



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Evening sun casts light upon the Liberty Theater as two people walk by Tuesday in Astoria. Starting in July, Liberty Theater will begin its Sunset Series of concerts showcasing alternative artists.

# Keeping copper out of the river

## Stormwater projects top of the list in Port of Astoria budget

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Daily Astorian*

The Port of Astoria Commission approved a nearly \$15.9 million operating budget Tuesday, with about one-tenth of the money earmarked for stormwater treatment projects.

The state Department of Environmental Quality required the Port to install treatment systems by the end of June on the central waterfront and at North Tongue Point after above-benchmark amounts of copper were found in stormwater samples. Copper is a neurotoxicant that damages the sensory capabilities of salmon at low concentrations and can manifest in minutes to hours, with the effects lasting for weeks.

The Port plans to collect runoff on the central waterfront and pump it to a series of settling ponds, a bioswale and a shellfish filter on Pier 3. The agency has already purchased \$80,000 in pumps for the system.

Estimates on the project's cost range as high as \$1.5 million. Executive Director Jim Knight said the Port has tentatively secured financing through a local bank, with the full faith and credit of the Port as collateral. Staff plans to meet with tenants and organize a repayment plan in which the Port and tenants will contribute proportionally based on how much land they occupy.

In exchange for paying \$750 a year to the Department of State Lands for the parcel on which the settling ponds will be built, the Port will create a park, with educational kiosks showing how stormwater treatment works.

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# Liberty Theater courts a younger audience

## Inaugural indie folk concert kicks off new summer series

By ERICK BENGEL  
*The Daily Astorian*

The Liberty Theater is launching an indie folk concert series this summer to attract theatergoers, particularly younger ones, who don't always get stoked on symphonies and concertos.

The Sunset Series — a six-part pilot program that may extend into next year — will feature alternative folk, alt rock and alt country — the kind of non-mainstream music that appears in your "Blind Pilot" Pandora station.



Darren Orange

theater board earlier this year.

A low-price, dual-bill preview show featuring Horse Feathers and Mandolin Orange will kick off the concerts July 13.

Then Blind Pilot — a Portland band with Astoria connections — will open the series proper Aug. 19 with a release concert for their latest album, "And Then Like Lions."

The familiar faces of Blind Pilot — billed as "hometown heroes" — provided the theater board with an example of "what we're trying to do, and what class acts we're trying



Submitted Photo

Astoria-Portland band Blind Pilot will perform Aug. 19 as part of Liberty Theater's Sunset Series.

to bring in," Orange said.

Brian Bovenizer, the series promoter and "talent buyer," said the music on offer is not "your normal Top 40 — for lack of a better word — garbage."

"It's just a good way to see a quality touring live band at the Liberty, which is just a fantastic venue," he said.

By and large, the nonprofit Liberty Theater — a historic building famous for its classical and orchestral performances — appeals to community's golden agers and patrons with highbrow tastes. It is currently hosting the 14th season of the Astoria Music Festival.

The goal of the Sunset Series is to expand the Liberty's traditional offerings and enlarge the clientele. Local breweries and wineries will provide beverages.

"It's about opening up the doors to the Lib-

erty more often," Orange said, "and to more audiences."

### Hometown heroes

Orange has wanted to get the concert series off the ground for about two years.

He'd talked about it at length with Bovenizer, of the band Brian Bovenizer & the Koala Cowboys; and Israel Nebeker, Blind Pilot's frontman and co-founder who joined the Liberty board shortly before Orange did.

"It's filling a need that I've recognized myself for 15 years," Orange said, "and I think that contemporaries my age and younger have also felt a need for change because of the lack of diversity in programming. And I decided to kind of put my money where my mouth is."

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# Nonprofits may be hit hard with OT rules

## Changes impact for-profits, too

By PARIS ACHEN  
*Capital Bureau*

Noel Mickelberry, executive director of Oregon Walks, often works weekends when she organizes a fundraiser for the nonprofit organization or works on projects to advocate for protecting Oregonians' "right to roam."

During one such event Nov. 20, Mickelberry led a crew of 30 volunteers in setting up white silhouettes along roadsides to commemorate World Day of Remembrance for Traffic Victims.

Mickelberry's long hours will have to end or be reduced under new federal rules requiring mandatory overtime pay for many salaried workers who work more than 40 hours.

New rules, effective Dec. 1, require both for-profit and nonprofit employers to pay overtime to salaried employees who receive less than \$47,476 per year, up from a threshold of \$23,660.

Both of Oregon Walks' employees, including Mickelberry, earn less than \$47,476. With a budget of about \$150,000 per year, the nonprofit will have to be careful about keeping employees' hours down, Mickelberry said.

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# 'No pot' option headed to Cannon Beach ballot

## Retail constraints also considered

By LYRA FONTAINE  
*The Daily Astorian*



Nancy Giasson



Mark Barnes

CANNON BEACH — Although 63 percent of Cannon Beach voters approved a state measure to legalize recreational marijuana in Oregon, some residents say that does not indicate residents want a retail cannabis shop in town.

A petition asking for the rejection of the licensing of cannabis sales in Cannon Beach will be presented to the City Council in July.

In April, Cannon Beach officials declined to vote to ban marijuana facilities in Cannon Beach. Opponents of retail cannabis shops gathered enough signatures to bring a November vote. The ballot petition was certified for the November ballot on June 14, with

155 valid signatures, according to Clatsop County Clerk Valerie Crafard.

Nancy Giasson, a former city councilor, led the petition drive.

The City Council can either accept the initiative, meaning it will become law without a November vote; reject the initiative, meaning voters will decide in November; or reject the initiative and send a competing measure to the ballot for voters to also consider.

### Time, place, manner discussion

Pending the vote's outcome, staff and city councilors are working to get time, place and manner restrictions on medical and recreational marijuana businesses in place.

"Depending on how the vote goes, we could either implement this or erase it from your ordinance," City Planner Mark Barnes said to the City Council at a June work session. Cannon

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Noel Mickelberry

