

The Daily Astorian/File Photos A Civil War re-enactment at Fort Stevens in 2014. Hundreds of participants are expected for the annual event this weekend.

RELIVING HISTORY

CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT AT FORT STEVENS AMID A NATIONAL DEBATE OVER CONFEDERATE SYMBOLS

By JACK HEFFERNAN The Daily Astorian

A battle dating back to the 19th century will rage on at Fort Stevens this weekend, with symbols that are as divisive today as they were when they nearly tore a young nation apart.

Hundreds of participants are preparing for the 27th Annual Fort Stevens Civil War Re-enactment and Living History. Battles, fashion shows, medical demonstrations, speeches and a church service will all take place at the fort built in 1863 during the war — starting Saturday morning and ending Monday afternoon. The annual re-enactment comes at a time of renewed national debate over Confederate symbols and a drive by some to remove monuments to Confederate leaders. It will kick off three weeks after a deadly white nationalist rally with Confederate flags in Charlottesville, Virginia, and a local controversy after a Confederate flag and rebel decals were linked with an award-winning float at the Astoria Regatta.

Participants at Fort Stevens insist their re-enactment is an accurate portrayal of history.

"Our biggest fear is that these people are trying to erase history and bury history. The war was terrible, but this was part of our history," said Don Benson, who will play a Union cavalry soldier this weekend. "There's this cloud hanging over us and the future of this hobby that we all love."

'Great adventure'

The nonprofit Northwest Civil War Council hosts a handful of re-enactments throughout the state, the most anticipated one taking place each year at Fort Stevens. Onlookers come from all over the region to witness it, some despite the fact that they live near another re-enactment site.

See FORT STEVENS, Page 7A

A Confederate flag on display during a Civil War re-enactment at Fort Stevens in 2014. This year's event comes during a renewed national debate over Confederate symbols.

Agreement reached on warming center

Volunteers work with neighbors, merchants

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ The Daily Astorian

Volunteers at the Astoria Warming Center left City Hall Thursday night with an approved good-neighbor agreement in hand.

The agreement, the second draft of the document that center board members circulated at a community meeting Wednesday night, clarifies some language and addresses concerns and incorporates suggestions voiced by downtown merchants and neighborhood residents.

Though not a formal condition of approval, the agreement was suggested by city staff as a way to get the center and the neighborhood on the same page and address past issues. The agreement will inform the Asto-

The agreement will inform the Astoria Planning Commission's decision on a one-year conditional use permit that would allow the center to continue operating out of the basement of the First United Methodist

See WARMING CENTER, Page 7A

Charter school welcomes eager parents

Cannon Beach Academy holds an open house

By BRENNA VISSER



The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH – Students, their families and residents gathered for an open house Thursday to celebrate the beginning of the Cannon Beach Academy's first school year, as well as the end of the four years of work it took to make it happen.

It was the first public unveiling of the school after a summer's worth of renovations. To the backdrop of a potluck and live music, students and their families explored classrooms and met the teachers who will be welcoming on the first day of school Tuesday.

"We're really happy to see this succeed," said Dania Nolazco, whose younger brother is

See ACADEMY, Page 7A

Transportation package includes money for Highway 26

Repaving project between turnoffs for Jewell and Hamlet

> By EDWARD STRATTON The Daily Astorian

Oregon's new \$5.3 billion transportation package contains \$10.8 million to repave U.S. Highway 26 between the turnoffs for Jewell and Hamlet.

The project is one of three in Clatsop County funded by the long-awaited cash infusion from Salem to help repair and improve the state's highways and roads.

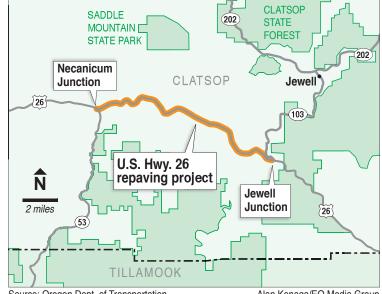
The transportation package, approved by the state Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Kate Brown, will also fund the replacement of the deck on the Lewis and Clark River Bridge. The state has already performed extensive work on the substructure, with a more lightweight variant compatible with the components of the 92-year-old span.

"This bridge is one of the premier historic bridges in the state," said Lou Torres, a spokesman for the Oregon Department of Transportation. "If this project is not done, the deck will continue to degrade and may require significant maintenance to remain in service."

The third project involves engineering work to replace a culvert on Oregon Highway 202 along the Youngs River at milepost 3.6.

The law's projects were inserted into the larger State Transportation Improvement Plan covering 2018 through 2021.

See HIGHWAY, Page 7A





ge 7A Source: Oregon Dept. of Transportation

Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

