



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The old White Star Cannery boiler as seen at night in April.

PAST PERFECT

White Star Cannery boiler, pilings and ballast rocks get historic protection

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

One of the last remnants of Astoria's heyday as a cannery town will get historic protection.

The old White Star Cannery boiler, an iconic, rusty scrap that rises out of the Columbia River west of Second Street, was designated a local landmark Tuesday night by the city's Historic Landmarks Commission.

The historic designation also covers wood pilings that were used to prop up cannery buildings and ballast rock that would help steady wooden ships.

Rosemary Johnson, a special projects planner for the city, described the waterfront scene off Second Street as among the few places along the river that evoke Astoria's cannery past and have not been destroyed by fire, storms or demolition.

The White Star Cannery, which became part of the Van Camp Seafood label famous for making tuna the "Chicken of the Sea," burned down in 1973, leaving the exposed boiler as a lone symbol of a bygone era.

The red, ramshackle Uppertown Net Loft over the river at 31st Street, the Bumble Bee remnants at Pier 39, and a net loft in Alderbrook are among the city's other remaining cannery icons.

"We've had multiple requests over the years, so people see it as important," Johnson said of the old White Star Cannery boiler, wood pilings and ballast rock, "but without the designation you could lose every bit of it."

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The historic designation, combined with the land-use restrictions in the Bridge Vista phase of the city's Riverfront Vision Plan, preserves both the old boiler and the expansive views of the river and the Astoria Bridge.

New development is essentially limited to docks and piers no higher than the riverbank and would have to take the historic nature of the old boiler, pile field and ballast rock into

consideration, obstacles that would discourage most projects. The Historic Landmarks Commission, which applied for the historic designation, would also have to approve the projects, adding another layer of protection.

After some convincing by Johnson, the Oregon Department of State Lands, which owns the property, agreed to the historic designation. Jill Stokeld, who owns The Ship Inn off Second Street and leases the property to protect views for her fish and chips restaurant, endorsed the idea. The Columbia House Homeowners Association, which represents waterfront condominium owners off Second Street, also supported preservation.

The city hopes to eventually have an interpretive sign that explains the history of the site.

Ironically, Astoria, which wants to preserve a working waterfront and protect cultural and architectural history, now has development restrictions off Second Street that would prohibit another cannery to rise where the White Star Cannery burned down.

Jack Osterberg, who serves on the Historic Landmarks Commission, said he is not necessarily in favor of preserving every set of pilings or leftover ballast rock along the waterfront as historic.

The old boiler and other remnants have unique character and important elements, he said, that are "worthy of historic designation and protection."

Port to part ways with Weston

Commission agrees to settle with one fired employee

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria is negotiating a separation agreement with Mike Weston, the former interim director and current director of business development and operations who is the target of a lawsuit by fired Port employees who allege abuse of authority and whistleblower retaliation.

Weston primarily handles management of the Astoria Regional Airport. Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, said Weston would leave by the end of the month. Contacted this morning, Weston declined to comment.

"It might be a while until we get some stability at the airport, with Mike Weston's imminent departure," Knight said during an afternoon goal-setting workshop for the Port on Tuesday.

Weston, a former Clatsop County planner, joined the Port in 2010 as a property manager and ascended to director of business development and operations in 2012. When former Executive Director Hank Bynaker resigned in September 2013, Weston took over as interim executive director, while covering multiple other positions.

Former Port Finance Manager Colleen Browne and former Facilities Manager Tammi Herman filed suit against the Port and Weston in February, claiming Weston abused his authority as director and retaliated against them for whistleblowing on his improprieties. Knight fired both shortly after he took over as the new executive director, and Weston reverted to his current position.



Mike Weston

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Seaside schools leader to retire

Dougherty to take one more run at relocation bond

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Doug Dougherty is retiring as the superintendent for Seaside School District 10 at the end of the 2015-16 school year after serving in the district 35 years, 19 of those as superintendent.

Dougherty announced his retirement during the district's board of directors meeting Tuesday, thanking board members for their "ongoing trust and support."

"We have shared a vision of seeking to do what was in the best interest of our students," Dougherty wrote in a letter announcing his decision. "Your collaborative and caring leadership has been a major rea-



Doug Dougherty

son why I have chosen to serve my entire professional career in Seaside School District."

The board accepted his retirement and voted to create a temporary committee to set a process for seeking Dougherty's replacement, who will start in July 2016.

The committee — which includes Chairman Steve Phillips and board members Patrick Nofield and Hugh Stelson

— will consider contracting with an agency to assist and creating a committee to help with the interview process, Phillips said.

Dougherty accepted a request from the board to serve part-time as superintendent-emeritus upon his retirement to help transition the new superintendent during the 2016-17 school year.

Safe zone
Dougherty's primary role,

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Knappa juniors need boost in math learning

Only 5 percent are ready for college or career

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Last year, only about 5 percent of Knappa High School's juniors who took the state's new Smarter Balanced assessment scored on-track to be career- or college-ready in math. Fewer than 60 percent of juniors took the math assessment.

Since at least 2007, Knappa Superintendent Terrence

Smyth said, he has noticed the district lagging behind the state and demographically similar schools. The biggest gap comes in high school math.

"It's my contention that we have many bright, capable students here, so there's something else at play," Smyth said Monday at the school board meeting, pointing to issues with both learning and teaching.

Smyth, who was hired as superintendent of Knappa this summer, spent eight



Terrence Smyth

years as principal of Springwater Trail High School in Gresham, where he said a culture shift and a change of educational policies produced significant, lasting improvements in student performance.

Part of the reason he was hired was because of board interest in proficiency-based grading, which he helped implement at Springwater and which Knappa has started adopting in earnest. The term refers to instruction, assess-

ment, grading and academic reporting based on students demonstrating they have learned the knowledge and skills expected as they progress through their education, rather than on letter grades.

Math needs
Math instructor Catherine Thompson said Knappa High School students took the ACT Compass college placement test at Clatsop Community College last week. On average, she said, they placed at the Algebra 1 level, below the Algebra 2 level needed to meet college standards, meaning the students would need

remedial courses if they tried to enter college.

The goal for Knappa, she said, is to eliminate the need for remediation and to get students ready for college or a career.

Since last year, the district has implemented more personalized learning for students, Thompson said. It has integrated multiple areas of math into single classes based on the natural progression of learning, and has linked the classes with the Willamette Promise, which provides dual college credits to students who pass a proficiency-based college exam.

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