

# Suitor warns of time crunch on Tongue Point

## Potential for cargo operation

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Stumping for his project, retired attorney and entrepreneur Rece Bly has told the Port of Astoria Commission the agency is running out of time to develop North Tongue Point into something grand.

The Port has been in negotiations with Bly to develop a marine terminal and bring unspecified cargo to North Tongue Point, but Tuesday was the first time he's discussed the proposal at a public meeting. Bly is asking to be compensated for bringing to North Tongue Point a cargo he will not reveal until an agreement is signed. Bly has said "the freight is not flammable, explosive, toxic, hazardous, corrosive or caustic. It is not coal, petroleum, LNG or some other petrochemical."

During public comment at the Port Commission meeting, Bly said the Port has 39



Alex Pajunas/The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria may have a potential developer for North Tongue Point.

months left before an option to buy North Tongue Point expires. The agency leases North Tongue Point from Missoula, Montana-based Washington Development Corp.

The Port leases North Tongue Point through most of 2019. Before the Port can buy North Tongue Point, Bly said, it needs to have a major cus-

tomers secured and the permitting in place. He estimated the agency has 28 months to prepare before sending off a notice of intent to buy the property, which he said has been assessed at about \$6.25 million.

On Wednesday, Executive Director Jim Knight said the Port disputes Bly's timeline,

saying the process of purchasing North Tongue Point could be sped up, if Washington Development had a more palatable offer.

"What they want for Tongue Point is way out of line, considering the remedial action needed there," Knight said, estimating \$12 million needed in stormwater, sew-

age, paving and building work to make North Tongue Point functional with its current infrastructure.

The Port has had difficulty developing something big on the property, which is enticing because of its access to the Columbia River and a short-line rail spur that needs to be rehabilitated between Astoria and Wauna Mill. Knight said estimates are around \$1 million per mile to fix the railroad, without increasing its capacity. The estimated cost of developing Tongue Point into a modern shipping terminal has ranged from \$100 million to \$250 million or more.

"I don't know of another strategy that turns North Tongue point into a big success for the Port than a terminal," Bly said Tuesday. "The time is short, and it's shorter than I think you appreciate."

Bly distributed a letter addressed to Port commissioners from Geoffrey Stone, a Port commissioner from 1983 to 1991 and Columbia River Bar Pilot from 1980 to 2008.

"The volume of freight identified by the white paper is estimated to exceed 700,000 metric tons annually," Stone wrote. "The white paper explains in a reasonable way why this freight would have to move through the proposed terminal rather than one of the many existing terminals in the region."

Stone wrote that Bly's proposal clearly lays out how the Port could significantly reduce the amount of dredging for the project, adding the high tides in Astoria would provide another measure of safety for larger ships.

Knight said Bly had recommended the Port speak with Stone. If commissioners like what Stone says about the potential for Bly's project, Knight said, then the Port could start negotiations.

"I don't have a sense of whether or not our recommendations for a contractual relationship will be acceptable to Mr. Bly," Knight said, adding the Port has a draft contract that it has not shown to Bly.

# Gearhart closer to setting vacation rental rules

## Council unanimously approves first reading of regulations

By LYRA FONTAINE  
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Gearhart may have its first vacation rental ordinance this fall.

The City Council on Wednesday unanimously approved the first reading of two ordinances that would regulate short-term rentals.

If the ordinances are adopted in September at the second reading, the regulations would go into effect 30 days later in early October.

The rules would apply to properties occupied for less than a 30-day period, in hopes of preserving Gearhart's mostly residential character.

"In prior administrations it was an informal understanding that people could rent their homes," City Planner Carole Connell said. "It's been going on for generations."

Property owners hoping to obtain a short-term rental permit would have 60 days after the ordinance becomes law to

apply for one.

Councilor Paulina Cockrum suggested changing the 60-day period back to 30 days.

"Having 60 days to come to City Hall and get a permit seems too generous to me," she said. "It feels like too much for the people who live in the village part of the town, especially where all these rentals are."

