



Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin shows the case file room in the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office.
 Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Office: About 3,500 people are booked and released in the county each year

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"We are just completely growing out of this space," Bergin said.

Jail beds

With the move comes the potential for using the current space for the county jail.

In 2012, a proposal to expand the jail was rejected by voters. The \$14 million proposal would have added 100 beds to the overcrowded 60-bed jail.

Four studies over the past several years have concluded the community needs a jail with about 180 beds, three times the current size, Bergin said.

Each year, about 3,500 people are booked and released in the county.

The jail rents about 10 beds from Tillamook County to help with the overcrowding.

Clearing the space below the jail is the first step in potentially adding up to 30 beds. The addition would allow the county to possibly cancel its contract with Tillamook, Bergin said, saving the community at least \$200,000 per year.

No specific plans have been set for a jail expansion. However, the extra space allows the sheriff's office to start coming up with ideas.

Bergin noted the work would not directly involve taxpayer money.

Funds for the Warrenton relocation are from a special projects budget approved by the Board of Commissioners. The board will also approve the contractor for the project.

Invitation to bid

Clatsop County Public works is accepting bids from contractors for the



Uniforms hang next to the evidence locker in the hallway of the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office.
 Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

relocation project until Sept. 2. A mandatory prebid meeting will be held on Monday.

While construction is underway, the parole and probation office will operate temporarily out of offices at 16th and Exchange streets in Astoria.

Lt. Kristen Hanthorn, who oversees the parole and probation office, said she requested the temporary location so her staff is not trying to work around the construction.

The parole and probation office will have the same amount of space after the construction as it does now. It has only been using a portion of the building, located at 1190 S.E. 19th St. in Warrenton.

Much of the space was shared with a transition center, which closed in 2011 from budget constraints.

The transition center opened in 2006 and housed 24 men and six women. It provided a holding facility for local offenders and people about to be released

back into the community. Members held jobs, were on work crews and took part in treatments and other mental health services during their stay.

Hanthorn said her staff is looking forward to working under the same roof as the other sheriff's office divisions.

"We won't be like the Island of Misfit Toys," she joked.

Waiting our turn

Another benefit from the move to Warrenton is being more centrally located, Bergin said, and possibly responding quicker to incidents in the rural parts of the county.

Over the past couple decades every other county department has moved into nearby office spaces on the 800 block of Exchange Street. The majority of the departments previously shared space in the county courthouse.

Bergin said he is pleased the Board of Commissioners decided it was his turn.

"We have been put on the back burner long enough," he said. "It's time to see what we can do to enhance the sheriff's office and our capabilities."



Daily Astorian File
 The Army Corps of Engineers planned to kill half the double-crested cormorants nesting on Sand Island near the mouth of the Columbia River because the birds eat too many young salmon and steelhead.

Cormorants: Birds eat 12 million juvenile salmon a year

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Both agencies declined to comment on the documents, citing ongoing litigation. It's unclear whether the Corps was aware of the analysis when it wrote its environmental impact statement.

Save the salmon

Federal agencies blame the cormorants for eating an average 12 million juvenile salmon a year as they migrate down the Columbia to the ocean. Some of the fish are federally protected species.

Bob Sallinger, conservation director for the Audubon Society of Portland, said conservation groups repeatedly asked the agencies whether killing cormorants would make a difference.

"We went through a major public process, which is supposed to ensure transparency," said Sallinger. "They never disclosed that their own biologists were fundamentally questioning the efficacy of this action. They chose to bury it and that's unconscionable."

Sallinger also said the analysis confirmed what conservation groups have been saying all along, includ-

ing in their lawsuit: that it's the dams that most impact fish. In their analysis, the federal biologists found that efforts to reduce mortality during passage through the hydro system on the Columbia would result in increased productivity and abundance of steelhead.

The focus on cormorants, Sallinger said, is "about distracting the public from the real reason of salmon decline, the hydro system. They're spending tax dollars killing protected birds that will have absolutely no impact on salmon."

The conservationists are calling for the government to stop killing the cormorants, and to launch an investigation into why the agencies ignored their own biologists' findings and didn't disclose the documents to the public. So far, 158 cormorants have been killed using .22-caliber rifles and more than 5,089 nests have been oiled, destroying the eggs inside them.

Cormorants are not the only animals to be targeted for eating salmon. Caspian terns have also been pushed off an island in the Columbia, and sea lions have been killed to reduce the numbers of salmon eaten.

AUGUST 22ND | 4-8 PM

It has been said, "Creativity knows no age" and the residents at Suzanne Elise would certainly agree with that statement. They will be hosting an art show featuring local artists from the Seaside area. There will also be a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit the Alzheimer's Association.



ART SHOW

& Silent Auction

August 22nd

4-8pm



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