

IN BRIEF

Astoria police seeking information on two burglaries

Astoria police are investigating two early morning break-ins Wednesday at restaurants.

Police were called at about 3 a.m. to Hong Kong Restaurant on Marine Drive after a someone reported hearing a loud crash. Officers found that a rock had been thrown through the glass door. Witnesses say a motorcycle was parked out front at the time of the incident and then drove away.

Just before 4 a.m., police were called to Sahara Pizza on Astor Street and found that a rock has been thrown through a glass side door. Police say an ATM had been tampered with and it is unclear how much, if any, money was taken.

Witnesses also reported seeing and hearing a motorcycle in the area around that time.

Police believe the break-ins are linked and that the suspect may have been in the area the day before checking out the businesses.

Anyone with information, surveillance photos or videos that may help with identifying the suspect or the motorcycle are asked to email Detective Nicole Riley at nriley@astoria.or.us. People who know the suspect or their whereabouts are asked to call Astoria 911 Dispatch at 503-325-4411.

Several people injured in crash in Warrenton

Several people were injured in a multivehicle crash Tuesday on U.S. Highway 101 and S.E. Ensign Lane in Warrenton.

Police say a vehicle heading northbound failed to yield to the controlled intersection at Ensign Lane and collided with three other vehicles. One of the vehicles then collided with a fifth vehicle.

The driver who failed to yield was cited for reckless driving.

Astoria Aquatic Center allows drop-ins again

The Astoria Aquatic Center has stopped requiring reservations to use the pool as most coronavirus restrictions end statewide.

Masks and social distancing will no longer be required and the facility reopened to drop-in swimmers Wednesday.

The aquatic center reopened in March, but had asked patrons to reserve 45-minute time slots in either the recreation pool or the lap lanes. Now the pool will not have time limits on how long swimmers can stay in the water.

County seeking public input on regional health equity study

Clatsop County is seeking public comments on a draft study examining health equity in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties.

The study was initiated in 2019 as part of the region's public health modernization partnership for communicable disease control.

Clatsop County contracted with the Rede Group, a Portland based consulting company, to collect data and create the draft plan.

Visit the county's website for more information on the plan and to provide feedback. Four online public forums on the plan are scheduled for July.

— *The Astorian*

DEATH

June 23, 2021

HERNANDEZ, Linda Marie, 52, of Astoria, died in Salem. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

CORRECTION

Incorrect temperature — Temperatures peaked at 101 degrees on Sunday afternoon in Astoria, according to the National Weather Service. The mark tied a previous record set on July 1, 1942. An In Brief item on Tuesday incorrectly said temperatures peaked at 100 degrees in Astoria.

ON THE RECORD

Theft

• Courtney Allen, 26, was arrested Tuesday in Warrenton for theft in the first degree.

DUII

• Edinelza Conrad, 44, of Hammond, was arrested Tuesday on S.W. Cedar Avenue in Warrenton for driving under the

influence of intoxicants, hit and run and reckless endangerment.

• Patricia F. Crago, 33, of Astoria, was arrested Tuesday on 22nd Street and Exchange Street in Astoria for DUII.

• Ryan Michael Moore, 24, was arrested Monday on U.S. Highway 101 for DUII.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Astoria Design Review Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

the Astorian

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A FLAVEL TOUCH-UP

Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Workers with Velazquez Painting & Construction prepare to paint the exterior of the Flavel home off of 15th Street.

Survey seeks input on Gearhart firehouse site

Property off Highlands Lane

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

GEARHART — The city wants to know what residents think of a new firehouse location off Highlands Lane.

“An opportunity now exists for the city to accept a land donation in a desirable location,” city staff wrote in a letter to homeowners accompanying the survey.

The survey comes as Gearhart faces cost and legal obstacles at the previously preferred site at North Marion.

The online survey, powered by Survey Monkey, seeks a name; whether the respondent is a renter, business owner or homeowner; and to confirm local voting eligibility. Respondents are asked if they agree with the city's plan to build the fire station on The Cottages at Gearhart dune near Highlands Lane and U.S. Highway 101.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The survey deadline is Aug. 1.

The final survey question asks if respondents would support bond financing in November to pay for the project.

Along with the online survey, 1,600 surveys are expected to be mailed this week, City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

The survey deadline is Aug. 1.

