

Holiday Inn Express to expand in Uniontown

Another 20 rooms planned

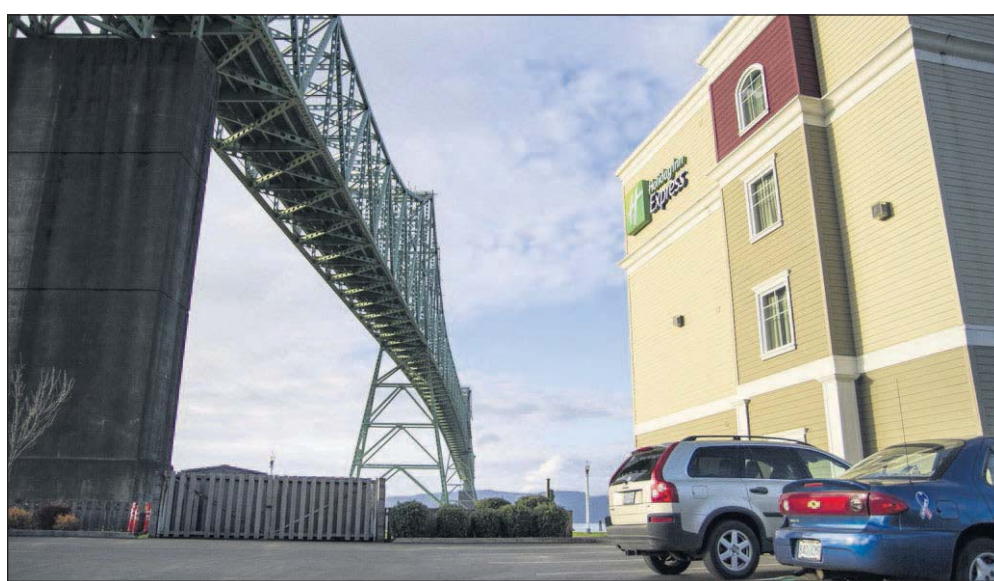
By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

The Holiday Inn Express, confident about the growth of tourism in Astoria, plans to expand in Uniontown.

The four-story, 78-room hotel along the Columbia River near the Astoria Bridge will add another 20 guest rooms by the summer of next year. The expansion along the west side of the hotel also involves the demolition of a former sign shop that the hotel owns to accommodate parking.

"It's confidence in the community, confidence in the market," said Caroline Wuebben, the hotel's general manager. "Definitely the tourist business is strong and growing in Astoria and we want to take advantage of it."

The city's Historic Landmarks Commission approved the hotel expansion in a 6-0 vote Tuesday night. The hotel's request came before the commission because the nearby Wauna



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

The Holiday Inn Express, a four-story, 78-room hotel near the Astoria Bridge, will add another 20 guest rooms along the west side of the hotel by the summer of next year.

Federal Credit Union building and the Doughboy Monument to World War I soldiers are historic.

The Holiday Inn Express is located in the Bridge Vista phase of the city's Riverfront Vision Plan. Some residents have complained about the potential reduction of river views and

access to the Astoria Riverwalk if additional development is encouraged in the area.

But commissioners said that while the hotel will be larger, the expansion, like the original hotel approved in 2003, is consistent with the typical height for a historic hotel and many architectural details of nearby historic

structures.

The demolition of the former sign shop could also open up views of the river. "We're going to open up another vista and I think that will make a majority of the community very happy to see that," said LJ Gunderson, the president of the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Astoria could revisit enterprise zone

Nemlowill tells Port of disappointment

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Astoria City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill approached the Port of Astoria Commission Tuesday night to share her disappointment over the Astoria City Council's 2-2 vote Monday that could prevent the enterprise zone from including any Port land in city limits.

Mayor Arline LaMear and City Councilor Russ Warr voted yes, while councilors Drew Herzig and Cindy Price voted no. Nemlowill said she couldn't vote because of a conflict of interest, namely Fort George Brewery and Public House, being included in the zone, which her husband Chris co-owns.

The Port Commission, Clatsop County Board of Commissioners and Warrenton City Commission all unanimously approved the enterprise zone.

LaMear said Wednesday

there's a meeting today between her, City Manager Brett Estes and Clatsop County Manager Scott Somers to talk about revisiting the enterprise zone. The next Astoria City Council meeting is April 6, which would allow it to vote again before the April 10 deadline for Somers to turn in the application to the Oregon Business Development Department.

Enterprise zones eliminate property taxes on new commercial and industrial development in their boundaries for three to five years, in the hope of attracting more business development, jobs and property taxes in the long term. They do not affect existing zoning laws.

Why no trust?

