

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

144TH YEAR, NO. 217

DailyAstorian.com // MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017

ONE DOLLAR

## Coast Guard picks Astoria for two new cutters

*The Daily Astorian*

The U.S. Coast Guard has selected Astoria as the new home for two fast response cutters by 2021, a decision that will expand the agency's footprint on the North Coast and provide a significant financial boost to the city.

The 154-foot Sentinel-class cutters replace the 1980s-era, 110-foot, Island-class patrol boats on the coast, which are nearing the end of their service life.

Astoria had been competing with Newport for the two new cutters.

"I'm exceedingly pleased to get this news," Astoria City Manager Brett Estes said. "I think it's going to be able to add on to the existing Coast Guard presence in our community."

Estes said the Coast Guard expansion will add to the region's economic base. "To be able to have more Coast Guard presence, more Coast Guard

See CUTTERS, Page 4A



U.S. Coast Guard

The Sentinel-class fast response cutter is a new Coast Guard patrol boat that is capable of deploying independently to conduct missions that include port, waterways and coastal security; fishery patrols; search and rescue; and national defense. Named after Coast Guard enlisted heroes, the cutters are replacing the aging Island-class 110-foot patrol boats.

## Airport bond looks to future

Money to help finance hangar, development

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Daily Astorian*

Two years ago, Life Flight Network established its first coastal base at Astoria Regional Airport. The base, a small modular trailer wedged between the airport's main terminal, fueling station and the manufacturing company Lektro, was meant to be temporary.

The helicopter medevac service received a state grant last year to help finance a new, nearly \$1 million hangar and crew quarters.

Port of Astoria staff identified the best permanent location for the hangar at the southern end of the airport. But the Port, which cannot afford to accommodate Life Flight's move, is asking county voters in the May 16 election for \$1.96 million in bonds over three years to build the infrastructure and make several nearby, undeveloped parcels shovel-ready.

The bond measure has become a hot-button political issue and a dividing line in each of the three contested Port Commission races.

See BOND, Page 4A

## All it's cracked up to be



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Many festival attendees showed up for the Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival wearing a wide variety of brightly colored themed hats.

## Rotary crab feed helps fund scholarships

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Daily Astorian*

For the past 35 years, the Astoria Rotary Club has been in the crab business.

Since the beginning of the Astoria Warrenton Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival, the Rotary has organized a crab feed with whiskey soup.

Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes, president of the Rotary, said the group bought 800 pounds of crab this year. Between 35 and 40 volunteers

prepared and served crab legs and a whiskey soup throughout the festival. The profits go toward the Rotary, including three or four scholarships the group funds each year for graduates in Astoria and Knappa.

"The hard part has been ... our profit on it is based on the price of crab, and that fluctuates year to year, and then we try to fluctuate the prices of our crab dinner," Hoppes said.

The Rotary buys the crab from Bornstein Seafoods, which also provides the shrimp for the Astoria Clowns' iconic clown bread. Co-owner Andrew Bornstein said each group can buy up to 1,000 pounds in any given year.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Rotary Club member Dan Bartlett begins preparing the group's famous whiskey crab soup at the Crab, Seafood & Wine Festival on Saturday. More crab festival photos online at DailyAstorian.com

## Charter academy surpasses student goal

Cannon Beach school to open in the fall

By BRENNNA VISSER  
*The Daily Astorian*

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Academy is officially set to open this fall almost four years after the town lost its elementary school.

The charter school had until today to enroll at least 17 kindergartners and 17 first- and second-graders combined. As of Friday, 18 kindergartners are enrolled and the first- and second-grade class has been maxed out with 22 students, board member Phil Simmons said.

"We as a team, and as a community, have been working on this for years," Simmons said. "When they first closed the elementary school, some families had to move, and I was a little concerned there wasn't going to be enough interest. But in my heart I knew that there was, and this victory supports this interest."

See ACADEMY, Page 8A

## Couple fills a niche with taxi, coffee shop

Saw visitors waiting for bus

Native Ghanaian Richard Afornorpe jaunted along the famous Portland International Airport carpet in 2002 to meet his future wife, Kristina, and her family.

They had met on a dating site while he still lived in Ghana. After flights to Switzerland, New York, Seattle and finally Portland, Afornorpe prepared to meet the person with whom he would spend the rest of his life.

"I was happy, excited," Afornorpe said with a sheep-

**EVERYDAY**  
people

ish smile, "but it's a very new environment."

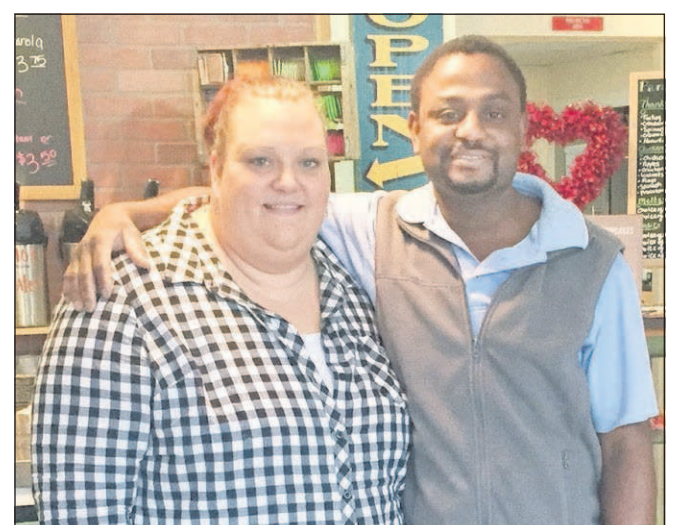
The Afornorpes have owned Downtown Coffee Shop for a little more than a year. Richard has been driving the Downtown Coffee Shop taxi — a white Cadillac Escalade — since last June. He has, for the most part, settled in with his wife and seven foster children — ages 7 to 22. But it took a while.

Job search

Following their airport meeting, the couple returned to Kristina's hometown to settle into an Emerald Heights apartment. Afornorpe spent nearly two years searching for a job. In the meantime, many of his days were spent at home doing laundry.

"I wasn't used to just sitting at one place and doing nothing," Afornorpe said. "Sitting down can be depressing, especially since I didn't know a lot of people here."

Afornorpe often would kill time with strolls around



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Kristina and Richard Afornorpe in the Downtown Coffee Shop.

See COUPLE, Page 4A



7 29467 20121 7