

Hold the chowder: Council scraps new food cart



Teresa Estrada



Cindy Price

Astoria rejects proposed gillnetter next to the Bowpicker

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

Neat idea, wrong location. That was the message from the Astoria City Council Monday night on

Teresa Estrada's request to sell clam chowder from a vintage gillnetter next to the popular Bowpicker on Duane Street.

The council found that leasing city property for T's Astoria Chowder could pose a conflict with a parking lot leased to the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Bowpicker, which sells fish and chips from an old gillnet boat, is the only food cart that leases city property. The city grandfathered the Bowpicker

after the city purchased land near 17th and Duane streets from the Columbia River Maritime Museum in 2013.

The city plans to improve the gravel parking lot for the Coast Guard, which is studying whether to base two new fast-response cutters in Astoria, possibly at the 17th Street Dock.

"I am choosing to favor the Coast Guard over you," City Councilor Cindy Price told Estrada.

Price said her decision was not

based on "cronyism," but "making a better decision for Ward 3 and for Astoria, to have that space available for (the Guard) when they're ready to make their plans."

Councilor Zetty Nemlowill said she did not want to potentially jeopardize the Coast Guard's expansion, which could be an economic boon to the city.

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Mock search and rescue makes it real



HOLLY PHIPPS — Seaside High School

Seaside High School senior Christian Avila, foreground, and Astoria High School sophomore Sydney Morris assess the injuries on SHS student Jacqueline Hernandez, who posed as a victim during the final simulation for the Community Emergency Response Team programs for both high schools. The 11 members from the schools had to perform a mock search and rescue at the Seaside School District facility Friday.

Students from SHS, AHS finish CERT certification

By **KATHERINE LACAZE**
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Fabricated moans, groans and pleas of "help me" emanated from the basement of the Seaside School District facility on South Franklin Street. Junior Caitlynn Howe, playing the role of incident commander, quickly briefed her team of 10 Astoria and Seaside high school students, carrying backpacks of supplies and wearing bright yellow reflective vests, on the simulated situation.

After receiving assignments, the students, who are part of the Community Emergency Response Team programs at both high schools, dispersed throughout the building to look for and



HOLLY PHIPPS — Seaside High School

Seaside High School students Will Kautz, from left, Connor Adam and Caitlyn Howe communicate during a stimulation performed as part of their final for the CERT training program. Seven Seaside students and four students who did an identical program at Astoria High School this semester joined as one team for the final simulation.

treat victims, who were played by teacher Vanessa Unger's drama students in Seaside High School class.

Quake, no tsunami

Friday's simulation was the final exercise for the students, four from Astoria and seven from Seaside, to become certified. For the exercise, the concocted incident was an earthquake, but no tsunami followed. A majority of the community made it to the tsunami evacuation sites and were accounted for, but seven were not. The CERT members had to go back to the building to conduct search and rescue for the missing victims.

Once found, the victims — who had been realistically decked out in makeup by Seaside junior Holly Phipps — shared information they were given ahead of time so the student CERT members could assess their injuries and identify them as immediate, delayed or minor/walking wounded.

The injuries ranged from minor scrapes and bruises to a stick through the leg and a spinal injury. One victim was uninjured, but she played the role of a woman who was hysterical and upset for her friend, who had been severely

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Haul-out hurdles

Port installs new obstacles for sea lions at the East End

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

A small group of people gathered on the East End Mooring Basin causeway Friday, taking in the mostly California and few, larger Stellar sea lions covering every square foot of O Dock and an adjacent floating cage used by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife since 2008 to trap and brand the pinnipeds.

In the background, with its own audience of sea lions, Port of Astoria staffers started stringing orange safety fencing along the first finger pier of P Dock, one of the three the Port has left at the East End Mooring Basin. By Monday, the sea lions had gotten through the plastic fencing, and the Port had switched to chicken wire.

"We're using P as kind of a prototype," Port Permit and Project Manager Robert Evert said, while overseeing work Friday.

The Port hopes to push the sea lions off the docks and over to the rocky breakwaters where some already congregate, preventing the damage the animals cause to utilities on the docks, and attracting boats, which create revenue from moorage.

Evert guessed that the Port needs 12,000 feet of construction tape, at about \$70 per 100 feet, to cover both sides and ends of its 5,600 linear feet of dock at the basin.

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Residents take the Corps to task over Walmart

Federal agency should have done more to protect wetlands, lawsuit claims

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — A citizen's group has filed a federal lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers over the Walmart project, claiming the Army Corps failed to adequately protect wetlands.

Clatsop Residents Against Walmart (www.c-r-a-w.org) alleges the Army Corps improperly allowed the multinational discount retailer to fill wetlands for the project east of U.S. Highway 101. The Army Corps, the suit claims, has an obligation to protect aquatic resources, the quality of the environment, and the robustness of the administrative and environmental permitting process.

"The legal issues are whether the Corps did an adequate impact analysis and an adequate alternatives analysis," said Karl Anuta, a Portland attorney representing the citizen's group. "They're required to do both and we think that, in this instance, there were other alternatives that would have involved less wetland fills that were not

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Marine returns, just in time for lunch

Sgt. Jordan Law sneaks in to surprise his family at Fort George Brewery

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Jordan Law's family sat down for what they thought would be a simple lunch at Fort George Brewery Monday. But Jordan and his mother, Sheryl, had so much more in store.

KATU, supposedly doing a piece on the iconic brewery, surrounded the Law family for interviews. As they talked, Jordan and his partner, Cameron Holliday, descended the Astoria Column staircase from Fort George to surprise his family, as the entire pub joined in congratulating the family on their reunion.

"I just got back from the Middle East, beginning of April" said Jordan, who'd most recently



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

U.S. Marine Sgt. Jordan Law hugs his sister, Lexis Law, and his mother, Sheryl Law, after surprising his family at Fort George Brewery Monday. Sgt. Law returned from Kuwait after a combat tour lasting seven months.

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