

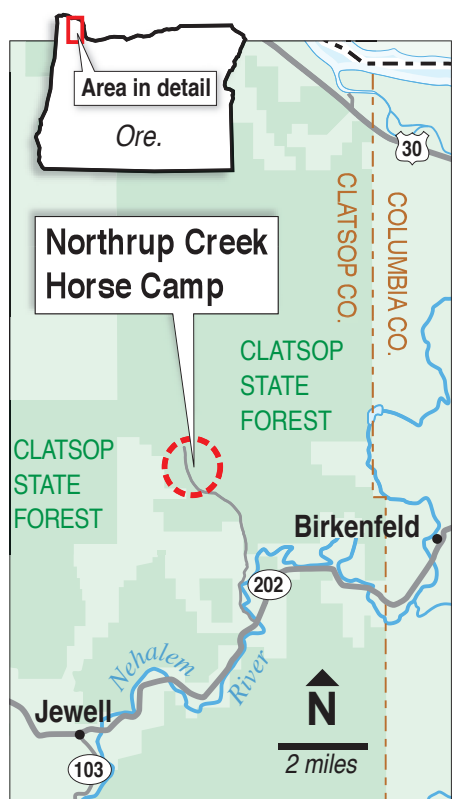


Diane Berry, an Oregon Equestrian Trails member, stands next to one of the horse corrals on Tuesday at Northrup Creek Horse Camp. The camp is an important place to Berry, and because of Oregon Department of Forestry budget cuts, the camp's future is uncertain.

Diane Berry, an Oregon Equestrian Trails member, stands next to one of the horse corrals on Tuesday at Northrup Creek Horse Camp. The camp is an important place to Berry, and because of Oregon Department of Forestry budget cuts, the camp's future is uncertain.

## HORSE PUCKY

Fee increase, special permit at horse camp rile campers



Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

**'It's totally unrealistic for this camp. That will effectively kill the camp.'**

**Diane Berry**

member of Oregon Equestrian Trails, which helps maintain the state-owned campground, day-use area and adjacent 9-mile trail for horse riders

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
*The Daily Astorian*

**H**orse enthusiasts are challenging a proposed fee that would make camping at Northrup Creek Horse Camp more expensive beginning this summer.

The Astoria Forest Protection District, citing budget cuts, released a plan that would require campers with horses to apply for a special-use permit. The permit would charge \$175 per night for the campground for a minimum two-night stay. Campers in previous years could pay a \$15 per-night fee upon arrival at the site without a permit.

The Oregon Department of Forestry has called for \$3 million in cuts in the upcoming state budget, 70 percent of which will

come from districts in northwest Oregon, Astoria Assistant District Forester Ty Williams said. The department has instituted a hiring freeze along with the cuts, meaning just three staff members — based out of the district office an hour away from Northrup Creek — manage the five campgrounds in Clatsop State Forest. With all of the expenses associated with maintaining the campground, the department likely will not receive any profit from any fee increases, Williams said.

Though open through November, the 11-campground site just north of State Highway 202 between Jewell and Birkenfeld reaches peak use typically from Memorial Day weekend through

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Diane Berry Trailhead

A trailhead at Northrup Creek Horse Camp is named after Diane Berry, an active member with Oregon Equestrian Trails North Coast Chapter.

## Parks boss makes pitch for fee to raise funds

Selling little-used parks would still be on table

By ERICK BENDEL  
*The Daily Astorian*

The city of Astoria may impose a utility fee on Pacific Power customers to boost the Parks and Recreation budget and help stabilize the department's operations.

At a City Council work session Thursday, Angela Cosby, the parks and recreation director, proposed the fee during a presentation that told the story of the parks budget — a story of department obligations gradually overwhelming its personnel and finances.

Cosby and several park staff members showed up with four small seesaws — representing aquatics, recreation, maintenance and administration — depicting how requirements came to outweigh resources as the department added services and programs, created and eliminated staff positions, while general fund transfers have stagnated or declined.

Under Cosby's proposal, nearly 5,000 utility customers would pay a fee of \$5.92 a month, plus a monthly 51 cents for residential customers or 55 cents for commercial customers to their Recology bill for garbage services. The department expects to bring in slightly more than \$350,000.

Parks and Rec has seven full-time employees that manage about 300 acres of parkland, nine miles of trails, 12 indoor facilities, and the department's recreation, aquatics and child care programs, according to the parks master plan.

The money would add to the department's existing revenue streams, which include general fund transfers and user fees. It would pay for — among other assets — an additional three full-time employees; increase wages for cashiers, child care providers and parks maintenance workers; and update the franchise agreement with Recology to include garbage, and possibly recycling services, within parks.

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The Daily Astorian/File Photo

People walk along the playground of Alderbrook Park during a parks tour in 2015.

## City Council hopes to halt J.C. Penney's shuttering

Letter highlights town as important retail hub

By ERICK BENDEL  
*The Daily Astorian*

In the wake of J.C. Penney Co.'s decision to close Astoria's 101-year-old store, the City Council plans to send the company's CEO a letter today asking him to reconsider.

The chain department store recently announced it would soon shutter two distribution facilities and 138 stores, including the historic location in downtown Astoria, to help the company's bottom line.

Astoria's residents are already mourning the loss. On Monday, the City Council authorized Councilor Cindy Price to draft the letter to CEO Marvin Ellison, which the entire council later signed.

The letter does not offer a sentimental plea to save the store on Commercial Street, but a pragmatic rundown of reasons that might rekindle the company's financial interest in the area.

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## Fulton wants Port to evict 'Man Cave'

Commissioner says Life Flight should have that airport location

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Daily Astorian*

Escalating his political campaign against a private hangar at the Astoria Regional Airport known as the Man Cave, Port of Astoria Commissioner Stephen Fulton wants the Port Commission to evict the owner and make room for Life Flight Network's new hangar.

Fulton, who has asked for an emergency meeting of the commission, said the move could spare the Port from needing a \$1.96 million bond measure in May to help finance a



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Philip Bales' Man Cave includes a fully stocked bar adorned with a portrait of movie star John Wayne.

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