arms Regulations, overseen by State.

U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, called on Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to review the decision.

Robert Spitzer, chairman of political science at the State University of New York at Cortland and an expert on the Second Amendment, warned that while 3D-printed firearms are a novelty now — too expensive to make and too fragile to be used for more than a few shots — technology will soon catch up.

"Their popularity right now is limited," Spitzer said. "There was interest in the blueprints because they're sort of exotic and because sort of a taboo thing."

Erich Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America, echoed that sentiment.

"It's not very practical," Pratt said. "Let's be serious. First of all, you're going to plunk out thousands of dollars just for the printers. This is a very expensive route to go just to get a piece of plastic that will only last a round."



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