Mayor Dianne Widdop and other councilors agreed to keep the number at 60.

### New limitations, requirements

After completing all required forms, inspection approval and a \$600 permit fee — \$100 less if standard tsunami go-bags are available at the rental — property owners can be issued a permit for a vacation rental.

Vacation rental applicants would need to limit two people over age 2 per bedroom and provide one outside parking space per bed-

room. Other conditions for permit applicants include providing neighbor notice and a 24-hour representative able to physically respond to the vacation rental site within 30 minutes. Property owners would be required to display their permit, which would list maximum occupancy, parking and the designated representative by the entry door.

"Good neighbor" policies will be developed and adopted by the council at a later time.

Each vacation rental would need a \$125 inspection and a posted tsunami evacuation map.

Permit holders would need to pay city vacation rental taxes. City income from short-term rentals could reach \$200,000, City Administrator Chad Sweet estimated.

The Breakaway Lodge and the Lodge at Little Beach are exempt from the ordinance because they are not considered dwellings and have multiple-unit and multiuse characteristics. The Palisades, the Highlands and the East Pine

Street neighborhoods are also exempt from short-term regulations since they are not in city limits.

### Reactions

Resident Rick Sabol thanked councilors for approving the first reading of the ordinance.

Property owner Dan Obitts said he was concerned about his neighbor's unregulated short-term rental decreasing property values.

"Unless Gearhart can stand up and enforce the rules, what good are they?" he said.

Property owner Kathryn Gimre Wolfard said her maximum occupancy could drop from 17 to 10 if the ordinance is adopted. She called the planned inspections "intrusive, costly and unnecessary."

"It is hypocritical for you to inspect rental homes for safety and ignore permanent residents who may have more serious safety violations," she said. "Government should stay out of our homes. You cannot legislate livability and your attempts to do so will continue to create more hostility."



Submitted Photo

Ted Forcum served as a chiropractor for the U.S. men's Olympic team in Beijing in 2008.

# Chiropractor heads to Rio for Olympics

## Local ties to Cannery Lofts

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Ted Forcum is possibly Astoria's closest connection to the Olympic Games in Rio.

As a consultant for kinesthetic tape company KT Tape, Forcum — who is involved with the businesses at the Cannery Lofts — will spend the next week helping athletes get taped up.

Forcum is a chiropractor who practices in Beaverton but said a sizable contingent of his clients travel from the North Coast.

An injury expert, he has served as a chiropractor at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City in 2002, and as a team physician at the Summer Olympics in Beijing in 2008.

"I was working from 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.," he said,

adding that Rio is more of a relaxed trip consulting for KT Tape.

In Portland, Forcum works with the Winterhawks of the Western Hockey League, and was team chiropractor for the Timbers of Major League Soccer. He has served as a chiropractor at championship events in track and field, triathlons, taekwondo, golf, soccer, figure skating and water sports.

In Rio, Forcum said, he will make stops at the training centers for Americans, Canadians, Papua New Guineans and possibly the Nigerians, if their athletes can get the funding to travel.

Forcum said he is decreasing his time in Beaverton and planning to open an office in Astoria, where he has invested in several residential and commercial spaces at the Cannery Lofts.

"I like to bike," he said. "I like to run. And I like to eat. So I think Astoria has all those bases covered already."

# 'Barefoot Bandit' soon to be released from prison

## Young thief stole a boat in Ilwaco

By MIKE CARTER  
Seattle Times

The former fugitive who became known to the world as the "Barefoot Bandit" is about to be released from prison and will take a part-time job with the Seattle attorney who represented him in court.

John Henry Browne, a high-profile attorney whose clients have also included serial killer Ted Bundy, confirmed Wednesday that Colton Harris-Moore, 25, will do clerical work and answer telephones in his Pioneer Square offices after he's released from prison to a halfway house.

