



# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR

PORT OF ASTORIA | EAST MOORING BASIN

## NEW WAY FORWARD

### Agency sees potential for future development

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Staff at the Port of Astoria, needing several million dollars to modernize the aging causeway closed to vehicles at the East Mooring Basin, are wondering whether the agency bears the full responsibility.

"We have not found any documents that clearly dictate that the Port is the sole owner of the causeway," Port Executive Director Jim Knight told the Port Commission late last month.

With a rough estimate from the state of \$4 million to modernize the causeway, Knight said, the Port needs to weigh whether to tackle the issue by itself, sit on it or try to engage partners to help develop the area.

"Either it's the Port's sole responsibility, or it's the community's," he said. "Right now, the benefit of the causeway is a community benefit."

The marina, mostly empty, plays host to two docks lined with commercial fishing boats and maritime-support vessels. Most of the docks have been removed to avoid damage by an increasing number of sea lions that haul out in the basin, an unofficial tourist attraction for wildlife viewers.

The Port also owns several acres along the banks of the marina. Staff and commissioners see the potential for future development, including the possible docking for cruise ships along the breakwater.



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Visitors to the East Mooring Basin take photos with the sea lions in the background.



Jim Knight  
Port Executive Director

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The aging causeway at the East Mooring Basin has become a point of contention for the Port of Astoria.

## Parking enforcement pays off

### New officer has issued 193 tickets this year

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

A new parking officer in downtown Astoria issued 193 tickets in the first three months of the year.

Enforcement got off to a "bit of a contentious start" as people adapted to having parking rules enforced again, but most downtown business owners are now complying. Sarah Lu Heath, executive director of the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association, told the City Council on Monday.

The city and downtown merchants hope to increase parking for visitors, residents and businesses by policing what's there and opening up more parking in the future.

The downtown association agreed to hire an employee to manage parking on the city's behalf in 2016. Ronni Harris, an artist and Astoria resident, was brought on as the community outreach officer at the end of last year.

Her role includes handing out tickets when cars are parked illegally or overstay the one- and two-hour time limits for downtown spots.

Already, Heath said, "you can see a definite change for customer parking downtown."

Harris monitors a territory that extends roughly from Eighth Street to 15th Street and from the Astoria Riverwalk to Exchange Street. The tickets she issues go to Municipal Court, and fines vary depending on the offense. Someone who violates a two-hour time limit faces a \$10 fine, whereas parking in a no parking zone or for over 24 hours in one location come with \$25 fines.

In March, the City Council approved an arrangement where a portion of the money

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## Congressional candidates on display in Astoria

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

In the absence of U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, five challengers vying for her seat in the 1st Congressional District pitched themselves to voters during an election forum Tuesday night at Astoria High School.

Astoria Mayor Arline LaMear started the exchange by reading a statement from Bonamici, a Democrat who has served in the U.S. House for six years.

"Over the past year and a half, things in Congress have become more challenging, to say the least, and as a country we're facing a growing number of critical issues for Congress to address," LaMear said for the congresswoman. "I'm running because I'm up to the task and I want to continue to create a better future for Northwest Oregonians."

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## BATTLE OF THE BIRDS

### In puffin country, Cannon Beach may honor a red-winged blackbird

By BRENN A VISSER  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — As a part of the 12 Days of Earth Day celebration, Cannon Beach will be asked to consider designating an official city bird.

But don't get too excited, tufted puffins. A different bird could be brought into the spotlight: the red-winged blackbird.

The medium-sized, black-and-red songbird loves marshes, brackish swamps and chirping on city power lines. They're pelting the seeds of invasive plants and fiercely protecting habitat — whether the trespasser be a fellow bird or an elk. But most importantly, the species is an abundant and longtime inhabitant of the beach town.



RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD



TUFTED PUFFIN

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