



# Astorian

## Port Commission moves toward firing Knight

Majority sours on director

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

The Port of Astoria Commission could fire Jim Knight, the agency's embattled executive director, after a majority lost confidence in his leadership.

After a private executive session Tuesday afternoon, each commissioner publicly shared their opinion of Knight in front of a packed room. Frank Spence, the commission's president, and Commissioner Bill

Hunsinger and Commissioner Dirk Rohne voiced support for removing Knight.

Commissioner Robert Stevens called the move rushed and possibly corrupt, while Commissioner James Campbell said the public had only heard one side of the story about the director's performance.

"From the local financial advisory committee to the outside consultant who prepared the Port of Astoria's strategic plan, we have an abundance of evidence of the failures of Jim Knight to effectively lead the Port



Jim Knight

of Astoria," Rohne said. "While Jim Knight may not have caused all the Port's problems, he is certainly not the Port director who can move it forward."

Knight hired Kyle Busse, an employment attorney, who advised Port attorney Eileen Eakins over the phone that he and Knight would prefer to not respond off the cuff at the meeting.

Knight, who could not be reached for comment, will likely respond at the Port Commission's next regular meeting on June 18. The special session follows a 3-2 vote

earlier this month to anonymously survey employees about their experience at the Port. Rohne called for the survey based on the recommendation from an ad-hoc committee of financial and economic development professionals, he said.

The call for a survey also came shortly after the release of comments by Matt McGrath, the Port's former director of operations who resigned in April, detailing Knight as incompetent, dishonest and incapable of running the agency.

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## Closing gaps on Oregon Coast Trail



### Better connections for area hikers

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Astorian*

Work is underway on the North Coast to close two gaps on the Oregon Coast Trail.

The gaps — where a landslide at Ecola State Park near Cannon Beach cut a trail in half and a spot outside Oswald West State Park near Manzanita where hikers must walk the highway between segments — have taken years to address. They are two of the first significant breaks hikers coming from the north encounter on the nearly 400-mile trail.

State trail planners estimate over 20 gaps exist on the route, ranging from natural hazards like bay and river crossings to interruptions caused by private lands and public

Photos by Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian  
**ABOVE:** A state Department of Corrections crew works to clear brush along a new trail route at Ecola State Park, where a landslide cut off access. **BELOW:** A new trail in the works across private land will connect the south Neahkahnie Trailhead to Manzanita, closing a gap on the Oregon Coast Trail.



roads. Some are more recent developments, like the landslide at Ecola.

"The coast is a really dynamic environment and there's always new

gaps opening and closing," said Robin Wilcox, senior park and trails planner for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

In 2017, state legislators directed the department to close previously identified gaps on the trail. Last year, Gov. Kate Brown prioritized the development of an action plan to address safety and connectivity issues and suggest fixes to the gaps.

Across the route, fixes are underway and trail maintenance will occur along certain sections this summer.

#### A big step

The work that will close a gap between the popular south Neahkahnie trailhead down to Manzanita and the next section of the Oregon Coast Trail is a big step for the local community. Hikers have had to bridge this break by walking U.S. Highway 101's narrow and sometimes almost nonexistent shoulder.

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## Seaside takes lead in plastic bag ban

First city in the county to take action

By R.J. MARX  
*The Astorian*

SEASIDE — The City Council took the first step Monday night to a single-use plastic bag ban.

Residents from throughout the region — from Long Beach, Washington, to Arch Cape — came to support a ban. And by night's end, the crowd, including three fifth-graders from John Meyer's Heights Elementary School class, erupted in applause after a unanimous vote.

The new ordinance would prohibit plastic carry-out bags, similar to state legislation approved in Salem on Tuesday.

Retailers may charge customers a reasonable pass-through cost — no less than 10 cents a bag — for a recyclable paper bag or reusable bag. The penalty for violating the ordinance would be a fine of up to \$100.

Fifth-graders Mariliz Leon-Mejia, Madeleine Menke and Theia McCarthy recommended that consumers embrace reusable bags.

"Plastic bags are not very good for the environment," the students said. "And neither are straws. We need to take a break from plastic bags. And that break starts now. ... If we stop using plastic bags, we will make the environment better for all of us."

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Single-use bag ban passes in Salem  
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## Cap-and-trade bill clears hurdle

Johnson removed for committee vote

By AUBREY WIEBER  
*Oregon Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Democrats appear to have the support to move forward on a massive environmental plan to price carbon after a week of turmoil and uncertainty.

House Bill 2020, which would implement a cap-and-trade program, passed out of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Wednesday. It now goes to the House floor for a vote scheduled for Monday. It's the most significant piece of legislation still in the works with the session ending in two weeks.

The legislation — and the 116th amendment proposed on it — passed out of committee on a 13-8 party-line vote. State Senate President Peter Courtney temporarily sat in on the committee for Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, the committee's co-chair, who has been a vocal opponent of the bill and has warned it would destroy the state's economy.

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## Recovery allies speak the language of addiction

Mentors do outreach

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
*The Astorian*

Trista Boudon will mark three years sober on June 19.

For recovering alcoholics and drug addicts, sobriety dates carry weight, like a birthday or a wedding anniversary.

But Boudon does not carry hers alone. The 30-year-old mother of two uses the tools she learned to stay sober to help others as a recovery ally, an outreach program at Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare.

Boudon and Rose Anderson, 44, a recovering alcoholic, reach out to people whose drinking and drug abuse has left them homeless, in and out of hospital emergency rooms or locked up in the county jail.

"We don't give up. If you're still breathing, there is an opportunity there to do something different," Boudon said.

"I love the phrase, 'Are you tired?'"

"Are you tired? Because, you know, there is a different way to do this."

They help people make the difficult call to a detox center. They might go with them to their first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. They find safe



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Trista Boudon, left, and Rose Anderson are recovery allies for Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare. Among their stops is the lunch for the homeless at Peoples Park by Filling Empty Bellies.

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