



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The U.S. Coast Guard plans to station two new 154-foot cutters near the Tongue Point Job Corps Center. They plan to demolish one of the aging piers on the right in the photo and build a new one.

## Cutters: Coast Guard plans to demolish an aging pier

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to Adm. Karl Schultz, the commandant of the Coast Guard, requesting that two additional cutters be stationed locally.

"The community of Astoria is well-equipped to support the Coast Guard and its vessels in their mission here in Oregon," the lawmakers wrote. "Co-locating four (fast response cutters) at Tongue Point will advance the Coast Guard's mission, increase efficiency and economy of scale and provide close proximity to a number of world-class maritime services and shipyards."

The Coast Guard expected the new fast response cutters to enter service by next year. But in a recent notice to nearby property owners, Capt. John Barresi said they would arrive by March 2024. The notice detailed the environmental assessments and construc-

tion needed to accommodate the two cutters.

The Coast Guard plans to demolish a dilapidated finger pier near the job corps campus and build a new one. The cutters would be reached by steel floating docks around the new pier. The Coast Guard plans to dredge more than 130,000 cubic yards of sediment around the new pier to provide adequate water depth for the cutters.

Robert Dorn, the CEO of Hyak Maritime and owner of the neighboring industrial shipyard, said the project could be a boon for his tenants, including Bergeron Construction and WCT Marine & Construction Inc. Bergeron could be involved with the demolition and rebuild of the pier, he said, while WCT Marine could build the floating docks.

"We're next-door neighbors with a couple of businesses that, as they go out to bid projects, will have a lit-

tle bit of a home-field advantage," Dorn said. "Competitors will have to (mobilize) to come down to Astoria, and we're right next door."

Mayor Bruce Jones, a former commander of Coast Guard Sector Columbia River, described Tongue Point as an ideal location for the cutters.

"Astoria is committed to supporting a robust Coast Guard presence and homeporting infrastructure," he said. "The growing shipyard and other maritime services capability at North Tongue Point make it an ideal location for an expanded fast response cutter siting."

The congressional delegation sent a letter last year asking the Coast Guard to site two new 360-foot offshore patrol cutters in Astoria. The larger offshore cutters are meant to replace the 1960s-era medium endurance cutters, such as the Alert and Steadfast, both

homeported at the 17th Street Dock in Astoria. Astoria is in competition with Everett, Washington, and the Seattle area for the two larger cutters.

Jones has said that getting the two larger cutters is critical to replacing the local Coast Guard jobs that could be lost once the Alert and Steadfast are decommissioned. The older cutters each have 70 to 75 crew members, he has said, more than twice as much as each fast response cutter.

"The sense I get is that the Coast Guard is leaning toward the Puget Sound area for the" offshore patrol cutters, Jones said Thursday. "If the (offshore cutters) do not come here, then it is even more important that all four (fast response cutters) come to Astoria, rather than just two, so that the net loss of personnel when Alert and Steadfast leave will be small."

## Plaza: Ross faces more than \$70,000 in back-due rent

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Ross also faces more than \$70,000 in back-due rent between May and October, according to Atlas.

The state Legislature placed a moratorium on commercial lease defaults and evictions in April because of the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

The moratorium expired at the end of September, allowing Atlas to start collecting rent again. The back-due rent during the moratorium is not part of Atlas' lawsuit. But that rent comes due by the end of March, according to Atlas.

Atlas claims Ross has refused to lease other portions of the shopping center to Providence, which occupies space in a separate building at the south end of the shopping center, and Chipotle, which plans to build a new restau-



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Plans to expand the Providence Health & Services' Warrenton clinic and open a new Chipotle Mexican Grill are being blocked by the dispute between Youngs Bay Plaza and Ross.

rant at the shopping center.

"Ross's refusal to allow Atlas to lease other portions of the subject shopping center to ... Providence and Chipotle is in bad faith and is intended to block beneficial expansion of the shopping center for other stakeholders in the Warrenton community," a lawyer for Atlas wrote in a complaint launching the eviction lawsuit earlier this month.

Ross's lawyers argue the retailer is entitled to a normal civil court case, rather than the expedited eviction process its lawyers argue Atlas is pursuing.

"Ross is entitled to a full and fair opportunity to litigate this matter on the civil docket so that it may engage in discovery and file a motion to dismiss or for summary judgment," the lawyers wrote.

Atlas's lawyers argue that Ross's delay has endangered the possibility of Providence expanding there.

"Unless Atlas can recover possession of the premises by (Nov. 20) — or unless Ross drops its objection to Providence's expansion plans — Atlas's understanding is that Providence intends to look elsewhere to expand," a lawyer for Atlas wrote.

Representatives for Providence have said the health care provider is focused on expanding services in Warrenton, but declined to share further details about where the expansion might be until a lease is signed.

Chipotle had planned to construct a new 2,300-square-foot building for a drive-thru restaurant by the end of the year. A spokesman for Chipotle said more details on their expansion would be available in December.

## Recount: Ward covers Uppertown east to Alderbrook

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Joshua Conklin, a local service sector worker, trailed in third with 301 votes, or 24.9%. Brook Boden and Heather Kelez dropped out of the race but remained on the ballot and received more than 15% of votes cast.

