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ONE DOLLAR

## Thompson fires back

Writes a letter in response to behavior, expense allegations

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Commissioner Lianne Thompson is resisting a call for her resignation, vowing to be a strong and motivated voice and declaring: "My heart is in this place."

Board Chairman Scott Lee urged Thompson to resign after a meeting last week in which she was criticized by commissioners for claiming thousands in travel and education expenses, as well as for a June incident with a county employee that led to an internal investigation.



Lianne Thompson

"I have little interest or patience with those few people who would find validation in power or who like to see themselves as big fish in small ponds," Thompson, who represents South County, wrote in a letter to The Daily Astorian.

"No one said it would be easy to serve," she said. "No one promised that a closed system would be open to change, that entrenched powers would not push back, or that personal attacks would never supplant honest debate. Certainly I never expected such a political panacea. To see it play out in real life, however, can either be disheartening or motivating. I choose motivation."

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## Food bank aims to meet holiday need

Despite split, no interruptions in service, board says

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — The South County Community Food Bank is expected to reopen Tuesday, less than two weeks after the former manager and volunteers were ordered to relinquish their keys and locked out of the Roosevelt Drive building.

Board President Darren Gooch said "ideological differences between the board and key volunteers" guided the decision to interrupt service.

"We as a board are tasked with being good stewards of the resources we are given," Gooch said. "Future sustainability of the food pantry is the primary driving force of the board."

Former regional manager Karla Gann blamed the closure on board mismanagement and said it could jeopardize holiday meals and leave thousands of dollars in Christmas gifts undelivered.

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Soldiers from Camp Rilea witness a groundbreaking ceremony for a new armed forces monument.

## 'A memorial for all of us'

### Bronze statue of Vietnam War soldier

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian

A large statue of a U.S. soldier will be placed in downtown Warrenton by the end of the year, following a decadeslong effort.

At a groundbreaking ceremony Friday, a 9-foot by 9-foot plot was carved out of a grassy area across from Lighthouse Park on North Main Avenue. Project leaders plan to put the bronze, 7-foot, 2-inch statue — with a 6-foot-tall base — at the spot by early December. The statue features a Vietnam War soldier dressed in full uniform with rifle in hand, standing with his right foot perched on a rock and staring down reflectively as a single tear rolls down his right cheek.

"It's a memorial for all of us," said Todd Newton, an Army veteran and member of the Fort Stevens Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and Auxiliary. "We really don't have anything here in Warrenton. It's something we need in the community here."

While agreeing that the statue honors all veterans, designer and sculptor Mark Kenny, who served eight years in the Coast Guard, added that he wanted to especially memorialize those from the Vietnam War era.

"They're pretty much forgotten, and they're not treated very well. Now they're accepted," Kenny said. "That was an important time in history, too."

Kenny, 55, of Seaside, started working on his design after the Warrenton City Commission approved a \$72,020 grant from the state Parks and Recreation Department in April.

Fundraising began for a monument 27 years ago, but an economic downturn stalled those ambitions. The local VFW decided to try again by applying for a biannual grant from the state specifically allocated for monuments.

Debbie Little, president of VFW 10580 auxiliary, completed a grant-writing class with this application in mind. Her husband, VFW Quartermaster Bert Little, also reached out to residents and businesses for monetary and service

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VFW Fort Stevens Post 10580

Portland artist Mark Kenny stands next to the monument he created.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Heavy equipment is used to break ground for a new military monument.

## Crashes peak in fall, but roadkill dinner can wait

Salvage rules expected in 2019

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

Collisions between vehicles and wildlife peak in the fall, but drivers won't get to harvest what they hit until 2019.

Ever since a rule passed earlier this year allowing drivers to keep roadkill deer and elk in the future, law enforce-

ment and fish and wildlife officials say drivers frequently ask if they can salvage the animals now when they hit or encounter them on the state's roads.

Doug Cottam, wildlife division administrator with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said staff are still working to develop a safe and responsible roadkill salvage program that will discourage poaching. Draft rules will go to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for public comment before they are adopted.

"A key thing is having a permitting process so roadkill salvage is tracked and a person can be contacted if something appears suspicious," said Michelle Dennehy, a Department of Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman. Law enforcement will be a part of the rule-setting process, as well, she said, "and will likely have other suggestions."

For now, roadkill will be taken care of the old-fashioned way.

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Damian Mulinix/For EO Media Group

A bald eagle vied with traffic on the U.S. Highway 101 near Chinoook, Wash., last year after sighting a tasty roadkill possum.



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