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ONE DOLLAR

SKIMMING OVER SECURITY

Stealthy devices meant to steal credit card information surface locally

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Brandon Williams noticed something unusual when he approached an ATM at Wauna Federal Credit Union in Warrenton in July.

A man in front of him used two cards, and the machine projected an error message as he struggled to withdraw cash. Williams noticed the card slot seemed tight, the lighting on the ATM appeared off and some kind of mold had obviously been placed on the outside surface. He poked the front of the slot and saw a loosely placed item inside.

"I was like, 'Yeah, somebody put a skimmer on the machine,'" Williams said.

Williams contacted police, and a skimmer — a small device inserted near card readers in ATMs to steal information — was indeed found. Days later, another skimmer was spotted at U.S. Bank in Astoria.

Warrenton police — after reviewing and publicizing security footage — have spoken with a suspect, and an investigation is ongoing, Police Chief Mathew Workman said. Astoria police have not identified a suspect. It's unclear if the incidents are related, but they involve two different types of devices.

Williams, a private contractor who lives in Warrenton, started researching skimmers earlier this year after hearing about incidents in other parts of Oregon.

"It's a shame that we have systemic problems that lead to that kind of behavior," Williams said. "In an evolving society, we need to educate ourselves."

The skimmer was apparently inside the ATM at Wauna Federal Credit Union for about 15 1/2 hours, while the device at U.S. Bank was more visible and likely placed shortly before it was discovered.

"I don't think anybody would've found that thing," Williams said.

Skimmers have been placed in ATMs, gas pumps and other machines at businesses that read credit cards for decades, originally popping up throughout Europe. Initially, they were bulky and more visible.

"You would have to find a really unobservant person to fall for these," said Mark Cooper, president of PKI Solutions, a Portland-based cybersecurity company.

Over the years, skimmers have



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian and Warrenton Police Department

Above Inset: Brandon Williams points out where the skimmer was located on an ATM. The device can be seen connected to an ATM at the Wauna Federal Credit Union.

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Jones will enter race for Astoria mayor

City councilor led Coast Guard sector

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

In another unexpected turn in the Astoria mayor's race, City Councilor Bruce Jones said today that he will enter the campaign.

His move comes one day after City Councilor Cindy Price withdrew as a candidate and potentially cleared a path for Dulcye Taylor, the president of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, to the November election.

"I am pleased to announce my intent to run for mayor of Astoria," Jones said in a statement. "Serving on the City Council for the last year and eight months has been a privilege and great learning experience. Working constructively through complex issues with diverse colleagues, representing constituents from many different backgrounds and with different perspectives and priorities has been invigorating and rewarding."

"Two years ago I campaigned for council with a theme of 'experience, judgment, integrity' and I will continue to do so in the mayoral race. I am honored to enter the race

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Hairdresser to run for council

Drafall has lived in Astoria for 31 years

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Astoria City Council Ward 1 has a candidate for the November election.

David Drafall, a hairdresser at One Six Five West Bond beauty salon for 25 years, has filed for the downtown and west side seat. Ward 1 is represented by City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill, who was elected in 2014 and has not announced whether she will seek a second term.

Drafall, 54, has lived in Astoria for 31 years. After growing up and attending school in Idaho, he served in the Air Force for about three years. He was honorably discharged after the military found out that he was gay, he said.

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Frite & Scoop expands to Forest Grove

Ice cream shop branches out

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Frite & Scoop, the gourmet ice cream shop that opened in Astoria nearly four years ago, is expanding to Forest Grove.

Lisa and Kevin Malcolm moved to Astoria from Seattle several years ago and opened Frite & Scoop, serving ice cream and Belgian-style fries, or frites. Earlier this year, the Malcolms opened a seasonal ice cream cart at the Astoria Column through Labor Day weekend.

"We've been busier than we've ever been before," Lisa Malcolm



Frite & Scoop

Local ice cream shop Frite & Scoop is opening a location in Forest Grove.

said. "We were more than twice as busy as we were last year. It feels like we're bursting at the buttons a bit."

The Malcolms had resisted expanding to a second location, wor-

ried they would not be able to recreate the magic of their shop on the Astoria Riverwalk.

On a recent visit to Forest Grove for the first time, they noticed a vacant storefront at the corner of Pacific Avenue and Main Street downtown, a block away from Pacific University. They later learned the space had previously hosted another ice cream shop, Connie's Corner Cafe, and fell in love with the idea of opening a shop there.

The Malcolms have made a habit of hiring local high schoolers. Their first employee for four years ago, Macen Fritz, had graduated and moved to Forest Grove to attend community college in Hillsboro.

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Frite & Scoop

Macen Fritz, left, will be the product manager at Frite & Scoop's new Forest Grove location, while Kylee Winlund will be store manager.

