



UNTANGLING THE PORT'S KNOT
COAST RIVER BUSINESS JOURNAL • INSIDE

A GUIDE TO ASTORIA'S SUNDAY MARKET
INSIDE



PROTECT THE FORT, DOUSE THE FIRE



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Matt Shaefer, the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park chief of facility management, stands in Fort Clatsop near a wire-tension fire-alarm system hidden within the fort.

Port needs runoff fix now

Agency faces June deadline to reduce high copper levels

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

With about two months left to make a new stormwater collection system on Pier 3 operational, the Port of Astoria is trying to find at least \$1 million to pay for the project.

That's what the Port's environmental engineer estimates is the minimum cost to create a process to collect and pump stormwater on the central waterfront to a biofiltration system on Pier 3.

In August 2014, the state Department of Environmental Quality notified the Port that after two years of high copper readings in stormwater runoff into the Columbia River, the agency would need to install a system to keep copper levels below the 0.02 milligrams per liter allowed under an industrial stormwater permit.

Copper is a neurotoxicant that damages the sensory capabilities of salmon at low concentrations, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The effects can manifest in minutes to hours and can last for weeks.

Fundraising

The state gave the Port until the end of June to make the system operational. Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, said the Port is close to sending out bids for the project. While the Port is unlikely to have the system operational by the deadline, Knight said he is hopeful he can show the state progress and get an extension.

In the meantime, he is organizing meetings with tenants to create a cost-share for the project based on use of the stormwater system.

"They understand we have a problem that needs to be fixed, and that we're all part of the issue," he said.

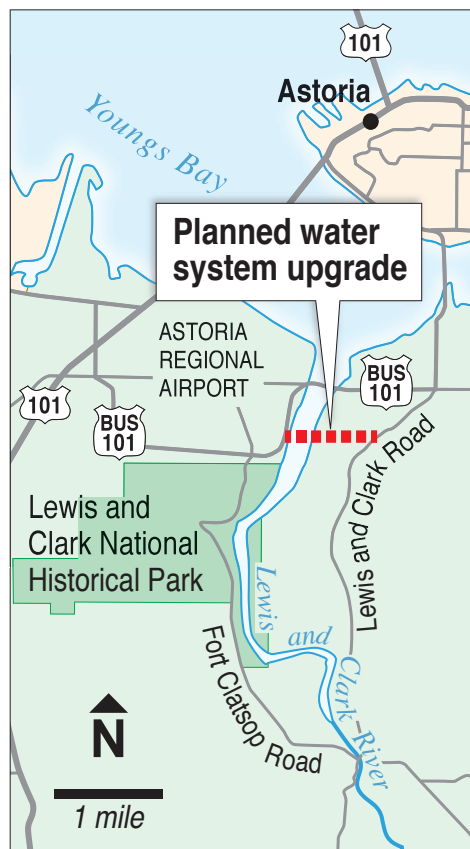
See PORT, Page 11A

Fort Clatsop fire a decade ago showed need for better waterworks

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

After smoldering embers from a fireplace burned down Fort Clatsop in 2005, the national memorial discovered a glaring need for a better water supply. ¶ The aging water system in Lewis and Clark National Historical Park is connected to an undersized water line that runs across the Lewis and Clark River. Water pressure from sprinklers and fire hydrants is a fraction of what is needed during a structure fire. ¶ The pressure is so tenuous, if too many park visitors flush toilets at one time, drinking fountains barely work.

See FORT CLATSOP, Page 12A



EO Media Group graphic



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

Firefighters from Lewis and Clark, Olney-Walluski, and Warrenton, including Jim O'Connor, from Lewis and Clark, left, work on mop up of the Fort Clatsop fire in 2005.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

The water flow coming out of a park's fire hydrant is 70 gallons per minute. Fire departments recommend that hydrant flow should be 1,500 gallons per minute.

Cannon Beach boosts budget by a third

City seeks to purchase former school building

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — What can a city do with an elementary school located in the tsunami zone? Cannon Beach residents could soon find out, as the city has budgeted a \$665,000 loan for the purchase and remediation of the old Cannon Beach Elementary School site.

Staff recommended a significantly larger proposed budget Wednesday at the first budget committee meeting for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget includes acquisition of the former elementary school site and other capital projects.

The budget is up 31 percent from the current year, mostly due to transfers, loan proceeds and capital grants and projects, according to City Manager Brant Kucera's report.

"I believe this budget represents the true costs of maintaining and improving city-owned assets that have been neglected in the past," Kucera said in the proposal, adding that the city is "investing heavily in our future."

The proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year is \$19.7 million, compared to \$14.6 million for this fiscal year.

See BUDGET, Page 10A

With roadwork paid for, Seaside builds reserves

New budget proposal boasts a 20 percent reduction

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Seaside was slammed by three major incidents in the last year: a power failure on the Fourth of July, a significant storm in August for Hood to Coast and the tragic loss of a police officer killed in the line of duty in February.

The city's preliminary budget recognizes the impacts of those incidents.

"It wasn't so much of a financial standpoint," City Manager Mark Winstanley said Thursday. "More it's the impact on staff and how they handle things. These are major, major events. Having any one of them would have been the kind of challenges that cities have once every 10 years, and we've had three in one year."

A 20 percent reduction

Seaside's proposed budget calls for revenues and expenditures of \$18.6 million, an almost 20 percent reduction from this fiscal year's budget of almost \$23 million.

See SEASIDE, Page 11A



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

City Manager Mark Winstanley explains the 2016-17 budget.

