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ONE DOLLAR



Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Life Flight Pilot Dan Leary performs a preflight inspection of the helicopter on Monday in Warrenton. Life Flight's base and hangar are currently in separate areas of the Astoria Regional Airport. A new proposed space at the airport would combine the hangar and base into one centralized location. The new hangar would be about 80 by 90 feet.

## Every minute counts

**LIFE FLIGHT EXPANSION BRINGS OPPORTUNITY — AT A PRICE**

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

**WARRENTON**—A new hangar for Life Flight Network at the Astoria Regional Airport brings both opportunity and a steep price tag.

The nonprofit medevac flight service, which opened its first coastal base in Warrenton last spring, received \$665,000 from the state Department of Transportation's ConnectOregon infrastructure grant program and is investing another \$285,000 to build a new hangar next year.

Life Flight is in talks with the Port of Astoria on the best location at the airport, with one spot ready and another more attractive site needing an additional \$1 million in groundwork.

### Every minute counts

Life Flight's pilots, nurses, paramedics and mechanics are now based in a portable office and living space just north of Lektro, the electric tug manufacturer.

Jacob Dalstra, a spokesman for Life Flight, said the crew can launch after a call within seven to 10 minutes, day or night, when the helicopter is parked outside in fair weather. But the response time can double when Life Flight's helicopter is stored in a rented executive hangar on the south end of the airport's tarmac, a quarter mile away from the crew quarters.

"When somebody's bleeding or having a heart attack or stroke,

that's precious time," Dalstra said to the Port Commission last week during a presentation about the hangar.

Dalstra said the new hangar, about 80 by 90 feet, would put all of Life Flight's crew and helicopter under one roof at all times. Construction should be smooth, he said, because the hangar is the same as the flight service has built in Pendleton and Lewiston, Idaho.

When icing levels reach the same as cruising altitude, Dalstra said, Life Flight's helicopters cannot fly. Dalstra said the new hangar would help Life Flight bring in a Pilatus PC-12 turboprop plane for flying in colder conditions.

### Direct access

Henry Balensifer, a spokesman for Lektro who also serves as a Warrenton city commissioner and a member of the Port's Airport Advisory Committee, reported to the Port Commission last week that the advisory committee came up with two tenable locations for Life Flight's new hangar.

One option is to build on Life Flight's location north of Lektro, a site ready to build and acceptable to the nonprofit.

The advisory committee's preferred option is an undeveloped section of field at the southern tip of the airport, wedged between Airport Lane, the Port's existing small aircraft hangars and a taxiway to Runway 13-31. While

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Dan Travers, a pilot and customer service manager for Life Flight Network, points to one of the proposed locations for the service's new hangar in the southeastern portion of the Astoria Regional Airport Monday. Currently, Life Flight's base and hangar are about 1/4 mile apart.



Life Flight Network Pilot Dan Leary performs a preflight inspection of the service's helicopter Monday in Warrenton.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Children play near the Peter Iredale shipwreck at sunset earlier this month.

## Beyond Oregon's Beach Bill

Local naturalist explores history, future of public beaches

By LYRA FONTAINE  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The public has enjoyed access to state beaches since the Oregon Beach Bill passed almost 50 years ago. Although beaches are now celebrated, public access was once challenged by a Cannon Beach hotel owner, and the bill almost died before citizens brought it back to life.

Local naturalist Neal Maine delved into the history of the landmark legislation and discussed future opportunities for public education at a Cannon Beach Library lecture this month sponsored by Friends of Haystack Rock.

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### YEAR IN REVIEW

## Wildlife refuge takeover tops Oregon stories

Measure 97 fails, oil train derails, higher wage prevails

By STEVEN DUBOIS  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — It was truly a story for all of 2016. Ammon Bundy and his followers seized the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge on the day after New Year's and remained in the headlines through December. Unsurprisingly, the armed takeover and its aftermath was overwhelmingly selected Oregon's story of the year in the annual vote conducted by The Associated Press.

Every editor or news director who submitted a ballot of 10 top stories included the takeover on his or her ballot, and nearly everyone had it No. 1.

After that, it was a jumble. The gap between Bundy and the second-biggest story — the defeat of Measure 97, the corporate tax — was larger than the gap between the No. 2 story and the 10th-place finisher.

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## The Roses are building a new life in Little San Francisco

Couple moves north, buys a stake in Astoria

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Call it habit. Miriam and William Rose owned a building in downtown San Francisco. Retired and seeking respite from the big city, the couple sold their California holdings and moved north to Astoria — dubbed Little San Francisco by some — slightly more than a year ago.

Now the two once again



own their own slice of downtown real estate, with the recent purchase of the Hobson Building from Sean and Stephanie Tichenor.

### 'Someplace different'

"We wanted someplace different," said Miriam, a retired corporate banker who was born and raised in the Bay Area. "We looked at Port-

land, but they had just as much traffic."

William, retired after 40 years in construction, said he had visited the North Coast on hunting and fishing trips. He taught stone sculpture in Oakland, California, and said the art scene of the North Coast is part of what drew him in.

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Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Miriam and William Rose, the new owners of the Hobson Building in downtown Astoria, can be seen walking their 3-year-old Irish wolfhound, Ena.

