

A FAMILY JOURNEY

Dozens earn citizenship at Fort Clatsop



ABOVE: Yibo Fan, far left, waves an American flag while attending a naturalization ceremony at the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. BELOW: Lis Campos, right, accepts her certificate of citizenship during the ceremony.

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

After taking the oath of citizenship Monday at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Lis Campos immediately turned her head right and smiled at her father, Jardiel Campos.

The father had already earned his citizenship after fleeing from Cuba in 2000. Now, the daughter was following suit.

As part of Constitution Week and Citizen Day, the federal government is holding more than 260 naturalization ceremonies for nearly 45,000 people. Family connections were a common theme as about 30 people from 14 different countries — including nine from Mexico, three from Thailand and two from Russia — became citizens at Fort Clatsop. Once he arrived in the U.S., the government gave Jardiel Campos a choice of places to live. Portland, more than 3,000 miles away from Cuba, was appealing.

“The idea was to be as far away as possible from what I was dealing with,” said Jardiel Campos, who lamented a lack of personal freedoms in his birth country.

Lis Campos recently graduated from Portland State University. She hopes to work someday overseas, possibly in a U.S. embassy.

“When you have a Cuban passport, it’s hard. They ask you many questions,” she said. “It’s easier to help other people when you’re in a better position of your own.”

After being determined eligible for citizenship, applicants are interviewed and must pass a biometric background screening, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. They must pass tests centered on their knowledge of the English language and civics, as well as their “moral character.”

Fees typically add up to hundreds of dollars.

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‘I EXPECT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE HERE, SO I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COUNTRY.’

Penny Edwards | moved from Canada to Oregon for her job at Salem Hospital

Astoria closes loophole on camping

A response to the homeless

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council will close a loophole to address over a dozen homeless camps in wooded areas.

City leaders discovered city code did not prohibit camping on certain types of public land after police found numerous camps in the woods near neighborhoods and Columbia Memorial Hospital this summer and asked for guidance on how to respond in a humane way. Right now, city rules only prohibit people from camping in public parks, public right of ways and private and public parking lots.

The City Council conducted a first reading of an amended code Monday night that would prohibit all camping outside of permitted areas — theoretical at this point since Astoria has no campgrounds. A second reading is required before the amended code becomes a city rule.

The amended rule also adds other language to address homelessness.

The city “recognizes the social nature of the problem of homeless individuals camping on public property and has amended this code and policy to ensure the most humane treatment for removal of homeless individuals from camping sites on public property,” the code states.

The code goes on to say the city will follow state rules to provide “adequate notice and the involvement of social services agencies to facilitate a humane transition.”

“We’re not just saying, ‘Get out of here,’” City Councilor Tom Brownson said. “We’re trying to do it in a reasonable and ... humane way.”

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County allays concerns over Jewell school health clinic

School district will apply for state grant

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

JEWELL — Clatsop County Public Health Director Mike McNickle on Monday eased the Jewell School Board’s worries over a potential on-campus health clinic, even as Knappa bowed out over similar concerns.

Jewell and Knappa are considered medically underserved communities, far from the nearest health care providers. The designation qualifies the communities for \$60,000 a year from the state’s school-based health center program to host a clinic offering primary care services such as general exams, sick visits, treatment of minor injuries, vaccinations, alcohol and drug counseling and mental health services. The county chose to avoid the controversy of potentially offering reproductive health services.

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Column lighting in doubt

City waiting for a new policy

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

For the first time in five years, the Astoria Column will not glow pink in October in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The City Council voted on Monday to deny the request from Columbia Memorial Hospital and the Friends of the Astoria Column, the non-profit that maintains the landmark. City councilors opted

instead to keep the Column lit with the usual white lights until the Friends finish developing a policy for how and when to light the Column.

The city had limited the use of colored light effects on the Column to twice a year — teal for sexual assault awareness in April and pink for breast cancer awareness in October. City councilors made an exception to the rule this year, allowing the Column to be lit with rainbow colors to honor local gay pride celebrations in June.

Around that time, the City Council asked the Friends to develop a lighting policy after the group offered to take over

the work. Councilors remain divided about whether it makes sense to light the Column at all.

“There’s so many wonderful organizations out there and important causes and a variety of ways to get the message out about those, but our Column is one of our biggest assets in Astoria,” City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill said. “It’s rich in history and views and I don’t see any reason why we should tie different organizations or causes to the Column and it also doesn’t really make sense to put something else on our Parks and Rec Department.”

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Column will not turn pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

