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ONE DOLLAR



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian  
Life Flight Pilot and Customer Service Manager Dan Travers, points to one of the proposed locations for the Life Flight base and hanger in the southeastern airport property in December in Warrenton.

## Port cuts airport bond to \$1.9M

Concerns about mitigation credits

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The three-year general obligation bond the Port of Astoria is sending to voters in May to develop a southern portion of Astoria Regional Airport is back down below \$2 million.

After learning they might have violated bonding rules, the Port Commission on Tuesday voted to lower the \$2.6 million bond measure to staff's original recommendation of approximately \$1.9 million.

Commission Chairman Robert Mushen said the Port has heard from several sources that "we are not allowed to ... make the taxpayers responsible for paying for mitigation credits we already have."

### Paying for wet land

The Port Commission decided last month to ask county voters for the money to build a pad for Life Flight Network's new hangar, while creating a second entrance to the airport on Flightline Drive, extending utilities and making ready several more acres for future development. Part of the project could be on designated wetlands. If wetlands are filled, the Port would have to offset the work elsewhere.

Airport Manager Gary Kobes said last month the Port has 15 acres available for potential mitigation on the 5-acre project site. But Commissioner Stephen Fulton had argued that the needed mitigation could be more than the Port has credits for, and that the bond price needed to include potential mitigation costs. He suggested the \$2.6 million figure, which the Port Commission later approved.

"I was under the impression we did not have mitigation credits," Fulton said Tuesday of his previous argument, adding he was still concerned about whether the Port has the necessary mitigation.

### Brick wall

The airport project has received support from cities and hospitals throughout the region. Former Mayor Willis Van Dusen offered to stump on behalf of the project, as long as the bond measure was less than \$2 million.

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## LESS PLASTIC, MORE TURTLES

**VOLUNTEERS FILTER HARMFUL DEBRIS FROM NORTH COAST BEACHES**



Jennifer Anderson/Pamplin Media Group

Duncan, son of reporter Jennifer Anderson, holds up a bag of plastic debris collected in just one square meter of sand during a Presidents Day event sponsored by the Portland Eco-School Network on behalf of Sea Turtles Forever.

By JENNIFER ANDERSON  
Pamplin Media Group

### FIND OUT MORE

There's a scheduled Earth Day cleanup at Whale Park in Cannon Beach, on Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To get involved in a cleanup, or for more info: seaturtlesforever.org.

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Eco-School Network member Amy Higgs walks with her haul after the Presidents Day cleanup of beach plastics along Fort Stevens State Park near Warrenton.

Jennifer Anderson/Pamplin Media Group



Deborah Boone



Betsy Johnson

## Caucus sides with gillnetting reprieve

Lawmakers support commission's decision

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A group of state legislators from the Oregon Coast are voicing support for a controversial decision by the state's Fish and Wildlife Commission to maintain commercial gillnetting along the Columbia River.

In so doing, they contradict the wishes of Gov. Kate Brown and other legislators who support a plan to phase out gillnetting on the river's main stem as outlined in an agreement with Washington state.

The Coastal Caucus — a group of three senators and four state representatives, five Democrats and two Republicans — sent a letter Thursday supporting commercial fishermen and the commission.

"We fully understand that there has been a long history of co-managing the Columbia River with our neighbors in Washington," the legislators said. "Though this has been the case, the allocations passed by the Washington commission gives the sports fishing community almost all of the resources, much to the detriment of those who share the river and make their living by commercial fishing."

The letter was signed by state Rep. David Gomberg, D-Central Coast; Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose; Sen. Jeff Kruse, R-Roseburg; Rep. Deborah Boone, D-Cannon Beach; Sen. Arnie Roblan, D-Coos Bay; Rep. Caddy McKeown, D-Coos Bay; and Rep. David Brock Smith, R-Port Orford.

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Spokesman Review/AP Photo

Salmon fishing guide Dave Grove, left, nets a fall Chinook for David Moershel while fishing on the Columbia River near Desert Aire, Wash., in 2014.

## Columbia Forum: Keeping those in power honest



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Nigel Jaquiss, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, speaks to a crowd about investigative journalism, his work and the state of media during a Columbia Forum presentation on Tuesday in Astoria.

### Pulitzer winner Jaquiss talks about the fall of Oregon leaders

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

The free press can act as a check on politicians' worst impulses, Nigel Jaquiss, an investigative reporter at Portland's Willamette Week, said.

And, if any entity can hold President Donald Trump to account, it will be the press, despite shrinking newsrooms and

dwindling revenue.

Jaquiss, who won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for exposing former Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's sexual abuse of a young teenage girl, gauged the press' role in the age of "alternative facts" at the penultimate Columbia Forum dinner, held Tuesday at Columbia Memorial Hospital's Community Center.

A few years after publishing the Goldschmidt story, Jaquiss revealed Portland Mayor Sam Adams' courtship with an intern for state Rep. Kim Thatcher, whom he met when the intern was 17.

He also broke Gov. John Kitzhaber's corrupt financial she-

nanigans with his partner, a scandal that led to the governor's resignation in 2015.

In Jaquiss' telling, the story of these men who shaped Oregon's recent history is archetypal: hubris causing the downfall of influential but flawed statesmen who lost the greatness within their reach.

"They were all, in their own ways, very gifted public servants: highly intelligent, highly accomplished, got into public service for the right reasons," he said. "And they all suffered in the end from the same thing that affects many public servants, that affects many people."

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