

## Memo alleges threats against Port's Knight



Jim Knight

Executive director calls behavior 'unconscionable'

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Daily Astorian*

Jim Knight, the executive director of the Port of Astoria, has accused Port Commissioner Bill

### MORE ONLINE

Read the full memo online at [www.dailyastorian.com](http://www.dailyastorian.com)

Hunsinger of making threats against him and his family in a pattern of "unprofessional, threatening and bullying tactics."

In a memo to Hunsinger and the Port Commission, Knight described a phone call in late March with Hunsinger, a critic of the Port

administration, about the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office investigation into retired dentist and aviator Philip Bales' hangar and clubhouse, nicknamed the "Man Cave," at the Astoria Regional Airport. Knight called for the investigation after Commissioner Stephen Fulton's

allegations against the "Man Cave" being an "unlicensed speakeasy" went public.

### The memo

Knight wrote on April 11 that Hunsinger, after expressing frustration about being dragged into the investigation, mentioned there were "a lot of bad guys that are



Bill Hunsinger

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## 'Musical rain' makes Astoria a String City



Submitted Photo

The Oregon Mandolin Orchestra performs in an outdoor concert. The group comes to Astoria for the first time Saturday.

## Oregon Mandolin Orchestra makes Astoria debut

By ERICK BENGEL  
*The Daily Astorian*

A century ago, the mandolin was the most widely played string instrument in the United States, overtaking the banjo in the late-19th century and usurped by the guitar around the Jazz Age. But the mandolin is experiencing a revival, as is the once-popular mandolin orchestra.

At the Liberty Theater on Saturday evening, the Portland-based Oregon Mandolin Orchestra will make its Astoria debut, the second stop in a three-day concert tour that includes Portland and Ridgefield, Washington.

Now entering its eighth season, the 24-member orchestra will perform Mozart concertos, Brazilian choro and pieces adapted from American folk tunes — a program to help expand the mandolin's profile beyond, say, "The Godfather" theme and bluegrass ballads.

"So it's not all snooty, and it's not all sh--kicker, either," said Rick Bella, a board member and orchestra mandolinist.

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### IF YOU GO

**Where:** Liberty Theatre, 1203 Commercial St.  
**Performance:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Doors open:** 7 p.m.  
**Tickets:** Adults \$18; Students, seniors and military \$15  
Tickets can be purchased online through <http://bit.ly/2mDNaaH>



Submitted Photo

The Oregon Mandolin Orchestra, which includes mandolin, mandola, mandocello and mandobass.

## Cat hoarder struggled with mental problems

Woman was banned from owning cats

By DIANA HEFLEY  
*Everett Herald*

WARRENTON — A psychologist predicted last year that Kathryn St. Clare would be back to hoarding cats if she didn't receive proper mental health treatment.

The former Lake Stevens, Washington, woman, who was convicted last year of animal cruelty for collecting 111 cats in a recreational trailer, was arrested Monday in a Warrenton for investigation of animal neglect. A police officer allegedly found 41 live cats and a dead one in St. Clare's car.

A second cat later died. The officer noted that the car reeked of cat urine and feces.

St. Clare, 58, also was wanted on Snohomish County warrants. She failed to appear for a hearing in April 2016 to determine how much she would be ordered to pay Snohomish County for costs associated with investigating her two years earlier.

There also were concerns that St. Clare wasn't following through with mental health treatment, and prosecutors had received word that she might be hoarding cats again, Snohomish County deputy prosecutor Michael Boska said.

### Mental illness

St. Clare's case highlighted the complexities facing the criminal justice system when dealing with people living with mental illness.

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Warrenton Police Department Police recovered 42 cats from a woman's car, including one that was dead. Another cat died later.

## Too soon to know if killing barred owls helps spotted owls

By ERIC MORTENSON  
*EO Media Group*

Federal wildlife researchers killed 737 invasive barred owls in the past two years in an ongoing experiment to determine if removing them will aid the recovery of northern spotted owls, the bird whose threatened status was at the center of the Pacific Northwest timber wars.

Spotted owl populations have continued to decline rapidly despite environmental lawsuits, protection under the Endangered Species Act and logging restrictions in the old-growth timber habitat they favor. Barred

owls, which are larger, more aggressive and feed on a wider variety of prey, have taken over spotted owl territory throughout their range in Oregon, Washington state and Northern California.

Scientists with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey, partnering with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, agreed to an experiment: Kill hundreds of barred owls in the Cle Elum area of Washington, the Oregon Coast Range and Klamath-Union-Myrtle areas of Oregon and Hoopa Valley tribal land in Northern California.

In Oregon and Washington, field

crews shot 642 barred owls using 12-gauge shotguns and captured one owl alive, turning it over to the Oregon High Desert Museum in Bend. In Northern California, where early research by the late Lowell Diller of Humboldt State University documented that spotted owls reclaimed nesting areas after barred owls were removed, researchers killed 95 of the competitors.

### High stakes

Ranchers and farmers in the Pacific Northwest have a stake in Endangered

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Ray Bosch/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Researcher Zachary Hanna of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology and California Academy of Sciences collects tissue samples from a barred owl killed in a project to benefit threatened northern spotted owls in the Pacific Northwest.

