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## CELEBRATING A LONGER LIFESPAN



Students from Lewis and Clark Elementary School look at the new display honoring the Lewis and Clark River Bridge and the Old Youngs Bay Bridge during a dedication Tuesday. The display at the west end of the Lewis and Clark bridge features historical facts, as well as art and poems from students.

Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

### Old Youngs Bay, Lewis and Clark River bridges get makeovers and monument

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Conde B. McCullough designed 13 bridges along the Oregon Coast when he was the state bridge engineer from 1919 to 1935.

The oldest among them were the Old Youngs Bay and Lewis and Clark River bridges, built in 1921 and 1924.

On Tuesday, the state Department of Transportation unveiled an interpretive display on the western approach to the Lewis and Clark River celebrating the craftsmanship behind the historic bridges and the artwork of future generations who will continue crossing them.

The state, in the midst of a three-year, \$16 million refurbishment of the two spans, was required to mitigate the impact on their historic structures.

"With the dedication of this interpretive center, we're celebrating our past, we're celebrating the present and we're going to be celebrating the future as well," said state transportation Director Matthew Garrett, flanked Tuesday by his employees, local luminar-



Lewis and Clark Elementary School students look at the new interpretive display Tuesday. More photos online at DailyAstorian.com

ies, parents and the student poets from Lewis and Clark Elementary School whose work was sandblasted into and painted all over the display.

Behind the crowd was a series of purposely rusted panels festooned with historic drawings, biographical information and student poems and drawings about the meaning of the bridge to the young artisans, many of whom regularly

cross the Old Youngs Bay Bridge in school buses on their way to school in the Lewis and Clark neighborhood.

Several of the children were chosen to read their poems to the audience. Fifth-grader Ashley Sisley remarked on the simple utility of the spans.

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## 'Absolute high note'

Another Coast Guard leader retires here

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Astoria will soon add another to its collection of retired U.S. Coast Guard commanders.

Capt. Daniel Travers, who passes his command of Sector Columbia River to Capt. William Timmons Friday after more than a quarter century of service, will become the third commander in a row to retire in Astoria, after Bruce Jones and Doug Kaup.

"This is an absolute high note for me," Travers said, adding Sector Columbia River is the best command he has ever had.

Jones retired in 2014, handing the reins to Travers before starting his new position hundreds of feet from Air Station Astoria, transporting Columbia River Bar Pilots for Brim Aviation at the Astoria Regional Airport. Travers will also be hundreds of feet away from his old command, flying for and managing the base for air medevac service Life Flight Network.



Capt. Daniel Travers

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## No trial in Wal-Mart wetland squabble

Case between activists, Corps will hinge on motions filed

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The case by Clatsop Residents Against Walmart against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will likely be decided without a trial.

Lawyers for both sides waived a pretrial order due last week, agreeing that a trial is highly unlikely as they seek summary judgment from the U.S. District Court of Oregon. Under the Administrative Procedures Act, which dictates how courts review claims against the decisions of government agencies, the case will largely be decided by motions each side has filed.

The citizen's group, formed in 2010 to oppose the multinational retailer opening a location on the North Coast, filed suit against the Corps a year ago, claiming the agency failed to adequately protect wetlands and review a wetland fill permit near the North Coast Retail Center. The Corps issued a permit for Peaksview LLC, which owns a strip of land on the southeastern corner of Ensign Lane and U.S. Highway 101, to fill 0.37 acres of wetland for construction of a big box retailer.

Karl Anuta, the lawyer for the residents group fighting Wal-Mart, said a trial is only necessary if the facts of the case are in dispute. Instead of factual disagreements, he said, CRAW and the Corps are in disagreement as to how the law applies to the facts.

The Corps' lawyer, Sean Martin, said in a case like this, both sides make their filings, and the court decides whether the Corps was justified in granting the wetland fill permit.



Karl Anuta

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## Six options unveiled for library

City Council could make a decision in July

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

After diving into new details on the options for a renovated public library, the Astoria City Council indicated Wednesday night that a decision could come in July.

The City Council has been struggling with alternatives since discarding a plan last year to expand the library into the vacant Waldorf Hotel next door. Councilors pursued a new library with housing at Heritage Square, but hesitated when the

**SEE THE OPTIONS**

View all the options for a new or renovated library online at [DailyAstorian.com](http://DailyAstorian.com)

initial price tag was too high.

At a special meeting of the City Council and the Library Board, city consultants presented a fresh set of cost estimates on six options.

City staff and the Library Board prodded the City Council for direction, and Mayor Arline LaMear, a retired librarian among the most eager for a new library, pointed to July.

The Library Board intends to make a recommendation on one of the options, while city staff will try

to give councilors more information about how a project would be financed.

"I think we really do need to come to some kind of a consensus," LaMear said. "And it's not going to be an easy consensus. There are going to be people that don't like it. There are going to be people that love it. But we've got to come to a consensus."

City Councilor Russ Warr is skeptical the council can reach consensus until knowing more about financing. "We skirt around the money. We hire a consultant. Then we don't like what they're doing, so we hire another consultant," he said. "And we've run around in circles for the last couple of years."

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