



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Greg Newenhof helps a customer at City Lumber.

## Flavel home: The property has been vacant since 1990

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Asked how long it might take him to restore the old home, which was purchased “as is,” Newenhof chuckled. “Probably the rest of my life,” he said.

A conservator for the elderly Mary Louise Flavel — the granddaughter of Capt. George Conrad Flavel — had agreed in December to sell the family home to help end a contentious saga with the city over code violations.

The four-bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 4,644-square-foot home at 627 15th St. has been vacant since 1990. Built in 1901, the 2 1/2 story Colonial Revival-style home was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

But the deteriorating property has been considered a blight on a city that prides itself on historic preservation and where, several blocks to the west, the magnificently preserved Flavel House Museum is a popular tourist draw.

The museum was the Queen Anne-style home of Capt. George Flavel, the leg-

endary Columbia River bar pilot. The home on 15th Street was built for Flavel’s son, George Conrad Flavel, who was also a captain.

The two Flavel homes reflect both the aspiration and the challenge of preserving Astoria’s past.

### The deal

The sale agreement, according to documents prepared for Washington County Circuit Court, authorizes Mary Louise Flavel’s conservator to use sale proceeds to cover unpaid and delinquent taxes on the home and pay the city \$20,000 toward resolving judgments against Flavel.

The conservator, Caroline Evans of Portland, is also authorized to pay property taxes for two Flavel properties on Commercial Street.

In December, the Astoria City Council approved an agreement with Evans on the sale of the home and the Flavel properties on Commercial Street, the heart of the downtown business corridor.

The city agreed to forgo

collecting the full amount of liens against Flavel, while the conservator pledged to pay the city \$40,000 — \$20,000 after the sale of the home and \$10,000 after each commercial property is sold.

Evans had set the minimum bid for the Flavel home at \$180,000.

“Having owned the lumber store, they would be the perfect people to buy the house as far as I’m concerned,” Blair Henningsgaard, the Astoria city attorney, said of Newenhof.

The city credited a derelict building ordinance adopted in 2011 for providing the tools needed to corner negligent property owners.

The city obtained an abatement warrant for the Flavel home in 2012 and essentially took control of the ramshackle property. But Mary Louise Flavel herself had eluded city officials for years. “I don’t want Astoria to know where I am,” she told a reporter for The Daily Astorian who spoke with her at her Portland-area home in 2012.

## Buckmaster: ‘His goal has always been to have plenty of fish to share with everybody’

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Lower Columbia River. Buckmaster also registered as a lobbyist while serving on the board of Salmon for All and although Buckmaster said he was never paid for the work, sportfishers said this should preclude him from serving as a commissioner.

Roblan said the commercial fishing industry in southern Oregon appreciated Brown’s appointment of Buckmaster.

“His goal has always been to have plenty of fish to share with everybody, because it is very important to our community,” Roblan said of Buckmaster. “This is a person who has been actively engaged in his community wherever he lived, trying to make things better.”

Sen. Chris Edwards, D-Eugene, said he disagreed with Buckmaster on salmon policy several years ago but would still vote to confirm him.

“He was an opponent on that particular issue that was tenacious, and he was fighting

for what he thought was right,” Edwards said. “I disagreed with him. We prevailed on that issue.”

In 2012, Kitzhaber asked the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to work with its counterpart in Washington to phase out use of gillnets on the main stem of the lower Columbia River and move commercial use of the nets into side channels. The Legislature passed a bill in 2013 to implement the changes.

Sen. Fred Girod, R-Stayton, said he was involved in the effort to ban gillnets on the main stem of the Columbia River and called upon other senators to vote “no” on the Buckmaster appointment.

“Everyone here knows I represent a region that has a lot of spawning grounds,” Girod said. “The problem with Mr. Buckmaster is, he wants to go back to the old ways ... You might say that he compromises, but the people I deal with say he doesn’t compromise.”

Sen. Lee Beyer, D-Springfield, asked the Senate to confirm Brown’s appointment of Atkinson, who is a fly-fisherman and hunter, former state senator and Republican candidate for governor.

“I think you all know Sen. Atkinson very well for his many years of involvement in this body,” Beyer said. “We certainly all know of his passion for hunting and fishing and preservation of wildlife.”

Atkinson also has important professional experience as a corporate “turnaround specialist,” and he could use those skills to improve the financial outlook at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Beyer said. Lawmakers are currently considering how to respond to the agency’s \$32 million budget shortfall. The agency has a \$345 million proposed budget for 2015 through 2017.

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