

State lauded for anti-tobacco spending

A recent Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids report has ranked Oregon No. 1 in the nation in funding tobacco prevention at levels recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CTFK's Jan. 13 report, "Broken Promises: A State-by-State Look at the 1998 Tobacco Settlement 23 Years Later," found that Oregon, at 93.9 percent, and Alaska, at 89.6 percent,

are the only states to provide at least three-quarters of the CDC-recommended funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

They also are among only 10 states – along with Utah, California, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Delaware, Wyoming, Hawaii and Maine – to provide more than half of the CDC-recommended funding.

Letter to the editor

County shouldn't be swayed by short-term gains

Zoning is and should have always been the primary starting point regarding transient rental businesses in our coastal residential (CR) zone neighborhoods. All the conflict, resources, time, and effort could have been saved had zoning been upheld and voters included from the beginning.

We live in a CR zone and commercial businesses are not allowed. CR zones are for single-family residences.

Vacation rentals are, in fact, commercial businesses and are not allowed. That's the foundation of the conflicts arising from the many sub-violations -- noise, sewage, light pollution, parking, traffic and many more impacts -- that more than 100 full- and part-time residents (an overwhelming majority) have been meeting with the county and writing about for years.

Instead of improvement, these commercial businesses have explosively doubled in three years and now make up 30 percent of the homes in this community -- homes that should be available for single-family residences.

The county's selective enforcement of the CR zone elements is prejudicial and preferential treatment for short-term revenue gain. It favors absentee commercial

business owners and disregards the cost and impact on residents and communities, decimating affordable and available housing.

This prejudicial and exploitative favoring for short-term revenue gain opens our county and our precious tax revenue up to myriad risks--how can you enforce anything then? If you allow commercial businesses of one kind, why not others? If you allow transient occupancy in a single-family residential zone, why not a five-story hotel, restaurant, or multiple duplexes on a single lot?

We don't want our limited county resources spent slaying those dragons.

None of this is allowed or desired, for all of the reasons that were analyzed when the zoning was enacted, at much cost and effort.

The county says it wants to streamline and wants efficiency. What could be more efficient than adhering to the existing code?

The county needs to consistently uphold and enforce the zone elements. Not doing so is anti-residential community and anti-affordable housing, effectively exploiting and excluding voters and residents.

Ethical and effective leaders listen to and heed the voices

Thieves apprehended after hitting three stores

The Columbia Press

Three men who'd stolen merchandise from three local stores were thwarted as police spotted them leaving Walmart.

Two men were arrested after a chase and manhunt and a third remained at large.

Walmart security called police about a theft that had just occurred at 5:21 p.m. Jan. 27.

The caller said the suspects

were leaving the area in a red hatchback with Washington license plates.

Officer Josh Hollaway spotted the vehicle at the Highway 101 and Ensign Lane intersection and turned around to follow it, Chief Matt Workman said.

The driver attempted to elude officers by turning off Ensign onto Alternate Highway 101 and then down Southeast 14th Place, a small street with a dead-end near Highway 101.

The car pulled over and two men ran from the vehicle while the driver stayed put, according to Workman.

"The driver gave a statement and allowed Officer Hollaway to search his vehicle," Workman said. He found a sizeable amount of new merchandise.

A canine and officers from Warrenton and Astoria police departments and the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office searched the area and found one of the two men.

Eugene Burt Kornoely, 42, of Ilwaco, Wash., was arrested on suspicion of two counts of second-degree theft and one count of first-degree theft. He also had an outstanding warrant.

Driver Jacob Michael Rivers, 35, of Astoria was arrested on suspicion of eluding a police officer, carrying brass knuckles, two counts of second-degree theft and one count of first-degree theft.

The third suspect has been identified, but hadn't been arrested as of Wednesday.

Officers determined that all the merchandise stolen from Walmart had been recovered and totaled \$942, according to Workman.

The merchandise found in the vehicle included \$1,250 in equipment stolen from Home Depot and \$393 in items stolen from Fred Meyer. All merchandise was returned to the stores.

Additional charges could be brought at a later date, Workman said.

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