“As the city prepared to finalize the written purchase agreement and have a vote to finance the purchase/construction at High Point, we received an email from one of the property owners stating the family is no longer interested in selling their four lots

to the city,” city staff wrote. “And further, the Palisades Homeowners Association will do everything they can to block the city's efforts to have the HOA's road easement between the lots eliminated.”

The city is working with planners to bring the 30-acre Cottages at Gearhart subdivision off of Highlands Lane into the city's urban growth boundary. As long as the land remains in Clatsop County, developers are limited to two lots per acre. If they come into the urban growth boundary, developers could build on four lots per acre.

This change would allow for greater housing den-

sity, lower home prices and a greater number of home sales, the city wrote.

The cost to perform land improvements and build the structure on the Highlands Lane site will be comparable to High Point, approximately \$10.5 million, according to city staff. The city will not need to purchase the land, which could save \$3 million.

This is the second survey conducted by the city to determine a firehouse site. A 2019 survey pinpointed the High Point site on North Marion as preferable to Gearhart Park or the firehouse site on Pacific Way.

Of the more than 400 voters who responded, 52% supported the High Point site, compared with 31% at the Pacific Way site and 17% at Gearhart Park. At the time, cost was estimated at between \$6 million and \$9 million.

In June, the City Council approved \$80,000 from the building reserve fund for due diligence in planning, architecture and geotechnical engineering services for the Highlands Lane site.

A pandemic boom for cabinet business

The designer saw demand amid supply chain issues

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For The Astorian

GEARHART — Two weeks after Debbie Sandersen signed a lease on a showroom for PNW Cabinets along U.S. Highway 101, Clatsop County, like the rest of the world, went into shutdown mode amid the pandemic.

Sandersen said the experience was nerve-wracking — “wondering how it's all going to go, and would you get enough of a customer base and everything to keep going” — but she nevertheless plunged forward with her business plan.

Initially, she took solace, believing it would give her more time to set up her showroom in Gearhart. Instead, however, the pandemic had the opposite effect, and Sandersen has experienced a non-stop stream of business for cabinets, countertops, window coverings and tiles.

“We've been so busy that there's not really been much downtime at all, which has been fun, because you've always got a project to work on,” she said.

While cultivating clients hasn't been a problem, the pandemic brought other challenges. Not only have raw materials gone up in price over the past year, but shipping costs have also escalated exponentially. Meanwhile, a global shortage of shipping containers has emerged, leading to further inflation. There are also long lead times on acquiring certain materials and products.



Katherine Lacaze/For The Astorian

Seaside resident Debbie Sandersen is the owner of PNW Cabinets.

An important part of dealing with these external challenges is simply being upfront with clients to establish realistic expectations, Sandersen said.

During her initial consultation, she'll delve into lead times and how that can influence the timeline and cost of a project.

If clients aren't in a rush, “they can pretty much get what they want,” she said. If they are on a particular timeline, she'll direct them toward alternatives.

That sort of insight into the market is what Sandersen strives to provide all her clients when designing residential and commercial spaces and helping with product selection.

“I really focus on listening to what their needs are and trying to get them everything they need to make that particular project come about in the way that they're thinking,” she said.

‘Raised in the industry’

Sandersen summed up her experience as being “raised in the industry,” particularly the woodworking end of things.

She's been designing for about 18 years, although

to the North Coast from Astoria to Nehalem, Sandersen has established a much wider service area when it comes to design.

She's worked on projects for clients in Bend, southern Oregon and even Idaho, providing design services from afar and then having materials shipped to them.

Long-distance projects

Even when designing remodels or new construction on the coast, Sandersen is no stranger to working virtually with clients. That's due in large part to the abundance of second homes and vacation rentals in the area. In fact, long-distance projects comprise about 50% of her business.

Recently, Sandersen has also worked with numerous clients who are moving to the coast and turning their second homes into their primary residences. While those spaces might have served them well as temporary vacation homes, they aren't suitable for long-term, daily living — and that's where Sandersen steps in.

“Usability and functionality — those are two huge parts of the project,” she said. “Everybody stores things differently, or has different lifestyle needs. It's just figuring out what those are to get it right for them.”

When she's able to accomplish that for a client, regardless of the type of project and scope of work, she finds it rewarding.

“I like to help people get what they envision, what they want, and make it all work out so they don't really have to make sacrifices on quality, or color, or whatever it is they're thinking,” she said. “When they're happy, that makes me happy.”

While they keep their installation projects focused