



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian  
Astoria Ferry Group Co-President and Treasurer Cindy Price takes a look inside the wheelhouse of the Tourist No. 2. The organization is hoping to raise funds to restore the vessel, which used to operate as a ferry in Astoria beginning in 1924.

## TAKING WATER

Ferry project needs \$100,000 by October

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Excitement abounded a year ago when the Tourist No. 2, a ferry that between 1924 and 1966 shuttled residents between Astoria and Megler, Washington, prior to the Astoria Bridge, pulled into the 17th Street Dock.

Organizers with the newly formed non-profit Astoria Ferry Group wanted to turn the 93-year-old ferry into the waterborne version of the Astoria Riverfront Trolley.

A year later, beset by the challenges of fixing up the Tourist No. 2 into a modern passenger-carrying vessel, Astoria Ferry has issued an ultimatum to the community: Raise \$100,000 and recruit more boat-savvy board members by the end of September, or the dream will set sail.

"We need to make some real progress on maintenance issues toward the certificate of inspection in order for us to have the confidence of the public that we're doing the right things, that we're following a good process and that we're making some headway," said Astoria City Councilor Cindy Price, a board member.

The vessel's next quarterly insurance payment of \$2,200 is due in October. Price said

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ABOVE: The Astoria Ferry Group is trying to raise funds to restore the Tourist No. 2, shown here docked near Tongue Point, and return the vessel to service as a tourist attraction. The boat was brought back to Astoria last year. BELOW: Astoria Ferry Group Co-President Dulyce Taylor admires a photo of Tourist No. 2 Capt. Fritz Elfving that still hangs in the vessel.



## Astoria opposes oil train project

Terminal proposed for Port of Vancouver

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council on Monday night joined other cities along the Columbia River in opposing a proposed oil terminal project, but only after City Councilor Bruce Jones did some reading and rewrote the resolution.

Environmental advocacy group Columbia Riverkeeper and local activists had asked the council in July to adopt a resolution against the Tesoro Savage terminal project proposed for Washington's Port of Vancouver, saying it threatens the health of the Columbia River estuary. They said the project could "dramatically increase" the danger of an oil spill.

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AP Photo/Matthew Brown  
Activists are fighting oil-by-rail projects because of environmental risks.

## Gearhart transit plan gets green light

Highway 101 at center of city's 20-year goals

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — With the goal of identifying future transportation needs and opening the door to grant funding, the City Council has a transportation system plan.

The goal is to anticipate growth and know how to deal with it, City Planner Carole Connell said.

"There will be more demand placed on the city, and this is a program for us to deal with that," Connell said.

At the top of the list is the reconfiguration of U.S. Highway 101. Planners want to provide greater turning safety and connectivity between the east and west sides of the roadway and reduce bottlenecks and traffic jams.

Additional projects listed in the plan aim to facilitate tsunami evacuation, infrastructure improvements, pedestrian walkways and to ensure that new development complies with the city's goals.

With one exception, city councilors and Mayor Matt Brown approved the two-volume plan, which presents a blueprint for the city's transportation systems through 2040.

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## Toxin levels finally drop in razor clams

Researchers still concerned by data points

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

Levels of a harmful marine toxin dropped in Oregon and Washington state's razor clam populations this summer after remaining above state thresholds for most of the season, but fishery managers aren't sure what September could bring.

Even as levels of the toxin have gone down, Oregon fishery managers recorded domoic acid in mussels in July. Matt

Hunter, shellfish project leader with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the discovery was a "red flag" since these shellfish don't hold on to the toxin the way razor clams do. In the past two weeks, Washington state has seen levels of pseudo-nitzschia, the diatom that can produce domoic acid, rise, fall and rise again in the ocean.

The data collected from the mussels is concerning, but the species of pseudo-nitzschia that produces domoic acid can be present in the water and not producing any toxins.

"I'm not ready to say, 'Hey, panic!' but certainly we're

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Katie Frankowicz/The Daily Astorian  
A razor clam on the beach near Fort Stevens State Park.



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