

Park: Lifetime passes for seniors will increase from \$10 to \$80 on Aug. 28

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and educational projects. At the end of the summer, interns from across the county gather in Washington, D.C., to present their work and learn about federal job opportunities.

Youth apply for the programs throughout the year, while park rangers visit local schools to recruit for the upcoming summer. Rangers pitch the idea of an exciting summer job and a glimpse at a possible career choice. In turn, the park benefits immediately from the additional manpower and long term from the possibility of more job applications.

Burpee credits his staff for their ability to imagine opportunities for growth and in youth programs.

"It's a great opportunity to reach as many youth as possible but also get some great stuff done," he said. "It's a neat program to allow the park to do much more than it otherwise could."

Practical incentives

More practical incentives have drawn seniors to the park lately.

Lifetime passes for seniors will increase from \$10 — the price established in 1994 — to \$80 on Aug. 28. Seniors also can buy \$20 annual passes that can be redeemed for lifetime passes after four years. Fee changes were mandated by Congress in December.

The number of \$10 senior passes sold in June and July approached 2,000, easily more than double the number sold in that time last year. Though Lewis and Clark has run out of passes, it is offering rain checks for people who wish to purchase them before the deadline.

"The demand has been incredibly high," Burpee said.

The estimated \$37.6 million in national revenue from the increased pass fees will fund deferred maintenance projects, improved visitor facilities and



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
Kelsey Hunter with the Youth Conservation Corps removes Scotch broom, a non-native invasive species, from an area in the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.



A recently cut branch of the invasive Scotch broom plant in Lewis and Clark National Historical Park shows signs of having been treated with herbicide. Youth groups were working recently in the area to rid the park of the non-native plant species.

trail maintenance.

Fee revenues are required by law to be used solely for

park upkeep. At least 80 percent of fees collected at each park must remain within that specific park. Some large parks are required to share as much as 20 percent of fee revenue with other parks around the country.

Lewis and Clark, a relatively small park, keeps all of its revenue and also competes for a slice of national profits. With more people, young and old, flocking to the historic and natural areas east of Warrenton, fees will be funneled toward educational programs and a restructured, larger visitor's center sometime in the future.

"It creates a long-term fund to allow the parks to address the unique needs they have," Burpee said. "Access to national parks is something that's really cherished."

Day care: Council to mull appeal

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"Never once were the words safety, liability, tsunami inundation zone or insurance spoken. Just immediate action. This was a mockery of the entire process."

The Astoria City Council will hold a public hearing on Sept. 25 to consider his appeal of the Planning Commission's decision.

In his appeal, Connaway cites sections of the city's development code and development standards, arguing that Shooting Stars is not an appropriate use for the area. He also says he was not given adequate public notice.

Planning commissioners had been split on the decision, with four voting in favor of approving the permit, and three voting against it. Those who voted against the permit said they believed Shooting Stars was an important organization, but that the building on Gateway Avenue was not the right location. Planning Commission President David Pearson, however, said the Port identified that



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian
Shooting Stars Child Development Center wants to move into the former Oregon State Police station near the Port of Astoria.

building as a good candidate for "adaptive reuse," and the street is already home to variety of businesses.

Connaway argued that an industrial area with heavy traffic is not suitable for a facility like Shooting Stars.

"This is an extremely bad idea," he told the Planning Commission in July. "This is an industrial area. It's not

a playground."

Pearson and the other commissioners who approved the permit concluded that Shooting Stars would be an "unusual use" given the area, but believed Denise Giliga, the center's owner, and city staff had presented a case for how it could work.

Giliga said relocating to the Gateway building would allow the center to expand its services and increase the number of slots available for new students. The center was based at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church on Grand Avenue. The church decided not to renew the center's lease and Giliga said there are multiple infrastructure issues at that location.

The Port has had difficulty finding people interested in leasing the building since the Oregon State Police left. Giliga and her staff said they planned to spend the month of August setting up the space and hoped to open in September.

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