



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Students from Knappa High School install rails along a dock in the Port of Astoria's East End Mooring Basin Thursday.

STEEL RESOLVE

Knappa students help the Port fortify against sea lions

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

It wasn't anything like Fake Willy or the air dancers.

But Knappa High School's welding and art students still had a small media entourage this week as they welded, painted and installed the steel railings the Port of Astoria hopes will be the final solution to keeping sea lions off the docks at the East End Mooring Basin.

The Port has already tried electrified mats, beach balls, an orca-themed parade float and air dancers with much fanfare but little success. So far, surveying tape and multicolored racing pennants have proven the most effective hazing tools.

Simply railing

Inside metals and woodshop instructor Tim Kamppi's workshop this week, students started fabricating what he estimates will eventually total about 2 miles worth of railing to line the docks.

"It's pretty simple," said Cody Carsner, a Knappa student using the railings as his senior project.

Carsner said students start by welding 90-degree elbows to a 14-inch end leg, then attach the legs to longer metal spans of up to 20 feet. Every several feet are legs welded underneath longer span and bolted into the docks. Welded onto each leg is a small metal loop through which runs a line of pennants to keep sea lions from going underneath the rails.

"I think it's cool to be a part of it, and to give back to the community," said Knappa junior Hailey Murray, a student in art instructor Janet Sheridan's class, as she painted a patch of seaweed on one of the first finished railings Tuesday.

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Knappa High School students are welding around 2 miles worth of metal railings meant to keep sea lions off the docks.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Students in Janet Sheridan's art class at Knappa High School painted patches of seaweed and sea creatures on the railings welded by students in her colleague Tim Kamppi's metals workshop.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Knappa High School junior Hailey Murray paints a patch of seaweed Tuesday on railing being used to evict sea lions. See more photos online at www.dailyastorian.com

Parks and Rec Department's master plan calls for bump in staff, revenue

Community input encouraged at open house events

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Parks and Recreation Department's draft master plan recommends the department hire more full-time staff and find ways to increase revenue to ensure high-quality parks, programs and facilities.

The master plan — a work in progress that lays out the depart-

ment's vision and priorities — focuses on improving how the department operates, maintains park areas, plans for future use and development, markets its services and works with partner agencies.

The department has seven full-time employees, plus part time and seasonal staff members, to look after 300 acres of parkland used by 9,500 residents and even more visitors.

"We're the largest parks and recreation service provider in the area," Ian Sisson, the department's planner, said, "and so we get people from across the bridge in Washington. We get people from Knappa, Svensen, Warrenton coming to use, not only

our facilities like the Aquatic Center and Recreation Center, but also child care, after-school programs and the parks themselves."

To boost revenue, the department may look into several possible funding streams, some more likely than others, including utility fees, system development charges and regular or incremental increases in user fees.

City Councillor Zetty Nemlow-ill, a member of the citizen advisory committee tasked with revising the master plan, suggested at a recent meeting that the city should consider dipping into the Promote Astoria

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Man linked to gun in Goodding shooting

Accused of witness intimidation, drug and firearm crimes

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Jamie Lee Jones, a former Nevada resident who was living in Seaside this year, was indicted Thursday on federal charges in connection with the gun used in the shooting death of Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Goodding.

Authorities allege that a pistol tied to Jones was used by Phillip Max Ferry, who shot and killed Goodding after a struggle in downtown Seaside in February.

Jones, 44, is accused of violently threatening and intimidating witnesses against sharing information with law enforcement.

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Housing, homeless challenges dominate

County, city officials hash out hot-button issues in roundtable

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — For the first time, leaders from each city in Clatsop County met with county officials for a casual, roundtable discussion to hash out hot-button topics.

The conversation Thursday night at McMenamins Gearhart Hotel centered around the housing crisis, homeless problem, transportation woes and emergency management.

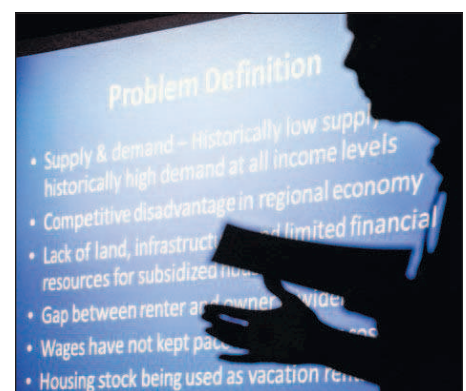
"I think we should get together every year and do this," Clatsop County Board of Commissioners Chairman Scott Lee said. "I think it was beneficial. It sets the example that we are trying to work collaboratively together."

Rich Mays, the interim county manager, suggested the gathering. The county officials were joined by city managers, councilors and department heads from Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach.

Housing issues

Clatsop County Community Development Director Heather Hansen and Astoria Community Development Director Kevin Cronin gave a presentation on the housing issues facing the county.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Community Development Director Kevin Cronin talks about issues involving affordable housing during a meeting between county and city leaders at McMenamins Gearhart Hotel on Thursday.