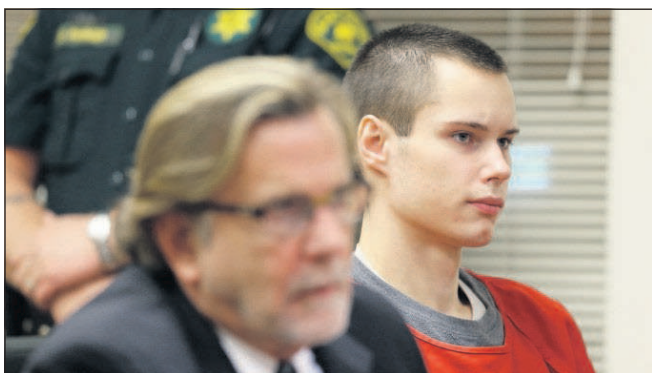
"He'll be looking for full-time work and will eventually be going to school," Browne said.

According to Browne's recently published autobiography, "The Devil's Defender," the attorney said he took Harris-Moore's defense for \$1 paid by Harris-Moore's mother.

Browne negotiated a plea agreement that sent Harris-Moore to prison for 6 1/2 years, but has resolved dozens of federal and state charges pending against him since his escape from a juvenile halfway house in 2008.

One of the charges, interstate transportation of a stolen vessel, alleges he stole a 34-foot boat from Ilwaco in 2010 and sailed it across the Columbia River.

By the time he was arrested in 2010 after a boat chase in the Bahamas, Harris-Moore was something of a folk hero, with a huge following on social media



AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

Colton Harris-Moore, right, who is also known as the "Barefoot Bandit," sits in a Skagit County Superior Courtroom next to his attorney, John Henry Browne, left, in 2013. Hollywood studio 20th Century Fox has paid more than \$1 million to settle the "Barefoot Bandit's" court-ordered restitution in exchange for the rights to his story.

and articles of his exploits in major national publications.

Browne also helped Harris-Moore work out a movie deal that resulted in a Hollywood studio coming up with more than \$1 million to pay restitution that Harris-Moore owed for wrecking cars, crash-landing three stolen airplanes and dozens of thefts and burglaries. Harris-Moore has received no money from the deal, Browne said Wednesday.

Browne said the job offer was part of a deal he had made with Harris-Moore years ago.

Harris-Moore's formal release date from Stafford Creek Correctional Center in Aberdeen is in January, according to the state Department of Corrections. Browne said he was being moved to a halfway house as early as this week.

According to court records, Harris-Moore turned to crime as a child out of hunger and neglect from his alcoholic and abusive mother. Pamela Kohler, of Camano Island, died of cancer earlier this year even as Harris-Moore, from prison, desperately tried to raise money

capture while committing a string of break-ins and thefts, often leaving a telltale sketched bare footprint at the scene as a signature.

During much of that time, the gangly youth hid out in the forests of Orcas Island in the San Juans and squatted in the attic of a plane hangar at the island's airport. Eventually, he flew a stolen plane from Indiana to the Bahamas, where he was captured.

The internet made Harris-Moore a cult hero, and at one time he had nearly 50,000 followers on his Facebook page, where he would occasionally leave a post written on a stolen laptop.

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA

Contact: Steve Axtell • 360-430-0885 or John Anderson • 360-269-2500

# ATTENTION

SW WASHINGTON PAPER MILL WORKERS

## HAVE YOU BEEN EXPOSED?

Mesothelioma? Lung Cancer? Laryngeal Cancer?



Our successful team of local and national lawyers with a combined 40 years of experience in Asbestos and other workplace injuries can help you understand your rights and choices. If you or a family member worked in the paper mills, call us.

**Contact us today.**

Jeffrey S. Mutnick, Licensed in Oregon | Devin Robinson, Licensed in Oregon/Washington

1.800.714.2949

Clatsop Post 12

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Baked Beans, Coleslaw and Chips

Friday August 5<sup>th</sup>

4 pm 'til gone

\$8.00

6PM "Karaoke Dave"

ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION

Clatsop Post 12

1132 Exchange Street 325-5771