



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
Capt. William Timmons, far right at podium, addresses the audience during a change of command ceremony at the Coast Guard air station in Warrenton.

Coast Guard: Astoria ‘a special place’

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aviation unit — Smith was the chief of response and air operations at Sector San Diego. He spent four years in Washington, D.C., at the Aviation Safety Division, where he was responsible for policy development and managed mishap prevention and loss programs. He earned a master of science degree at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

“So, I’m kind of dumb-founded,” Smith said as he began his remarks at the ceremony. “I never really thought

I would actually find myself in command.”

Timmons is the fourth consecutive commander to retire after working at Air Station Astoria. He held more than 10 positions in the Coast Guard and spent six years working at the sector.

During his speech Thursday, Timmons listed a number of examples of rescue missions by his subordinates.

“Astoria has been a special place that Laura (Timmons’ wife) and I have been blessed to call home,” he said. “I consider it both an honor and a privilege

to have been your sector commander and hold this incredible position to serve others. And I am honored to share this stage with such distinguished officers, servant leaders and, most importantly, kind and caring human beings.”

Throop praised Timmons’ handling of the sector’s Hurricane Harvey response last summer and its efforts to clean 26 derelict boats full of oil and hazardous waste near Goble. Timmons also played a leading role in widening access to health care for sector employees.

Throop told Smith he has a lot to live up to, and the new commander agreed.

“I have a lot of things here to keep an eye on, and I hope not to screw things up too bad while you’re gone,” Smith said to Timmons. “To the crew of Sector Columbia River, I mean it when I say I’m honored to be here and be your commander. I look forward to the challenges over the next few years, and I look forward to helping you be more successful than you have been and to continue the direction that Capt. Timmons has set out for us.”

Sentence: ‘He’s taken the joy out of my life’

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six years as part of a deal with the Clatsop County District Attorney’s Office.

Not lost on those in the courtroom was the irony that Costa — a student at the time — was driving back to his residence at the Tongue Point Job Corps Center, while Weber — a residential assistant at the center — was driving home from work. Some who spoke at Thursday’s hearing talked about Weber’s impact at the job corps.

At a memorial, about 50 “visibly shaken” students stood in line to offer verbal tributes to Lorelei Weber, her mother. Weber lived with her daughter at the time, and they were described as best friends. She declined to say Costa’s name throughout her statement, instead referring to him as a “dumb kid.”

“He’s taken the joy out of my life. Together we had hopes and dreams,” Lorelei Weber said. “He affected so many lives. All she was doing was driving home from work.”

Tita Montero, a Seaside city councilor and former business and community liaison at the job corps, described herself as a mentor to Weber. She said the fact that Costa was a student made her angrier.

“He was a student there who knew he was not only breaking the rules of the road. He was breaking the rules of his employer and of every-

thing he was getting for free at Tongue Point Job Corps Center,” Montero said.

Four of Weber’s friends and family also spoke at the hearing. Weber was described as a dependable confidant and a loving person who never wished ill of people.

For 16 years, Weber helped take care of homeless animals. Her mother asked Costa to consider volunteering with animals after his prison sentence is completed.

Kirk Wintermute, Costa’s court-appointed attorney, said he believes his client has the ability to make a positive difference someday.

“I’ve been, frankly, impressed with Mr. Costa about how positive he’s been and how he’s wanted to do everything he can to try to make things right,” Wintermute said.

Circuit Court Judge Dawn McIntosh said the incident was heartbreaking for both Weber’s and Costa’s families.

“In the blink of an eye, in the split second of a bad decision to get behind the wheel of that car, your whole world changed, the students at the job corps,” McIntosh said. “The ripple effect is crazy.”

Costa did not offer a statement Thursday. But during her statement, Lorelei Weber asked him a question.

“Did you ever have the honor of meeting my daughter?” she asked.

“No,” Costa replied. “Then you missed out.”



Kayla Weber

Westport: Planned July hearing canceled

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development had easements from the diking districts, later learning they cannot pass those on, Parker said.

Now the development is trying to get permission of the property owners to bring Carver Road under county control, he said.

Gail Henrikson, Clatsop

County’s community development director, said nobody has spoken out in opposition to the Coyote Point development. But a hearing scheduled for July before the Plan-

ning Commission for a final plat approval, which would allow the development to start selling lots, has been canceled until the access issue is resolved, Henrikson said.



A fatal drunken-driving crash on U.S. Highway 101 led to a six-year prison sentence.