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JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria has received a total of about \$4.6 million in discretionary funds from the FAA's Airport Improvement Grant for the runway overlay project to fix the drainage system and repave Runway 13-31 (the runway running up and down the photo) at the Astoria Regional Airport. To cover its 10 percent local match, the Port received a Connect Oregon V infrastructure grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation of \$480,000.

HAVE A GOOD FLIGHT!

Astoria Regional Airport attracts millions in government grants

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Astoria Regional Airport attracts a lot of interest, from a blossoming citizens' flying club and a private air taxi service wanting to be its private operator to the U.S. Coast Guard Base and tenants from UPS to Lektro's electric tugs.

It also attracts interest from government grants, more than \$5 million of which are touching down at the airport this summer to rehabilitate one of its runways.

At the next Port Commission meeting, it will vote on whether to approve a contract with Precision Approach Engineering to overhaul the drainage and repave Runway 13-31, which cuts northwest to southeast.

"It will generate a ton of construction jobs," said Mike Weston, the Port's director of business development and operations.

The Federal Aviation Administration approved the project earlier this month, including nearly \$700,000 worth of engineering services before and during construction by Precision Approach, which has been providing such services to the Port since 2009.

The Port has received a total of about \$4.6 million in discretionary funds from the FAA's Airport Improvement Grant for the runway overlay project, Weston said. To



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An MH-60T Jayhawk hovers over Taxiway A2 at the Astoria Regional Airport. The airport is used by the U.S. Coast Guard as well as private pilots, and UPS.

MORE INSIDE

Turn to Page 7A to read about how the Flying Club aims to make learning to fly affordable.

cover its 10 percent local match, the Port received a Connect Oregon V infrastructure grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation of \$480,000.

"Hopefully in the end, the

Port has an obligation of about \$30,000," Weston said of the \$5 million project, which the Port will vote on April 21 to accept the engineering of by Precision Approach. The company's representatives on

the project were out at a conference and unavailable for comment.

Fixing the pipes

Walking the 4,900-foot Runway 13-31 Tuesday, Weston points out the cracks, creases, sinkholes and other signs of age on an equally vintage runway and drainage system underneath.

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Photo Courtesy of Sea Lion Defense Brigade

A California sea lion hauled out at the Port of Astoria's East End Mooring Basin bleeds from a fresh wound. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is investigating the possible shooting of sea lions.

Agents probe possible sea lion shootings

Bullet casings at East End Mooring Basin prompts investigation

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

On Monday, members of the Sea Lion Defense Brigade reported finding 19 bullet casings on the East End Mooring Basin causeway. Over the Easter weekend, they'd posted pictures of several animals on their Facebook page with open wounds and pockmarks that look as if they'd been shot.

"We can tell you that NOAA office of law enforcement has received a complaint, and we are investigating the possible shooting of sea lions at the East End Mooring Basin," said Sean Stanley, a special agent with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Stanley wouldn't comment further, citing the ongoing case.

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Lewis and Clark may not have been first

Clackamas cabin could predate storied expedition

MOLALLA (AP) — Protected inside a workshop hidden among Clackamas County farmland is a mysterious log dwelling that may prompt a rewrite of Oregon's long-held history.

If experts' theories pan out, the 18-foot-wide structure — called the Molalla Log House — predates the start of Lewis and Clark's 1804 expedition by a decade.

The current thinking is that the large, inventive log building could have been handmade by Russian farmers and craftsmen sent by Catherine the Great to settle in the Willamette Valley. Growing wheat and gathering beaver and elk pelts here could have aided the tsarina's struggling Alaskan fur trade.

That the log cabin was made by foreigners is clear. It's unlike pioneer construction seen in Oregon until now.

The 25-foot-long Douglas fir logs,

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Vandals target North Head Lighthouse

By KATIE WILSON
EO Media Group

CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT STATE PARK, Wash. — The 117-year-old North Head Lighthouse at Cape Disappointment State Park was vandalized last week, park rangers discovered early in the morning March 30.

There are no suspects and the prank has not been repeated as of April 6, but Park Ranger Nick Schwalb said, "We'll be looking out for it."

Rectangles of white paint create a sort of patchwork on the side of the lighthouse and nearby buildings, covering spots where the vandals spray-painted words and anarchist symbols in three different colors of paint. The vandals also hit a portion of the sidewalk running between historic outbuildings near the parking lot and vacation rentals up hill from



KATIE WILSON — EO Media Group

In the process of being repaired following years of weather damage, North Head Lighthouse suffered minor damage last week from vandals who painted words on the exterior and nearby sidewalks.

the lighthouse. North Head lighthouse is in the process of being restored and much of it is engulfed in plastic tenting and metal scaffolding; the vandals only painted on the low-

er, exposed parts of the structure.

Long Beach Police received a report but park rangers handled the incident.

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