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ONE DOLLAR

Homeless veterans face scarce housing

New vouchers do not guarantee a home

By **ERICK BENGEL**
The Daily Astorian

Homeless veterans in Clatsop County live at the intersection of well-known social scourges: poverty,

unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, scant options for mental health treatment, the stigma of “weakness” surrounding the act of asking for help — and, of course, the dearth of affordable housing on the North Coast.

“When people talk about the lack of housing for the homeless veterans, people say, ‘Well, I see buildings everywhere. What’s being done? Why aren’t you putting people in those houses?’” City Councilor Drew Herzig said. “There’s a lot more to it than just having an empty building when people need a place to stay.”

On Sunday, Herzig facilitated a Lower Columbia Diversity Project presentation at the Judge Guy Boyington Building on the obstacles homeless veterans face and the resources available to them.

“The challenge I run into, day after day, week after week, is, there’s not a vast amount of afford-

able housing that I can put veterans into,” said John Coy, a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force who administers the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program for Clatsop Community Action.

See **VETERANS**, Page 4A

LEWIS AND CLARK HISTORY REACHES TONGUE POINT



Tom Wilson, right, speaks to the crowd about Lewis and Clark’s journey during the Point William bench and interpretive panel dedication ceremony Saturday.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Corps spent 10 days there before moving on to Fort Clatsop

By **KYLE SPURR**
The Daily Astorian

The history of Lewis and Clark is well documented along the Lower Columbia River.

The region is home to Fort Clatsop, the Corps of Discovery’s winter camp for more than 100 days, and Dismal Nitch, where the expedition faced perilous storms.

Among the many points of interest, a little-known Lewis and Clark campsite at Tongue Point in Astoria has been mostly forgotten.

Through the work of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation’s Oregon Chapter, Astoria Parks and Recreation Department and other local leaders, the small piece of history was recognized Saturday during a dedication ceremony.

A group of about two dozen people gathered on the Astoria Riverwalk near the Alderbrook Lagoon to unveil an interpretive panel and bench with a memorial plaque honoring Keith G. Hay, a former Oregon chapter president who helped create the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

The exact location of the campsite is on restricted U.S. Coast Guard property and not open to the public, but the location is visible from the Astoria Riverwalk sign and bench.

The Corps of Discovery stayed at the Tongue Point site for 10 days between Nov. 27 and Dec. 6, 1805. Their next stop was Fort Clatsop for the winter.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Visitors examine the interpretive panel after the dedication ceremony.

“Where else across the United States did Lewis and Clark stay more than a day or two that doesn’t have signage or a visitor’s center or something like that,” Mark Johnson, the Oregon chapter president of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, said.

While doing inventory of all the sites during the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, Johnson said, the heritage foundation realized no interpretation had been done on Tongue Point.

See **HISTORY**, Page 10A

CREST questions Fulton’s role on wetlands council

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Stephen Fulton, who works on land development and wetland mitigation issues for Warrenton Fiber Co.-Nygaard Logging, was elected a Port of Astoria commissioner two years ago. The position granted Fulton the opportunity to represent the Port on the council of governments for the Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force, an organization focusing on wetland restoration.



Stephen Fulton

But recently, members of CREST’s council, and even a Port commissioner, have questioned whether Fulton is representing the Port or his employer.

Scott Lee, chairman of both the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners and the CREST council, wrote a letter to Fulton late last month sharing his concern over several of Fulton’s actions between March and May. Lee said Thursday that he has asked the Port for Fulton’s resignation from the CREST council.

Fulton did not respond to requests for comment.

Lee’s main concerns revolve around Fulton and his employer’s opposition to the replacement of a dam on Eighth Street in Warrenton with a new bridge funded by the Bonneville Power Administration that would help improve fish passage upstream.

CREST has been working for more than two years on the project, which was approved by the Skipanon Water Control District in

See **CREST**, Page 10A

Soldier goes from serving country to community

The transition out of the armed services can be difficult for many veterans. One of the many hurdles is often finding employment once a veteran returns home.

When veteran Zach Johnson, of Knappa, made the adjustment to civilian life this year, he prepared himself by researching employment programs and finding what would work best for him.

“I spent the last six months of my career in the Army taking classes on how to be a civilian again,” Johnson said. “Your unemployment rate is extremely high for veterans and I didn’t want to be one of those statistics.”

Johnson joined the Army in 2010. After being stationed in Germany, he was deployed to Afghanistan in



2012 for about a year. He spent two more years stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. He went on leave in March and was officially out by April.

Through the federal program, Veterans Recruitment Appointment, that matches veterans with federal jobs, Johnson started work this summer in general maintenance at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

Zach Johnson likes his work at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, but sometimes misses his time in the Army.

nance at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

Veterans Recruitment Appointment allows federal agencies, such as national parks, to hire a veteran without competition. The positions are made available to veterans who apply and are not advertised.

“I’ve had the opportunity to serve my country, and now I get to serve my community,” Johnson said.

As a general maintenance worker, Johnson starts his days by keeping the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center clean and keeping trails clear of fallen trees and debris.

See **JOHNSON**, Page 10A



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