



# THE DAILY ASTORIA



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ONE DOLLAR



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Fort Stevens State Park Ranger Assistant Roger Stone, left, lowers the American flag at the end of the day as Volunteer Park Hosts Vic and Nancy Davis help on Thursday at Fort Stevens. Fort Stevens State Park recently installed a new flagpole at the historic site.

## FLYING HIGH

Friends of Old Fort Stevens have a new 75-foot flagpole, strong enough to hoist the large Garrison flag

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

**WARRENTON** — A large American flag is again waving high above the Civil War-era earthen fort at Fort Stevens State Park.

The flag, known as a Garrison flag, is the largest national flag used by the U.S. Army. For more than five years, it was stored in a duffel bag at the state park. The flag was too big and too valuable to be flying on the state park's dilapidated flagpole.

The nonprofit Friends of Old Fort Stevens felt the prized flag should return. The group recently spent \$2,000 for a new 75-foot flagpole, strong enough to hoist the 20-foot-by-38-foot flag.

"The Friends are quite passionate about having the Garrison flag up there," said David Lindstrom, the secretary of Friends of Old Fort Stevens. "It's symbolic to the history of the fort. It's a patriotic statement on the part of the Friends."

Funds for the flagpole came from the nonprofit's reserve that is used for

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### HOW TO HELP

Those interested in donating to the new flagpole at Fort Stevens State Park can visit: [www.youcaring.com/fortstevensfundraiser](http://www.youcaring.com/fortstevensfundraiser)



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Fort Stevens State Park Ranger Assistant Roger Stone lowers the American flag at the end of the day Thursday at Fort Stevens.

## Oracle settles Cover Oregon lawsuit for \$100 million

Deal ends suit over failed health exchange

By NICK BUDNICK and PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

The state of Oregon and Oracle, the vendor on the \$300 million Cover Oregon website debacle, have settled a wide-ranging legal dispute for more than \$100 million in goods, services and cash.

Oracle will supply funds, software and services to the state to settle a case in which

Oregon had accused the Redwood City, California, software giant of fraud and racketeering on the state's one-stop-shopping health insurance website project that never worked as planned.

The state had been asking for roughly \$6 billion.

"Today's settlement agreement ends years of turmoil and taxpayer expense related to a troubled health care exchange program I dissolved in March 2015," Gov. Kate Brown said in a statement.

The agreement, announced early Thursday by Brown at

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R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Cannon Beach Elementary School was closed to students in 2013. The arched portion houses the gym, and could be usable with renovations.

## Cannon Beach torn over school purchase

Elementary school closed because of safety concerns

By LYRA FONTAINE  
The Daily Astorian

**CANNON BEACH** — For sale: Former school property in a tsunami zone. To build or renovate.

City councilors are close to deciding whether or not to purchase the former elementary school that closed in 2013 due to student safety concerns.

The property, which is owned by the Seaside School District, is on the north end of town, south of Ecola Creek and about one-fourth of a mile from the ocean.

While most of the campus is unusable, the gymnasium

offers promise for future community activities like concerts and other events.

"The bottom line is the building is in pretty good shape," said City Manager Brant Kucera, noting the harsh weather the gymnasium has endured. "That is good news if you're looking to save and restore that building."

An August report from Amodeo Structural Engineering on the gymnasium was delivered to the City Council earlier this week.

According to the assessment, the wood-framed gym, built in the early 1950s, appears to be in good condition.

The observations "did not reveal any locations of significant damage, distress, deterioration, dry rot or excessive deflection," the engineering report stated.

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## Jones and Pederson vie for Astoria City Council seat

The commander and the conductor discuss hot topics

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

The November election for Astoria City Council's Ward 4 offers a choice between Bruce Jones, a retired U.S. Coast Guard commander, and Cory Pederson, a conductor and the music teacher at Jewell School District.

The two men are vying for the seat soon to be vacated by City Councilor Russ Warr, who chose not to run for a fourth term as the city's east-side representative.

Jones, 56, who holds a master's

degree in public administration, spent 30 years in the Coast Guard, serving in his final years as commander of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Columbia River.

Jones is active on several nonprofit boards, including the Columbia River Maritime Museum, Friends of the Astoria Column and Friends of the Astoria Armory. While in the service, he served on the United Way of Clatsop County board.

"I've really enjoyed getting involved," he said, adding that "those volunteer experiences have really given me a lot of insights into the community."

Pederson, 37, the president of the Jewell Educational Association union, is a prominent figure in the local music scene. He sits on the



Cory Pederson

Bruce Jones

boards of the Astoria Music Festival, Columbia River Symphony and North Oregon Coast Symphony.

"Astoria, to me, is a pretty astonishing place. It's got some unique assets and opportunities. And there's unique challenges also, just in the nature of the city ... where it's at and

what we do out here," he said.

### Library

Pederson, who holds a master's degree in education, views many local issues in terms of how they impact the region's children, their schools and overall education.

The ongoing controversy surrounding the future of the Astoria Library — namely, whether the aging structure should be renovated or whether a brand new library should be built — is one such issue.

Whatever the outcome, Pederson believes the local library should be a reliable place where children can learn and feel comfortable outside of school and home.

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