

Changes planned at The Daily Astorian

The history of our company is community journalism, technological innovation and business evolution over more than 100 years. In six weeks, we will implement a new business model on the North Coast.

The Daily Astorian newspaper will become The Astorian. We will publish the newspaper three days of the week, with all of the content currently produced in five days, plus some new features.

Home delivery will switch to delivery by the U.S. Postal Service — a change that our sister newspaper, the East Oregonian, made more than a year ago.

Our digital product, dailyastorian.com, was recently refurbished, and it will become an even more daily news source. Likewise, our press recently went through an upgrade, which allows for more color throughout the newspaper.

While we are changing our business model, we are not retreating in the North Coast market. We are evolving into a more sustainable news source.

Stephen A. Forrester

President and CEO

Kathryn B. Brown

Vice President

Susan Forrester Rana

Secretary/Treasurer

By **KARI BORGEN**
The Daily Astorian

Last week, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the World Wide Web. Little did we know then how much the internet would affect retailing, banking and communications. We can publish news 24/7, something newspapers couldn't have dreamed of 30 years ago.

Effective May 6, The Daily Astorian will change print publication dates from five days a week to three — Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Our masthead will change

to The Astorian in print, but remain The Daily Astorian online, reflecting our commitment to continue to be a daily news organization, publishing breaking and local news digitally every day.

The way your print newspaper is delivered will also change. Starting May 7, you'll receive your Astorian by postal carrier. Much like Amazon and UPS, we are partnering with the local postal service. Your postal carrier will become your new newspaper carrier. For most of you, your newspaper will arrive earlier in the day with the mail. The

newspaper will be in racks and stores by 7 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Our doors will continue to be open for business five days a week, and the people who work with you at our business today will continue to be here to serve you as we always have.

Reducing our publication frequency will not reduce our local news content. You will receive all of the local news that we have been publishing in five issues, but it will be delivered to you in three.

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR

UNIONTOWN GETS A FACELIFT



Improvements are made to the facade of Workers Tavern in Uniontown in 2018.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Incentives to renovate the city's western gateway

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

One project at the time, efforts to revitalize Astoria's western entrance appear to be working.

The changes at first glance are pretty small. Two years ago, four Uniontown homeowners were given pieces of an \$11,000 grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to help refurbish and renovate the outside of their historic homes: think replacing vinyl windows with wood clad, fixing a roof or restoring an outdoor staircase.

"They are small projects but they have quite a bit of impact for these neighborhoods, and for homeowners, too," City Planner Nancy Ferber said.

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Work is done to improve the outside of a building on Bond Street in Uniontown.

Woman sues Columbia Memorial over stroke

Negligence claim seeks \$4.6 million

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

A Naselle, Washington, woman has filed a \$4.6 million lawsuit against Columbia Memorial Hospital, alleging the hospital failed to perform an MRI before she suffered a stroke that left her severely disabled.

The lawsuit claims Betsy Christensen sought treatment at the Astoria hospital in April 2017 for neurological symptoms consistent with a potential stroke. A doctor concluded a stroke could only be identified by an MRI, the lawsuit alleges, but the diagnostic procedure would not be available for two more days.

Christensen went home, according to the lawsuit, and returned to the hospital two days later when her neurological symptoms persisted. An MRI was ordered after consultation with the Oregon Health & Science University Hospital stroke team, the suit claims. While Christensen was waiting for an MRI or during transport to OHSU, she had a stroke.

The lawsuit, filed last week in Circuit Court, alleges medical negligence and names the hospital and Dr. Michael Mitchell.

Christensen, 76, seeks \$400,000 in medical expenses, \$1.7 million for future medical and nursing care, and \$2.5 million in noneconomic damages, such as pain and suffering.

James Thomas, Christensen's son, is bringing the lawsuit on her behalf.

"We can never comment on matters bound by patient confidentiality," Nicole Williams, the hospital's chief operating officer, said in an email.

James Huegli, a Portland attorney representing Christensen, said every minute counts when patients may be having a stroke. "My concern for the community is what appears to be a lack of focused care for people who come in with stroke symptoms," he said. "This does not appear to be a unique problem to the Christensen case."

Astoria may curb panhandling in the roadway

New ordinance would set a \$75 violation

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council is considering a new ordinance aimed at reducing panhandling in the roadway.

The ordinance, which passed its first reading unanimously Monday night, would make it a \$75 traffic violation to give or take something from a car window while a vehicle is on the

roadway.

The rule change grew out of safety concerns and complaints from businesses like McDonald's and Safeway, said Astoria Police Chief Geoff Spalding.

Both establishments have had complaints from staff and customers about home-

less people soliciting cars from the sidewalk.

Todd Tobey, who owns the McDonald's on Marine Drive, as well as six other McDonald's restaurants on the coast, said panhandling has become increasingly more aggressive over the years and makes many of his

customers uncomfortable.

A similar ordinance helped reduce this behavior at his Lincoln City location, he said.

"We've got a problem in this town, and this simple ordinance really is just a deterrent," Tobey said.

City councilors supported

the ordinance, seeing it as a good tool for law enforcement to influence behavior.

"I heard a very wise police chief say at a meeting of homeless advocates on homeless people that the group needs to focus on behaviors," City Councilor Roger Rocka said. "And this is something that focuses on certain behaviors."

The new ordinance comes as a homelessness solutions task force looks at a fine forgiveness program to help homeless people climb out of debt. Some

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