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ONE DOLLAR



Photos by Katie Frankowicz/The Daily Astorian

Students with Tongue Point Job Corps help clean up Ocean View Cemetery.

## Cemetery gets some love

### Volunteers turn out for maintenance

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

Changes are in store for Ocean View Cemetery this year.

Astoria's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year includes increases to what the department is able to pay per hour for seasonal maintenance work across its parklands, including the historic cemetery it maintains in Warrenton. There are also plans to bring on a maintenance worker whose sole responsibility will be to care for the cemetery grounds — a level of personal care Ocean View has lacked for years.

"I'm pretty excited for that site," said Parks Director Angela Cosby, though she cautioned that maintenance at the cemetery still won't be quite what it was in the 1980s or 1990s, when there were multiple full-time positions dedicated to Ocean View's care and operations.

Last budget cycle, the department went through a painful shift to identify the true costs of running the department, the various facilities it maintains, programs it hosts and organizes and the acres of parkland under its care. The city decided to cut some community programs and looked at other ways to make operations more efficient. For some parks and sites, this has meant less vigorous maintenance programs.

Cosby said a jump from minimum wage to \$14 an hour has already helped the department begin to recruit and retain seasonal maintenance employees — something the city struggled with last year, and that contributed to hit-or-miss care of



ABOVE: Volunteers clean around grave markers. BELOW: Volunteers remove overgrown brush.



Ocean View Cemetery.

Astoria came under fire last year for the condition of the grounds from Warrenton city officials and people whose family members are buried at the cemetery.

At a public meeting in July, Warrenton City Commissioner Mark

Baldwin said the cemetery was in "shameful" condition, pointing to overgrown grass around grave sites, spotty mowing and dandelions growing rampant over much of the cemetery's grounds.

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## Bornstein Seafoods buys apartments for employees

### Low-cost housing option

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Bornstein Seafoods has purchased an apartment complex near its Warrenton Deep Sea market to help provide low-cost housing for employees.

The company formed Deep Sea Apartments LLC and hired Easom Property Management to manage the complex, mere feet from the seafood market.

Andrew Bornstein, co-owner of Bornstein Seafoods, said the purchase is another effort to become an

employer of choice and help ease the housing crisis.

The seafood processor is using empty apartments in the building as a marketing tool to attract employees, he said, while allowing existing tenants to stay without a rent increase.

"We've had trouble being fully staffed during the surge of summer," Bornstein said, adding that some workers will carpool in vans from Longview, Washington.

The company has made other moves to become more attractive to workers, he said, such as increasing wages to a minimum of \$12 an hour, offering competitive benefits, improving hours and focusing on a culture of safety.

## Interests widen in fight over coal-export terminal

By PHUONG LE  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Six Western states and national industry groups have lined up against Washington state in a legal battle over its decision to reject permits for a massive proposed coal-export terminal on the Columbia River.

Wyoming, Montana, Kansas, Utah, South Dakota and Nebraska filed a joint amicus brief, arguing in support of project backers and saying the case has broad implications for the export of commodities that are important to many states.

Utah-based Lighthouse Resources, which operates coal mines in Montana and Wyoming, sued Washington state in federal court in January, alleging officials violated federal laws in denying approvals for its \$680 million Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview project. The company accuses the governor and state regulators of being anti-coal and discriminating against it by blocking the movement of coal mined in other states from being exported.

The Washington Depart-

ment of Ecology denied the project a water-quality permit last fall, saying there were too many major harmful impacts including air pollution, rail safety and vehicle traffic.

The project would move coal mined in U.S. Western states through a terminal in Longview for export to South Korea, Japan and other Asian markets. The facility on the Columbia River would handle up 44 million metric tons, boosting U.S. exports to foreign markets.

Montana Attorney General Tim Fox said in a statement that "politicians in Washington State have again demonstrated their willingness to hold coal states hostage."

In a legal brief, Montana and the other states argue: "Today it is coal, tomorrow it could be natural gas or non-organic produce. The interests of interior states in developing foreign trade are now subject to the barriers erected by the policy whims of states that control access to international markets through their ports."

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## Couple earns award for working with animals

### Lears have volunteered for two decades

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian

Lonnie and Annette Lear offer different perspectives about their origins at Clatsop County Animal Shelter.

They agree Annette started volunteering first in the late 1990s, and Lonnie started about a year later.

"Next thing I know, she said, 'I signed you up to be a volunteer,' and I started doing it," Lonnie said.



But Annette adds more to the story.

"He likes to always tell everybody I made him come. He always says, 'I do whatever I'm told,'" she said. "He tries not to say it's because he loves the animals, but, you know."

Regardless of how they started, the couple is still a regular presence at the shelter roughly 20 years later. In April, Clatsop County gave the Lears a volunteer award after

being nominated by three people at the shelter.

The couple, both 57 years old, met in Seaside in the early 1980s and married a few years later. Lonnie is the head custodian at Seaside High School and used to work at the Stop and Go Convenience Store. Annette delivers for Mimi's Flowers, and both have a side gig cleaning vacation rental homes.

"We fit it all in somehow," Annette said.

In the four to five hours they spend at the shelter each week, the Lears walk and feed dogs, tend to and foster cats,

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Lonnie and Annette Lear are longtime volunteers at the animal shelter.



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