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ONE DOLLAR

## Somers resigns as Clatsop County manager

Heads east to  
Maryland at end  
of September

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Scott Somers, Clatsop County manager since July 2012, resigned

Wednesday to accept a job offer in Maryland.

He will become the city manager of College Park, Md., a Washington, D.C., suburb and home to the University of Maryland.

His last day with the county will be on or before Sept. 30.

"The last three years that I have worked for Clatsop County have been the most challenging and re-

warding period of my career," Somers said in a statement. "The county commissioners and exceptional staff at the county have taught me a great deal; what's more, I've come to regard those I've worked most closely with as friends and they will be missed."

Somers previously served as city manager of Reedsport, as well as with municipalities in Minnesota,

before being hired in Clatsop County.

Candidates had to apply for the position in College Park, a city of 30,000, by May 31, according to the Montgomery County Sentinel newspaper. Somers will replace City Manager Joe Nagro, who retired after 25 years of service with College Park, including as city manager since 2005.

During his tenure, Somers helped launch Clatsop Vision 2030 Together, a visioning project to guide long-range planning by the Board of Commissioners and departments, and gained state approval for a local enterprise zone and designation of the North Coast Business Park as a regionally significant industrial area.

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## Sheriff's office to move to Warrenton



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin shows a radio room that had to be converted into a storage room because of the lack of space in the sheriff's office.

## Relocation could mean more beds in the county jail

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

Having outgrown its location below the county jail in Astoria, the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office is making plans to relocate. The move could open up space in the jail for 30 extra beds.

The estimated \$1 million project will relocate the entire sheriff's office into its parole and probation building in Warrenton.

Construction will take six to nine months to remodel the existing 9,500-square-foot building and build a new 1,200-square-foot modular building for housing evidence.

Sheriff Tom Bergin said the move is much needed. Boxes and files are stacked up in multiple rooms throughout the sheriff's office, including in an old emergency dispatch center.

Evidence is kept in a small locker, and the rest is stored upstairs in the old jail, now the Oregon Film Museum.

About 20 deputies often share the same room to review cases and sort evidence.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin walks into the old Clatsop County Jail, the location of the Oregon Film Museum. Because of confined space in the current sheriff's office, some evidence is stored in the old jail.

## Killing the birds

Audubon: Study that found culling cormorants to have no impact ignored

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Conservation groups opposed to the ongoing killing of cormorants on the Columbia River to protect steelhead and salmon say they have documents showing a federal agency ignored a finding by its own biologists that the measure would not help the fish.

The Audubon Society of Portland and several other groups made the documents public Wednesday. They were obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under a court order.

The groups had challenged the killing in a federal lawsuit. In May, a judge declined to block the plan to shoot the cormorants, but the lawsuit is ongoing.

One of the newly disclosed documents is an analysis by U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists concluding that killing double-crested cormorants would not benefit Snake River steelhead — which are most affected by cormorant predation — because fish not eaten by the birds would be eaten by other predators.

"As a consequence, efforts to reduce cormorant predation on steelhead are expected to have no effect on Snake River steelhead population productivity or adult abundance," the analysis says. It adds that killing cormorants is "similarly unlikely to benefit the productivity of... other salmonid populations."

The second document, a timeline written by Fish and Wildlife biologists, shows multiple staff at the agency were aware of the analysis and its conclusion. It also shows the biologists were concerned that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers did not address their findings.

Despite the analysis, earlier this year U.S. Fish and Wildlife authorized the Corps to kill about 11,000 cormorants — or 5,600 breeding pairs — on East Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia between Oregon and Washington. The uninhabited island is North America's biggest cormorant nesting colony. The agency also authorized the Corps to oil 26,000 nests to prevent the eggs inside them from hatching.

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## Former trooper gets probation for child porn

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

The former Oregon State Police trooper who pleaded guilty in May to child pornography charges was sentenced Wednesday in Clatsop County Circuit Court.

David Charles Corkett, 54, was sentenced to two years probation that includes registering as a sex offender, completing a sex offender evaluation and recommended treatment.

He already began the sex offender evaluation, according to his defense lawyer Lisa Maxfield.

In addition, the sentence includes Corkett forfeiting his Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training license. He will not be allowed to work in law enforcement in Oregon.

Corkett, who served as a senior trooper in the Astoria Area Command Office until his resignation in January 2013, was arrested in April 2014 on 29 charges of second-degree encouraging child sex abuse, a class C felony.

As part of a plea agreement, he pleaded guilty to two counts of third-degree encouraging child sex abuse, a lesser misdemeanor charge.

Corkett, who moved to Southern California but is staying in Portland to complete treatment, appeared in court Wednesday. He declined to speak during the hearing.

Maxfield attempted multiple times to dismiss the case, claiming the child pornography material was a form of freedom of expression, not



David Charles Corkett

child abuse, and the material could only be lewd if the person possessing it is sexually aroused.

She specifically pointed to images from a Swedish art film that won Sweden's most prestigious film prize, the Guldbagge, and was Sweden's official selection for the 54th Academy Awards in 1982. Other images were from nudist publications.

In court Wednesday, Maxfield said she has never seen images like that she criminally charged. One reason she believed Corkett was able to plead to a lesser charge was because investigators could not confirm if the children in the images were under 18.

Judge Paula Brownhill agreed

with Maxfield that the images were not as extreme as other cases, but were still illegal in Oregon.

"This is a different kind of case than what we generally see with child pornography," Brownhill told Corkett. "You have already given up quite a bit before you are even sentenced. You are no longer working as a state police officer, and I would imagine there are personal ramifications from that."

However, the judge reminded Corkett that child pornography is not a victimless crime.

Corkett was wanted on the felony charges following an international child exploitation investigation, "Operation Spade," conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

"It seems to me the resolution is appropriate in this case," Brownhill said.

