

**NEW DISTRICT ATTORNEY TAKES OVER**

# Brown looks to improve, not change

**Clatsop County District Attorney Ron Brown prepares for court.**

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

**By BRENNA VISSER**  
*The Daily Astorian*

**R**on Brown, Clatsop County's first new district attorney in 25 years, doesn't plan on changing much.

Brown, who served as the chief deputy for 15 years, won election in May and was sworn in earlier this month. He replaces Josh Marquis, who retired.

Brown said he has confidence in his staff and local law enforcement. He's comfortable with the direction of the office because, as chief deputy, he played an integral role in shaping policies and procedures.

"I'm not trying to change anything Josh was doing," he said. "Just do a little better."

His goals largely align with his predecessor, as the two have similar views on how to prosecute crime and work with victims.

The biggest differences, Brown said, will mostly come down to personality and presentation.

"We're totally different people. People were kind of surprised we got along as well as we did for 15 years because we're night and day," he said.

Marquis was known for his vocal role on state and national issues, especially his advocacy for the death penalty and for Measure 11, the state ballot measure that set mandatory minimum prison sentences for violent crime.

*See Brown, Page A7***District Attorney Ron Brown looks over documents during an arraignment.**

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**Ron Brown** | Clatsop County district attorney, speaking about his predecessor Josh Marquis

# Lektro sold to Chicago company

Purchased by JBT Corp.

**By EDWARD STRATTON**  
*The Daily Astorian*

WARRENTON — Lektro Inc., the local electric airplane tug manufacturer, will be acquired by Chicago-based food processing and airport equipment company JBT Corp.

The transaction is expected to close during the first quarter of this year. The purchase price will be \$48 million before customary post-closing adjustments, according to JBT.

"We are excited to be part of JBT," Eric Paulson, the owner of Lektro, said in a news release. "Together our companies will provide customers a global sales and support presence, a much broader portfolio of products and services, and deeper engineering capabilities for future product development."

Paulson, who will remain as general manager after the acquisition is finalized, is a second-generation owner of Lektro.

**Eric Paulson***See Lektro, Page A7*

# Astoria waives water, sewer fees during shutdown

A break for federal government workers

**By KATIE FRANKOWICZ**  
*The Daily Astorian*

Federal workers who live in Astoria and are not receiving paychecks during the government shutdown will get a break on their water and sewer bills.

The Astoria City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to offer a temporary waiver. The program waives penalties, fees and deferred payments during the shutdown.

"This is an easy decision for us to make," City Councilor Joan Herman said. "It relieves a stress on families who are not receiving paychecks right now."

People will need to contact the city to make sure they are eligible and to receive payment deferral documentation. They must provide a current bill, identification, and proof they are employed by the federal government.

Anyone who receives a waiver will have to pay the outstanding balance of their water and sewer bill when the government shutdown ends.

*See Shutdown, Page A7*

# KKK flyers pop up downtown

Messages pasted on storefronts

**By EDWARD STRATTON**  
*The Daily Astorian*

Police are investigating a spate of flyers recruiting for the Ku Klux Klan that were anonymously posted around downtown Astoria late last week.

Reports started coming in Friday of flyers pasted on

the sides of buildings. They depict a klansman in full regalia and the message, "The KKK Wants You!" Along the bottom are pull tabs with a hyperlink to a server page on Discord, a voice and text chat website and mobile application.

The server page is called North West Realm. One of its administrators, "ashjoe13," wrote on a message board that "I might be attracted to the Klan, but I am not looking to

start a chapter of the Klan."

"We might be racist, but we are not violent in the least," he wrote. "Our goal is to help the common American man, and for that, we need him on our side. We don't accomplish this by either killing blacks, or like antifa, rioting and blocking streets."

The user also criticizes alternative lifestyles and the "gay lobby."

*See KKK, Page A7***Flyers with the message 'The KKK Wants You!' were found around downtown Astoria.**