

# Private airport operation could cost Port a lot

## Port reviewing agreement with Brim Aviation

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria is reviewing an agreement with Brim Aviation that would see the helicopter transport and training company take over most operations at the Astoria Regional Airport.

Mike Weston, the Port's director of business development and operations, said the Port received the proposal in June. He presented it to the Port Commission Tuesday.

"It essentially takes fuel sales and operations out of Port and into private hands," Weston said.

Brim would like to lease the Port's fuel farm for \$20,800 annually, its main office at the airport for \$12,000 a month and pay a 8 cents per gallon fuel flowage fee to the

Port, which it estimated at \$10,800 annually based on historic fuel sales.

### Potential counteroffer

Weston had previously said it would take \$80,000 annual rent with a flowage fee at about 20 cents per gallon to make the deal work.

Weston's written analysis of Brim's proposal, presented Tuesday, said the Port would go from netting \$33,000 a year at the airport to losing \$52,000 annually under Brim's current proposal, a total net loss of \$85,000. Meanwhile, Weston's analysis said, the deal would profit Brim \$75,000. Weston said the Port should make a counteroffer that doesn't affect its bottom line as much.

"This is very unusual that this airport is highly dependent on fuel flowage for profits," Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, said. "Our problem with the airport is that we're not earning enough money off all the properties we own."

The Port needs to better market its properties, Knight said, which Brim will do. Meanwhile, he added, Brim Aviation owner Burl Brim is willing to negotiate with the Port on sharing fuel flowage profits as Brim tries to add customers, so as not to immediately hit the Port with such a big loss.

### See the financials

Members of the Airport Advisory Committee, pilot and Port Commission Chairman John Raichl said, are generally in agreement with the proposal, but will not make any recommendations until they see the financials of the deal.

Weston said his and Knight's suggestion is to go

back to Brim and explain the Port's situation. Knight suggested that within a month, staff could bring back a proposal to the Port Commission.

The Port had originally explored sending out a request for proposals for operation of the airport. But Knight said earlier this year the Port should move first to help an existing tenant, Brim, expand its business.

Brim Aviation, which took over transportation for the Columbia River Bar Pilots in 2012, is contracted for the service through 2022.

Port Commissioner James Campbell said transporting bar pilots is a great springboard to training foreign pilots, a business Brim is trying to expand into. Campbell add-

ed airports in Hillsboro and Troutdale are getting crowded, and some pilot training is already drifting toward Astoria.

Brim has been providing pilot training through a related company, Air Rescue Systems, also principally owned by Brim. For training, the company temporarily stationed a black MD-902 Explorer helicopter at the airport.

### Safety issues

While Brim Aviation is proposing to operate much of the airport, it is also the subject of multiple investigations into safety violations.

The Federal Aviation Administration in December proposed \$220,000 in fines against Brim, alleging that in

June 2013 the company hoisted people with hooks designed for cargo and lacking the approved type of quick-releases. The agency further alleges the company used single-engine aircraft when two engines were required for the operations. Brim requested to meet with the FAA to discuss the case.

The FAA was not immediately available for comment on the status of the case.

Brim is also the subject of an investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board, which is looking into an accident from April 4, 2014, in which a bar pilot had to be sheered from a hoist on Brim's AgustaWestland delivery helicopter in rough weather, fell a few feet to the deck of the ship he was boarding and fractured his shoulder.

Michael Huhn, an investigator with the safety board assigned to the case, said he recently finished gathering facts but has yet to analyze them.

**'This is very unusual that this airport is highly dependent on fuel flowage for profits.'**

— Jim Knight  
Port's executive director

# Fire: Crews have built fire line around entire perimeter

Continued from Page 1A

The site is more than 2 miles from the campground. Operations at the campground remain normal.

Fire crews responded with ground crews and the forestry department brought

in a helicopter to douse the flames.

More than 20 firefighters responded — 10 from Warrenton and 10 from the forestry department. Additional help came from a Department of Corrections crew.

Warrenton fire crews were

released early Tuesday morning as the forestry department took command of the fire with 40 firefighters and equipment operators.

The crews have built a fire line around the entire fire perimeter and anchored to the river beach dune on each end. Crews

laid about 15,000 feet of hose.

A light drizzle sprinkled moisture over the fire early Thursday morning. Ashley Lertora, a spokeswoman for the forestry department, said it was a welcome relief to the night crew which spent Wednesday night mopping

up hotspots in the interior of the fire

Today, crews will walk the fire line and identify and flag hot spots for the hand crews to dig up and douse with water.

Campfires in designated rings are still allowed in

the Fort Stevens State Park campground, but staff is reminding visitors to attend all fires and douse them thoroughly when finished.

Smoking is prohibited in all state parks except in personal vehicles and in designated campsites.

# Cannery workers reunite



Peter Marsh/Submitted Photos

Cannery workers will hold a reunion Saturday afternoon at Pier 39 after the Astoria Regatta's Grand Land Parade. The reunion, from 3 to 6 p.m., will include a salmon barbecue, silent auction and live music. A new T-shirt from the Hanthorn Cannery Museum — modeled by Alicia Phifer, of The Fox and The Fawn Boutique downtown — features the iconic photo of two Columbia River Packers Association workers on the dockside holding an octopus.

