



FOR SOME MOVIE BUFFS, IT'S STILL STRAIGHT TO VIDEO TO GET THEIR

## FLICKS FIX



Chris Wood works the counter at Video Horizons in Astoria.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

### Local stores outlast Blockbuster

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

In the age of Netflix, Amazon and Redbox, video rental stores are a vanishing species. The country's last living Blockbuster, a once-ubiquitous chain, is in Bend. But two North Coast outlets — Video Horizons in Astoria and Universal Video in Seaside — have managed to hold on since the 1980s.

Video Horizons, a spacious rental emporium with a red neon sign that can be seen from the Astoria Column, opened in 1984 and moved into its site near the Astoria Riverwalk in 2002. And Universal Video, once part of a franchise, opened in 1983 and is now a stand-alone business on Holla-

day Drive.

Video Horizons owner Neal Cummings and Universal Video co-owners Jim and Steve Haugen entered the industry early on, staking out space on the ground floor.

Their businesses remind you of how traditional brick-and-mortar

video stores once put people in the movie-watching mood.

Patrons browse the aisles, scrutinize the plastic boxes, wander into genres and scan titles that weren't algorithmically chosen for them, and chat with clerks about new releases, all while wall-mounted TVs play movies in the background.

Both stores display promotional art from long ago. Video Horizons sports movie posters for Angelina Jolie's "Tomb Raider" and the now 10-year-old "The Dark Knight." Behind the desk at Universal Video are faded cardboard stand-ups that seem to have stopped arriving in the late '90s, advertising such films as "Down Periscope" and "Saving Private Ryan."

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### Drop-in center for homeless fizzles

Property facing foreclosure

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

Plans to open a daytime drop-in center for homeless people in Astoria have stalled.

Filling Empty Bellies, a nonprofit that connects the homeless with jobs and social services and provides free lunches at a downtown park, hoped to open the drop-in center at the former Tide Point restaurant off state Highway 202. But the property owner, Rising Tide Enterprises LLC, owes Clatsop County thousands of dollars in unpaid taxes and is facing foreclosure.

Randy Lustig, of Total Employment and Management, or TEAM, an employment agency partnering with Filling Empty Bellies to lease the building, said they didn't realize how serious the situation was at first. Lustig said the owners told him they were addressing a small tax lien against the property, but he didn't know about the foreclosure proceedings or the full extent of the liens.

Filling Empty Bellies was going to share the building with TEAM. The employment agency has found jobs for a number of the nonprofit's participants and planned to hire more to help run the drop-in center. They envisioned a one-stop shop — a place where homeless people could connect with a variety of social services, shower, wash their clothes, learn job skills and get ready to seek employment.

"Now, we haven't quit," Lustig said. "We're still trying to work toward making things work, but at the moment it's kind of all on hold."

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### Land trust secures money for property at Tongue Point

Wildlife habitat and a living lab in the works

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The Columbia Land Trust has secured the funding to purchase about 90 acres of South Tongue Point for wildlife habitat and a living laboratory for Clatsop Community College.

The land trust recently received \$1 million from a national grant program run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore and preserve coastal ecosystems. The grant goes through the state Watershed Enhancement Board, which also provided a \$332,000 match.

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### An advocate for the Armory

Adams is a dedicated volunteer

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

Suddenly there are unicorns everywhere. In pictures on pink balloons, printed on a girl's leggings. Several girls wear headbands topped with shimmering unicorn horns. The birthday parties have started to arrive for Friday night roller skating at the Astoria Armory.

Girls and moms with their arms full of decorations and



gifts cluster around a small table at the Armory entrance while Amanda Adams gives them directions: where to set up, where to get roller skates. She's the Armory's volunteer coordinator, and is herself a volunteer — one of just a handful the Armory relies on to deliver programs, work with kids and serve visitors.

Adams has spent the past 21 years in Astoria and Knappa

and is raising two daughters while going to school full time. She's worked as a preschool teacher in the past, and now is involved with Clatsop Court Appointed Special Advocates, advocating for children in the courtroom, as well as the Armory.

"My heart's always been drawn to kids," Adams explained.

She has only been involved with the Armory for the past four years, but has quickly become an indispensable. She works with kids in the organization's anti-bullying programs, covers the front desk on



Amanda Adams is the volunteer coordinator at Astoria Armory. 'My heart's always been drawn to kids,' she said.

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