

A WAY TO REMEMBER



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Gold Star family members lay roses on a representation of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Ocean View Cemetery.

Port budget shrinks with less grant funding

Grants make up a large portion of budget

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Shrinking grant money is causing the Port of Astoria to further tighten its purse strings for the coming fiscal year starting in July.

Port staff on Thursday proposed a nearly \$11.5 million operating budget for the next fiscal year, more than \$2.4 million smaller than the agency's current operating budget and more than \$4 million smaller than the fiscal year prior.

Will Isom, finance director for the Port, said the smaller budget is largely a matter of timing.

"We're in between years, as far as construction goes out at the airport," he said, adding grant revenue will likely be higher with grant-funded construction projects in the 2019-20 budget.

Multimillion-dollar Federal Aviation Administration grants fund much of the construction at the Astoria Regional Airport and can often make up a large portion of the Port's budget.

Jim Knight, the Port's executive director, has said that uncertainty in grant funding, combined with failing infrastructure, limited cash reserves and high debt load, has made creating a balanced budget a challenge.

The Port often uses state ConnectOregon infrastructure grants to fund improvements and act as local matches on federal monies. Knight has called the state grants a lifeline for improving properties like the airport.

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Local ceremonies commemorate 150th anniversary of Memorial Day

By BRENNIA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

In memory of the doughboys.
In memory of Pearl Harbor.
In memory of veterans' families.
One by one, each of these phrases were said as members of the American Legion and other veterans groups presented wreaths as part of a Memorial Day ceremony at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.

Dozens gathered on a blustery Monday morning to remember those who lost their lives in the line of duty. A Coast Guard helicopter flyover spritzed the crowd with mist from Cemetery Lake as it dropped a wreath in remembrance to those who lost their lives at sea.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the holiday, which was originally called Decoration Day, Scott Parker reminded the crowd during his presentation. Parker spoke as the great nephew of Freeman Parker, a Clatsop County veteran who died during World War I.

"Today we pay tribute to those who bravely rose above and fought for some-



Dozens of people attended the event Monday at Ocean View Cemetery.

thing greater than themselves," he said. Parker emphasized the best way for society to pay its debt to those whose lives were lost was through education about the holiday's purpose.

"Please don't wish me a happy Memorial Day. There's nothing happy about it," he said.

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'TODAY WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO BRAVELY ROSE ABOVE AND FOUGHT FOR SOMETHING GREATER THAN THEMSELVES.'

Scott Parker | great nephew of Freeman Parker, a Clatsop County veteran who died during World War I

Rents climb higher at Emerald Heights

Apartments still below market rate

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The rent for some Emerald Heights Apartments is going up, but the prices remain just below market rate at one of Astoria's few remaining sources of affordable housing.

Deed restrictions that preserved 60 units of the 300-unit complex for low-income tenants expired in October. Under the restrictions, rent also had to include the cost of providing utilities. With the restrictions out of the picture, everyone is paying their own heating bills and property owner Edita Smith is charging more for units she remodels after tenants move away.

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Warrenton grapples with blighted buildings

City is dealing with some growing pains

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Warrenton declared three local properties nuisances recently, more than City Manager Linda Engbretson can recall happening in the last two decades.

The city is grappling with a major growth spurt and some growing pains along the way. City staffing levels remain relatively unchanged even as calls

for service increase. Large businesses have moved to town — Costco is well-established, while Walmart and Pacific Seafood plan to open facilities this summer — and a number of housing developments are in the works.

The North Coast as a whole is a much busier place than it used to be, the tourist season no longer bound to summer months. City commissioners are asking how to encourage this growth, answer shifting needs and ensure Warrenton remains a place people want to live.

One of the City Commission's goals has been to improve



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

The city of Warrenton is dealing with three nuisance properties.

the appearance and livability of downtown, paving the way for a city that suits the present and is ready to meet the future. Deal-

ing with nuisance properties is one small step, but the city's ordinance can only go so far. Astoria has also had to deal

with its share of run-down, abandoned and nuisance properties over the years. In 2010, the city began examining another tool for dealing with a particular kind of neighborhood blight: the derelict building ordinance. Using this ordinance, the city was able to gain access to the neglected Flavel home and applied it to a home in Alderbrook last year. The Alderbrook property has dropped in and out of compliance multiple times over the years. City Manager Blair Henningsgaard says the property owner remains out of compliance now.

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