# Astoria woman, unborn child die from possible overdose

The Daily Astorian

A 35-year-old woman and her unborn child died Wednesday, reportedly from a heroin overdose.

Astoria Police responded to the Rivershore Motel for a report of an unconscious woman who had reportedly overdosed. The woman, Torae Shufelt of Astoria, was transported to Columbia Memorial Hospital where she was pronounced dead along with her unborn child.

An investigation continues into the circumstances of Shufelt and the baby's death.

An autopsy has been scheduled with the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office in Portland Friday.

Arrested in connection with the death was Lacey Saranpaa, 19, of Astoria, for de-

livery of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, tampering with physical evidence and hindering prosecution. Police believe there are other people who have knowledge of or were involved in circumstances leading to Shufelt's death.

Deputy Chief Eric Halverson said, "What makes this death particularly tragic, is the loss of both a mother and her unborn child. We will continue to investigate to determine the exact cause of her death."

Anyone who had recent contact with Shufelt or has additional information are asked to contact Detective Nicole Riley or Detective Thomas Litwin at the Astoria Police Department at 503-325-4411 or by email at nriley@astoria.or.us or tlitwin@astoria.or.us.

# State police offering reward for help with poaching case

The Daily Astorian

The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division is asking for the public's help to identify who is responsible for a mid-July unlawful killing of a bull elk on Quartz Creek Mainline in Clatsop County.

A reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case. The reward is comprised of \$500 from the Oregon Hunters Association Turn-In-Poachers program and \$500 from the Oregon Hunters Association Clatsop County Chapter.

On the morning of July 18, state police were notified of a dead bull elk on Quartz Creek Mainline that appeared to have been shot with a handgun about two days prior.

The person or people responsible left the animal to waste and removed its antlers.

Quartz Creek Mainline intersects with Highway 26 near milepost 27 and leads to Lost Lake.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact Sgt. Joe Warwick through the Turn-In-Poachers hotline at 1-800-452-7888. Information may be kept anonymous.

# Big board advertising at CMH Field

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria High School Athletic Department is offering advertising for the 2015-16 athletic school year for all events at Columbia Memorial Hospital Field.

Advertisements will be scanned into the video board and shown at CMH Field for all high school football and soccer games played at the stadium in the fall.

These advertisements will also be presented during all camps and youth events hosted at CMH Field during the year, such as the recent Jordan Poyer Football Camp.

In the spring, Astoria baseball and softball games will allow for these advertisements to be shown, along with all youth baseball and softball games played at the facility through next July.

This year-round advertising package is \$500 for the 2015-16 school year and also allows for

a business card advertisement to be placed in the fall and winter athletic programs, sold for \$1 at all fall and winter athletic events.

There are a limited number of commemorative locker name plates available for purchase for permanent recognition in the AHS home locker room, dedicated to the memory of Jim Mott, class of 1970.

Locker name plates are \$500 per locker. More information and forms for purchase may be found on the high school's website: <http://ahs.astoria.k12.or.us/athletics>.

The AHS Athletic Department is also offering a donor board advertising package to honor any Astoria Hall of Fame inductee, Hall of Fame team, state championship team, or individual state champion.

These teams or individuals will be recognized in the entry way to the stadium at CMH Field.

The initial donor board advertiser, JP Plumbing, honors the 1972 AHS Hall of Fame football team; and Arbor Care Tree Specialists is honoring the

2008 state champion football team.

Cost of honoring the team or individual of your choice is a \$3,000 contribution with payments allowed to be made over a select period of time.

The AHS Athletic Department also offers advertising opportunities for the Brick House Gymnasium and Tapiola Park outfield fences.

Contact Astoria athletic director Howard Rub at [hruh@astoria.k12.or.us](mailto:hruh@astoria.k12.or.us) or 503-298-9419 for more information.

# Columbia River Maritime Museum TEEN ART WEEK



AUGUST 10-14

Barbey Maritime Center

Monday - Friday 9<sup>am</sup> to 3<sup>pm</sup>

Friday Art Show 4<sup>pm</sup> - 6<sup>pm</sup>

\$100 Museum members

\$125 non-members

Explore your creativity and be inspired this summer at the Columbia River Maritime Museum! Summer Art Week provides one of a kind opportunities for teens to unleash their imaginations and develop their art making skills. Delve into the local galleries of Astoria for inspiration as we dive into a variety of mediums including: fiber arts, sculpture, painting, drawing and more. The week will culminate with an evening art show that will highlight and exhibit participant's creations at the Barbey Maritime Center.

To register, please contact Education Program Coordinator, Christine Fleming at: [fleming@crmm.org](mailto:fleming@crmm.org) or 503-325-2323

GO ONLINE

[www.dailyastorian.com](http://www.dailyastorian.com)

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Contact: Steve Axtell • 360-430-0885 or John Anderson • 360-269-2500

SKATE 5-9<sup>pm</sup> NIGHT Fridays & Saturdays

\$3 admission skate rentals snacks, nachos, candy & popcorn! mention "bag of butter" for a FREE popcorn! valid thru 8/31/15

@ the Astoria Armory 1636 Exchange St. Astoria 503-791-6064

**Pork Chop Dinner**

ala Dan

Friday Aug 7<sup>th</sup>

4 pm 'til gone

\$8.00 ea.

6PM

"Karaoke Dave"

ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION Clatsop Post 12 1132 Exchange Street 325-5771