The ward covers Uppertown east to Alderbrook and Tongue Point.

Morley could not immediately be reached for comment. Hilton declined to comment until the final results are certified. The county has until Monday to certify final results.

Tracie Krevanko, the county clerk, said the most recent count represents the final unofficial results. She



Tom Hilton



Lisa Morley

said there will be a hand recount in the week following Thanksgiving.

"There's no telling

how long that might take," Krevanko said of the recount.

"I'm giving up to three days." If there is still a tie, Krevanko said, the county would certify the results for the city.

"Then it is up to the city on how they deal with the tie," she said. "They could draw names. They could draw straws. It all depends on what their charter states."

The city charter largely defers to state law on elections and does not address ties. City Manager Brett Estes cautioned that the election results are not yet certified. Estes said City Attorney Blair Henningsgaard is researching state elections law before providing guidance on what the city would

do in a deadlock.

According to the Oregon Secretary of State's Office, all candidates in a local race would meet publicly to decide the winner in the event of a tie. The method of choosing a winner is determined by the city's elections official. Susan Brooks, the city's director of finance and administrative services, is also the designated elections official.

"All candidates must be present or provide an authorized representative to participate in the selection by lot," the state's summary of election law reads. "The method of the 'lot' is chosen by the elections official and must be a fair and impartial procedure. This may include a roll of dice."

## County reports 18 new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County has reported 18 new coronavirus cases.

The county on Friday reported nine cases.

The cases include a woman in her 20s and a man in his 50s living in the northern part of the county. The others live in the southern part of the county and include a male between 10 and 19, a woman in her 20s, a man in his 30s, a man in his 40s, a woman in her 50s and a man and woman in their 60s.

On Thursday, the county reported nine cases.

The cases include a female between 10 and 19 and a man in his 50s living in the southern part of the county. The others live in the northern part of the county and include a woman in her 20s, two men in their 30s, a woman in her 50s and two women and a man in their 70s.

All of the new cases were reportedly recov-

ering at home.

The county has recorded 332 virus cases since March. According to the county, four people have been hospitalized and one has died.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 62,175 cases and 812 deaths from the virus statewide as of Friday morning.

The health authority on Friday reported 1,306 new virus cases, the largest daily number of cases in Oregon since the beginning of the pandemic.

The health authority tracked 8,199 test results in Clatsop County, including 321 of the positive cases.

The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association, meanwhile, announced a federal lawsuit on Friday to block Gov. Kate Brown's two-week freeze to contain the spread of the virus.

Restaurants are limited to takeout and delivery during the freeze.

## Relief: 'We want to make everyone whole'

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There was an initial gap of around \$600,000 between grant requests and available money from Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency. But Mary McArthur, the former executive director of the economic development district, said the gap is now closer to \$100,000.

"Bottom line, I think we're going to be pretty close to being able to meet all of the applications that we received," McArthur said.

Kevin Leahy, the executive director of Clatsop Economic Development Resources, said the group is trying to get around 190 relief checks out to county businesses before Thanksgiving, especially with the state's two-week freeze that started Wednesday to limit the spread of the virus. More than 210 businesses in the county have applied for relief through his group.

"We're all working," Leahy said. "We want to make everyone whole, especially now, with the two-week pause happening."

The supplemental money comes from a myriad of sources. Business groups have convinced cities and counties to repurpose remaining coronavirus relief funds, including \$50,000 from Clatsop County, \$40,000 from Astoria and \$40,000 from Gearhart. The Tillamook County Creamery Association has also allowed some of the money from its Hometown Resilience Fund to help cover unfunded business relief grants in that county.

A linchpin to filling the gap was convincing Oregon's Emergency Board, a bicameral body in the state Legislature that decides on federal relief rules, to loosen restrictions on around \$350,000 of unspent money from previous grant rounds. McArthur said business

### VIRUS RELIEF GRANTS

Businesses looking for grants to help get through the coronavirus pandemic can contact Clatsop Economic Development Resources at [cedr@clatsopcc.edu](mailto:cedr@clatsopcc.edu)

groups have been able to find recipients for most of that unspent money.

"All of the partners have been looking at ways to selectively pick out applications that came in that would have qualified, had they known to apply earlier," McArthur said.

Business Oregon launched a grant portal Thursday for another \$20 million in grants available statewide. But Clatsop County was erroneously left off, and the portal shut down in less than 20 minutes, Leahy said.

"It was obviously a faux pas," he said. "They feel terrible about it."

Nathan Buehler, a spokesman for Business Oregon, said there was an error but that some Clatsop County businesses were able to apply through other counties.

"Fortunately, we did receive applications from 28 businesses located in Clatsop County, which was on par with other coastal communities and regions of the same size, so we didn't see a significant drop-off of applications coming in," he said.

The county is also in line for another \$500,000 from the \$55 million Gov. Kate Brown pledged in state aid to small businesses impacted by the coronavirus. Leahy said he is working with the county on how to distribute the money.

"In terms of the application, the application process, the timing, that's all what we're working on," he said.



# VOLUNTEER

## PICK OF THE WEEK



### Lily

*5 year old Coonhound/  
Bloodhound Blend*

For Lily, it's all about loving and giving her devotion. She's a one of a kind treasure.

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