

# Fort Stevens: Current social climate crept into preparations

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"It's just a great adventure for families," said Scott Ingalls, who portrays a Confederate artillery soldier.

Actors will play soldiers, doctors, engineers and a range of other roles throughout the weekend. An Abraham Lincoln impersonator will be on hand to deliver a presidential speech. Spectators at battlefields, military camps and hospitals will be able to speak to the characters and touch items commonly used

during the war.

"It's not all the time, but you're kind of in that character when you're with the public," said Matt Bishop, who plays a Confederate infantry commander.

Some of the actors, along with their families, have devoted their energies to re-enactments for decades, dedicating both time and money to the hobby. Benson, for instance, estimates he has spent at least \$20,000 in the decade since he joined the council. As a cavalry soldier, he brings numer-

ous props — including pistols, four horses and carvings — when he travels to each year's event from his home in Yamhill.

Once he arrives to the battlefield, Benson has a field day. "As far as horses are concerned, it's the best battlefield we have," Benson said. "It's large and you can sit there in the trees and the crowd won't even know you're back there."

Actors typically pick which army they would like to fight for and, like any soldier, work their way up the ranks.

"Some people go to join the north or south unit; others just find guys they get along with," said Ingalls, who was recruited 16 years ago by a friend who played an artillery soldier. "It's great to see. It's a cool representation of history and not political in any way."

## Social climate

But the reality of the current social climate has crept into event preparations.

The council has received indirectly threatening Facebook messages in the past few

weeks. Some messages have contained derisive requests for actors to use real bullets during battles, while others express hope that someone in the crowd will fire shots at actors.

The council has discussed among themselves and with police how to handle any disruptions or protests, Bishop said.

Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman said he will send extra patrols to Fort Stevens this weekend. He has advised park rangers and leaders of the council to have their

cellphones readily available should a disruption occur.

"They don't anticipate anything. We don't anticipate anything. But it's always good to be prepared," Workman said.

Ingalls said people should not conflate the national debate revolving around Confederate symbols with this weekend's re-enactment.

"We're still going to present a living history accurately," he said. "The new connotations of the Confederate flag have nothing to do with what we're doing."



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A truck traveling through the Arch Cape tunnel leaves behind a trail of lights in this long exposure. The state is set to spend \$6.7 million to replace asphalt on a 6-mile section of U.S. Highway 101 from Ecola Creek to the tunnel.

## Highway: County will get money for several projects

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As of December, the plan included more than \$100 million worth of work in District 1, which covers Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and a small portion of northwestern Washington counties.

### Fixing bad pavement

In the early 1980s, ODOT's District 1 Manager Mark Buffington said, the state experimented with a larger, more porous grade of asphalt known as F-mix in places like Highway 26.

"The idea is that water flows through F-mix for drainage purposes," he said. "And we have a lot of springs out there, so they were having trouble with drainage off that stretch of road."

But the F-mix was topped with 2 inches of B-mix, a tighter pavement. Buffing-

ton said. "What they ended up doing was like taking a sponge, like foam rubber, and then putting a piece of plastic on top of it," he said.

Water comes up through the F-mix, freezes, breaks off portions of the B-mix on top and causes large potholes along highways, he said. The paving project funded by the transportation package will grind through and replace both pavement layers from shoulder to shoulder on Highway 26 between the turnoffs for Oregon highways 53 and 103, replacing them with a tighter, single layer of asphalt.

### Beyond the new package

Clatsop County is slated to receive more than \$51 million worth of highway work in the larger transportation improvement plan. Nearly half is for continued painting

of deck trusses on the Astoria Bridge.

The state will spend \$6.7 million replacing F-mix on a 6-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 101 between Ecola Creek and the Arch Cape tunnel. By 2021, District 1 will have about 79 miles worth of F-mix left to replace, at a rate of about 10 miles every two years, Buffington said.

One of the more impactful projects will be the replacement of the deck and other safety features on the New Youngs Bay Bridge from the Astoria approach to Neptune Drive in Warrenton in 2021, Buffington said. The \$2.5 million project will temporarily reduce traffic on the bridge to eastbound-only and reroute traffic into Highway 101 Business.

"Anything from Astoria to Warrenton will have to use the detour," Buffington said,

adding the project would be timed during lower-traffic months in the winter.

Other major projects proposed between 2018 and 2021 include:

- \$3.6 million to replace a culvert on Highway 26 at Rock Creek.
- \$2.1 million to install a left-turn lane on the westbound side of Highway 101 at Fort Stevens, along with a U-turn.
- Nearly \$1.8 million to replace the substructure and other features of a bridge over the Klaskanine River on Youngs River Road.
- More than \$1.6 million to construct sidewalks and bike lanes along Marine Drive in Astoria from Dresden to Fourth streets.
- \$400,000 in engineering work to prepare for the replacement of a bridge over Ecola Creek on Highway 101.

## Warming center: 'We have reached a very detailed understanding'

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Church at the corner of 11th Street and Franklin Avenue during the winter months.

"I think they did a great job of taking all the comments and information we thought needed to be changed, as far as we're concerned," said Dulcye Taylor, president of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association.