Port Commissioner James Campbell said he was alarmed at the distrustful attitude of the Astoria City Council toward the Port, adding that none of the other councilors come to Port meetings.

To a certain degree, Nemlowill said, there's a validity to that, referencing the contentiousness over the Astoria Riv-



Zetty Nemlowill

erfront Vision, which the Port threatened to sue the city over because of its potentially affected property.

City councilors were also irked by the proposal by H.Y. Chen to develop North Tongue Point and other localities through his immigrant investor group Great Ocean; along with the proposed closure of the boatyard, which Executive Director Jim Knight canceled Tuesday night; and the cutoff of access on Gateway Avenue to the park on the west end of Pier 3, which Knight's said is to ensure safety by keeping pedestrians away from log trucks. The park is still accessible through Industry Street.

"I don't think that it's going

to do us any good to dwell on bad issues in the past," Nemlowill said, adding she's interested in the good things the Port is doing and hopes the Port Commission has the people's best interests in mind.

Knight said he asked Estes to meet with LaMear to see about revisiting the issue before the deadline.

"Perhaps we need to find a time where the two commissions can have a retreat together," Knight said, who earlier in Tuesday's meeting was authorized to spend \$45,000 through June 30 on a public relations campaign, including about \$30,000 to improve the Port's website and another \$15,000 for a PR firm.

"It just does feel like there's a fundamental misunderstanding in our intent to develop Port property," Knight said. He added that the value of the enterprise zone was for the future of the entire community.

"What a wonderful way to kick off your PR campaign," Nemlowill said at the end of her public comment Tuesday.



James Olson photo

The 2015 Lady Liberty Award winners, from left, Judith Maddox Bigby and Jeanne Maddox Peterson. Tickets for a luncheon being held in their honor April 9 are available at the Liberty Theater box office.

Sisters to be honored at luncheon

Lady Liberty tickets on sale at box office

The Liberty Theater has announced that its annual Lady Liberty Awards Luncheon, A Salute to People of Distinction, is being held from noon to 1:30 p.m. April 9. The award recognizes and honors people of achievement who live or work in the Columbia Pacific Region. This year's honorees are sisters, Jeanne Maddox Peterson and Judith Maddox Bigby, who will be celebrated as inspirations and dedicated community volunteers.

Honorees are selected on the basis of exemplary volunteerism, professional excellence and contributions to the community as a whole. Each is individually diverse in their accomplishments and represents a wide range of interests

and fields of endeavor.

Peterson's contributions include an exceptionally high quality of dance and choreography classes, and her graceful way of mentoring to generations of local students. She is being honored as an inspiration and an example of professional excellence.

Bigby's contributions include service on the Oregon Community Foundation Leadership Council, serving as principal of Astor Elementary School, her oversight of Cinderella's Closet with the Assistance League and service on the Liberty Board, to name but a few. She is being honored for her contributions to the community as a whole.

Tickets for the luncheon cost \$50 each and are available at the Liberty Theater box office, which is open from 2 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For information, call the theater at 503-325-5922.

Clerk's office receiving ballots for Gearhart recall

The Clatsop County Clerk and Elections Department has received more than a fifth of the ballots from eligible Gearhart voters in the March 26 special election for the recall of Mayor Dianne Widdop.

Ballots were delivered to the post office March 6, and voters received the ballots starting March 9. As of Tuesday, the Clatsop County Clerk and Elections Department had received 206 ballots from a total of 928 eligible voters for a current voter turnout of 22.2 percent.

The number of registered voters is subject to change based on undeliverable ballots received, according to the clerk's office.

Voters have until 8 p.m. March 26 to return their ballots to the elections office, which will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. Ballots must be delivered to one of two official drop sites: Gearhart City Hall, 698 Pacific Way or the clerk's office, 820 Exchange St., Astoria. Postmarks will not be



Dianne Widdop

considered.

Daily ballot returns can be found on the elections division webpage on the county's website at www.co.clatsop.or.us.

Free soil test offered Saturday

SEASIDE — Clatsop County Master Gardeners are conducting a free Ph Test Soil Clinic from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Dennis' 7 Dees Landscaping & Garden Center, 84794 U.S. Highway 101 in Seaside. Bring one cup of garden soil placed into a clean glass jar with lid, or

double bagged in a ziplock plastic bag, for analysis. Allow one hour for the test.

Directions for obtaining a proper soil sample can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/chksoil>

For information, call the Oregon State University Extension Office at 503-325-8573.

On the record

Criminal trespass

• At 1:52 p.m. Monday, Oregon State Police cited David Olsen, 60, Seaside, for second-degree criminal trespass at milepost 0.25 on Hamlet

Road in Seaside. Olsen was apparently on his neighbor's property and the neighbor has warned him in the past to stay off the property, according to OSP.

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