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# Astorian

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## Police chief to retire

Spalding has led the force in Astoria since 2017

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

When Geoff Spalding joined the Astoria Police Department in 2017 as interim chief, he had already retired twice during his four decades in law enforcement.

The role was supposed to be temporary, but after several months, he agreed to take on the position permanently.

Now, after four years as the city's top cop, Spalding, 65, announced his retirement this week, calling the decision bittersweet.

"For me, it's always been in the blood," he said. "I enjoy the interactions with people and the challenges — that's why I'm here."

Spalding said he and his wife fell in love with Astoria after his first few months as interim chief, and felt the city could be their new home.

"We were able to find a house and everything just kind of fell into place," he said. "I always said that I will stay until I'm no longer having fun — I honestly can't say that's the case."

The chief will continue to lead the department through the recruitment process, which is expected to take up to four months.

"I plan to work hard up until the last day I'm here," Spalding said, adding that he wants to make sure the new chief is

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## State approves aggressive climate plan

Commission's move comes after lawmakers did not act

By CASSANDRA PROFITA  
*Oregon Public Broadcasting*

The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission approved a new Climate Protection Plan for the state Thursday. It targets a 90% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuels and natural gas by 2050.

The commission's 3-1 vote of approval follows years of state lawmakers' unsuccessful attempts to launch an economy-wide cap-and-trade program to reduce the carbon emissions that contribute to climate change.

"It has been an enormous lift to get this program to this point," Kathleen George, the commission's chairwoman, said after the vote. "Our fisheries, our farms, the snow in our mountains, our forests and vineyards, they all depend on a healthy climate."

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CANNON BEACH

## Fire district will bill for calls to state parks



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

A headland in Oswald West State Park is seen through tree branches.

## Calls to the parks have more than doubled since 2017

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

CANNON BEACH — In an effort to increase funding from the state, the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District plans to begin billing for calls for service at state parks at the start of the year.

A contract obligating the fire district to respond to calls at state parks and recreation sites in the region expires at the end of December, but Fire Chief Marc Reckmann said the district is not willing to renew the agreement at its annual rate of \$1,000.

He said the fire district devotes an increasing amount of time and resources to state parks, making it difficult to justify the annual compensation, especially when billing for each response could have brought in more than \$20,000 this year alone. He added that calls to the parks have more than doubled since 2017.

"It feels like there's expectation for service without compensation," Reckmann said.

He pointed to other fire districts throughout the state that respond to fewer state parks, yet receive more than \$10,000 annually from the state.

After communicating with state officials, Reckmann said he has not been given an explanation for the dis-



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

The Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District wants more state money to cover the costs of responding to calls at state parks.

crepancies in payments, and that the state showed no interest in raising the annual rate.

Chris Havel, the associate director at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, told The Astorian the annual rate is intended to cover some of the costs associated with the fire district's response to incidents in Ecola State Park and other state parks. The state was prepared to increase the rate, he said, "but how much of an increase is still under discussion."

Havel added that while the state has agreements with other fire districts that exceed \$10,000, there are no agreements or payments at all in most parts of the state.

However, the state did not provide information on how payments are determined.

"We will continue to discuss options for supporting first responders based in Cannon Beach, and we're

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## Park district concerned about pot shop location

Director claims retailer too close to rec center

By R.J. MARX  
*The Astorian*

SEASIDE — The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District wants the city to block a cannabis shop seeking to move into property near the Sunset Recreation Center, but it is unlikely the city will take action.

The property on N. Roosevelt Drive is less than 500 feet from the northwest corner of the recreation center, which was formerly Broadway Middle School. State law generally prohibits marijuana retailers

within 1,000 feet of schools, but the recreation center does not meet the definition of a school.

The recreation center houses the catalog of the park district's youth programs, including the preschool, after-school programs and summer camps.

"The SRC may not meet the OLCC (Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission) definition of a school," Skyler Archibald, the executive director of the park district, told the City Council on Monday. "Clearly it is a building that's used for the growth and development of children and youth. It is our position that this location is not suitable for a dispensary due to its proximity to the vulnerable populations we are currently serving and will continue to serve at the SRC."

Archibald was joined by Katharine Parker, the president of the park district's board, and Eliza-

beth Friedman, of the Northwest Regional Education Service District, which leases space in the recreation center.

"SEPRD is working towards creating a family-friendly space to meet community needs," Parker said. "And I believe that the proposed location is not a good fit for our kids and for our community. Our youth do not need to be exposed to cannabis at such a young age."

She called for emergency action prohibiting the shop.

"By adopting this emergency ordinance, the Seaside City Council will be protecting the youth of our community in the heart of Seaside," Parker said.

The city is in the process of responding to a Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission land use compatibility request, Planning Director Kevin Cupples said. The

applicant, CCC Holding Co. LLC, intends to use a suite in the building as a retail marijuana dispensary.

Before licensing, Seaside must complete a section in the land use compatibility statement indicating whether the proposed use meets the city's land use regulations.

Mayor Jay Barber asked the city manager to consult with the city attorney to determine if there is any action that can be taken. "Would you proceed to give us as quickly as possible any feedback as possible regarding any options that we have?" he asked.

After a legal review, Kimberly Jordan, the city recorder, said Friday that the retailer had all his paperwork in long before the public comment from the park district and others on Monday.

An emergency ordinance for this particular cannabis shop cannot be done, Jordan said, but the

*'WE'RE JUST SIMPLY FOLLOWING THE RULES THAT YOU'VE LAID OUT AND THE STATE'S LAID OUT AT THIS POINT.'*

— Mark Winstanley,  
Seaside city manager

City Council can pass an ordinance for future shops that may be a concern.

"We're just simply following the rules that you've laid out and the state's laid out at this point," City Manager Mark Winstanley said at Monday's meeting. "And just like any other applicant, they have the right to have us go through the process."