Along with other changes, warming center board members rewrote the agreement to include more detailed "guest rules," a promise of expanded training for staff and volunteers on how to respond to people at the center dealing with mental health issues, and a chore list for users of the center.

Thursday's meeting, a continuation of discussions around the agreement that began Wednesday night, was a quieter and shorter proceeding with roughly half the attendance.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to make a decision on the conditional use permit at a meeting Wednesday. The commission delayed a decision in August to give the warming center, the neighbors and the downtown association more time to craft a good-neighbor agreement.

At the time, the majority of the commission — David Pearson, Jan Mitchell, Jennifer Cameron-Lattek and Brookley Henri — indicated they were "leaning on the side of approval." Commissioners Daryl Moore and Kent Easom said they did not oppose the idea of a warming center, but said a residential area is not the right location. They said they would likely vote to deny the application.

Any decision the commission makes could be appealed to the City Council.

Planning Commissioner Sean Fitzpatrick, an owner

of the Illahee Apartments located across the street from the church, recused himself from discussions and a public hearing about the warming center's application. He submitted testimony urging the commission to deny the permit, citing ongoing concerns about impacts to neighbors. Like Moore and Easom, he supported the center's mission but said it shouldn't be located in the Franklin Avenue neighborhood. He attended both community meetings to discuss the good-neighbor agreement.

At the end of Thursday's meeting, he said, "I am more comfortable with this than not having an agreement at all."

Dan Parkison, the president of the warming center's board, said he is pleased with the final document.

"We have reached a very detailed understanding and agreement about how we're going to be operating," he said.

Warrenton City Commissioner Rick Newton, who attended Thursday's meeting representing the Warrenton Warming Center, commended the Astoria community for "talking about it and working it out." The Warrenton center is in the middle of re-examining its own rules and is watching how Astoria balances the need for a warming center with the neighborhood's concerns and the city's requirements, he said.

"I am of course stealing your agreement," he joked.

The volunteer-run Astoria Warming Center operates seasonally, giving homeless people a place to sleep when temperatures dip to dangerous levels during the winter months. The low-barrier center will only be open for 90 days between Nov. 15 and March 15, according to the application submitted to the Planning Commission

## Academy: 'It's very important for our community to do this'

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enrolled in the first- and second-grade blended class.

Nolazco still remembers the sadness she felt when she heard the news of Cannon Beach Elementary School closing, the school she attended.

Going to school in Cannon Beach was a large part of her childhood, she said, and she was happy to see with the academy opening that was an experience she could now share with her brother.

"There were a lot of ups and downs, and we were just hoping for the best," she said. "A lot of people put a lot of hard work into making this happen."

Because of budget issues, the Cannon Beach Academy board had to change locations for the charter school in May. That left only a few months to secure the lease for the current location at 3781 S Hemlock St. from the city and finish necessary renovations before a fall opening.

Dania's father, Rafael, said he and his family have lived in Cannon Beach for about 22 years. When they first heard about the possibility of a charter school coming to town, they enrolled their son right away.

For Rafael Nolzco, smaller



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Kellye Dewey and her daughter, Rian, attend the Cannon Beach Academy open house on Thursday to celebrate the start of the first school year. Dewey is the academy's board president.

class sizes and having a school in the community where they live and work were integral.

"This community is so great. We deserve to have a school," he said.

While having a school in town was an important aspect for many of the parents with enrolled children, what brought many to commit to the academy was a bilingual curriculum — something unique for the North Coast.

Cannon Beach residents Julianne and Jeff Kropf decided to enroll their child in Cannon Beach Academy instead of Seaside partially because of it.

"It was a difficult decision, because our daughter was enrolled in Seaside Heights last year," Julianne Kropf said. "There is a lot of value having it near our home, but also the fact they are teaching Spanish here was a huge positive to switch."

While the school is not fully bilingual, teacher Leticia Campos will be in charge of making sure every student is exposed to the language for a portion of the day. While pursuing her bachelor's degree in history at Eastern Oregon University, Campos minored in Spanish and the English language learner program.

"It's very important for our community to do this because languages open the doors to the rest of the world," Campos said. "It's better to expose language when they are young. Kids are like sponges."

This is Campos' first job as a teacher since earning her degree, but she has been a teacher's assistant with Seaside School District for more than 10 years. She heard about the position to teach Spanish at the academy from a co-worker while she was working at the high school. She said she's always known teaching young children was her passion, and she was intrigued by the idea of being a part of a school from the very beginning to help grow programs.

But to get there, Campos balanced raising a family and work with slowly picking away at classes at Clatsop Community College and Eastern Oregon University until her kids were grown.

She then had to get her master's at Portland State University to finish achieving her dream.

"I love to teach younger students because you get to show them a world of opportunity," she said. "There's a difference between having a dream and making a dream come true, and you can teach them that."



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

People take shelter at the warming center at First United Methodist Church in 2015.

## CONCEAL CARRY PERMIT CLASSES

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1PM AND 6PM

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\$45 Oregon-only  
\$80 multi-State (Oregon included no-fee)

Required class to get an Oregon or multi-State permit. Class includes:

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