



PROPERTY LINES INSIDE

Tourist No. 2 is on its way home soon

Homecoming a yearlong effort for The Astoria Ferry nonprofit

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

The long-awaited return of Astoria's last living ferry, the Tourist No. 2, is within reach.

Board members of The Astoria Ferry,

a nonprofit working to bring the ferry home from Washington state, recently gave the ferry's owner, Capt. Christian Lint, a \$15,015 deposit. The board plans to purchase the ferry on contract.

Lint skipped the ferry from Bremerton to Northlake Shipyard in Seattle to

get it pressure-washed below the waterline and undergo minor repairs.

"The transit was fabulous, and all the operations — all generators, everything on the boat — functioned very good," he said.

See FERRY, Page 3A



Tourist No. 2 was docked in Bremerton, Wash., but may be on its way back to Astoria soon.

Submitted Photo via Facebook

THE OL' BUOY AND CHAIN



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Emergency crews work to untangle a buoy cable tangled in the propeller of the Maltese-flagged bulk carrier Clymene on Thursday in the Columbia River. Crews freed the propeller from the buoy around 8 p.m. Thursday.

Bulk carrier's anchor snagged a buoy Thursday

The Daily Astorian

The Clymene's propeller has been freed from a buoy on the Columbia River.

The Maltese-flagged bulk carrier got its propeller tangled in the mooring cable of a navigational buoy Thursday afternoon while dragging anchor. The ship's owners contracted with a dive company, which freed the vessel from the buoy chain by 8 p.m. Thursday.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jonathan Klingenberg from the U.S. Coast Guard said the Clymene will dock in Astoria for assessment by a private marine inspections' company. He said there has been no pollution or blockage of the Columbia shipping channel.



Hazed birds flock to bridge

Cormorants leave East Sand Island nests after Corps' culling campaign

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
For The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Bridge is experiencing a housing boom.

As many as 11,000 cormorants are roosting there at night, and observers have counted around 600 nests there within the past few weeks. Last year, there were only 400.

This surge in the bridge's cormorant population comes a month after roughly 17,000 double-crested cormorants, for reasons still unknown, abandoned their nests and eggs on East Sand Island, located at the mouth of the Columbia River near Chinook, Washington.

"The bottom line is we believe most of the cormorants have remained in the estuary and the increased number of nests on the Astoria-Megler Bridge seems to indicate that," said Diana Fredlund, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages East Sand Island and the massive cormorant colony that used to nest there seasonally.

"But our observers are in the process of counting all the birds and nests in the estuary right now," Fredlund added. "They can't say definitively that they are from East Sand Island, but it seems likely."

See BIRDS, Page 8A

Critics of dam removal target city manager

Claim he should have disclosed engineering assessment

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Critics of a plan to remove the Eighth Street Dam have targeted City Manager Kurt Fritsch, claiming he should have disclosed engineering reviews that described potential flooding risks.

The Skipanon Water Control District, which owns the dam, has sought to remove the outdated structure on the Skipanon

River as unsafe and ineffective at flood control. An engineering plan adopted by the water district concludes that removing the dam will improve fish passage and water quality and will not increase flood risk. A technical review prepared by a city consultant, however, questioned whether the water district's engineering firm properly defined the flood plain, and critics believe Fritsch should have informed the City Commission.

One approach circulating privately, according to sources familiar with the discussions, is for the City Commission to place Fritsch on administrative leave pending an independent investigation. Commissioners have discussed evaluat-



Alex Pajunas/The Daily Astorian

Warrenton City Manager Kurt Fritsch has been targeted by critics who oppose removing the Eighth Street Dam.

ing Fritsch's job performance, possibly as soon as a meeting Tuesday. The city manager has

requested that any evaluation be conducted in public.

The City Commission com-

pleted an evaluation of Fritsch earlier this year and gave him a raise, but, behind the scenes, sources say opponents of removing the Eighth Street Dam have been reaching out to commissioners with serious concerns about his conduct on the issue.

Mayor Mark Kujala could not be reached for comment about Fritsch's performance.

Fritsch believes he has done nothing wrong. "No, I did not withhold information, because it wasn't information for the City Commission," he said, explaining that land use issues first go before the Planning Commission.

See MANAGER, Page 8A



Collectorswest.com
GUN & KNIFE Shows
You Never Know What You'll Find At
A Collectors West Gun & Knife Show!

July 2-3
Saturday: 9am-5pm • Sunday: 10am-3pm
Clatsop County Fairgrounds
92937 Walluski Loop
collectorswest.com

