



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission could receive \$760,000 and would use some of the money to improve salmon habitat along the Columbia River.

Bonamici: Number of projects was limited

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Collin Stelzig, the city's public works director, said he's excited Bonamici chose the project and thanks those in her office who helped guide him in the application process.

"Sometime in the near future we'll see a huge change to Warrenton and these projects will help, and the next big push will be downtown revitalization," Stelzig said.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will consider the Warrenton route among a list of other projects for inclusion in the surface transportation bill. The bill is expected to advance in Congress this summer.

"There is a chance none of the funding will come to fruition, but we made the short list so even if the bill doesn't pass, people are interested in this project," Stelzig said.

Bonamici was limited in the dollar amount she could advance for the transportation bill. Separately, she was limited by the number of

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Rep. Suzanne Bonamici

projects she could submit for consideration via the community project funding process, which is meant to be an improved version of earmarks.

The 10 community projects she chose to advance will be considered by the House Appropriations Committee for funding for fiscal year 2022. Two of the projects are related to the North Coast.

One would bring \$902,500 to Astoria for

predisaster landslide storm drainage. The money would reduce the potential for landslides, improve drainage, prevent potential loss of and damage to homes and protect Columbia Memorial Hospital and access roads.

Bonamici called landslide mitigation critical.

"We know the concern about landslides and we've already seen landslides damaging

private property in Astoria this winter," she said. "It's a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it could reduce the loss of life."

The second community request related to the coast would bring \$760,000 to the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to upgrade and expand the Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction program. With the funds, the commission would be able to expand its abilities to monitor for ocean acidification nutrients and contaminants and improve salmon habitat restoration and climate change resilience.

Bonamici said better data through this program could benefit the state, both recreationally and economically.

"I'm going to be doing everything I can do to get the bills that contain these investments over the finish line," she said. "These all had strong community support and I'm excited about the next steps and I'll advocate for them as the representative of the North Coast."

Gizmo's: 'People are ready to get out'

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Andrea McDermed recently quit her job at Keepsake Tattoo to manage Gizmo's. Galen McDermed, a mechanical engineer, plans to continue his day job while repairing machines.

The couple started hunting down arcade machines along the West Coast and off of Craigslist after deciding over the summer to move forward with the project. They have since gathered around 25 pinball and retro arcade cabinets, along with an air hockey table.

"We have a couple multicade machines, which are the old-school cabinets that hold like 60 different like retro-style games," Andrea McDermed said. "But then we have classics like

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Simpsons, and NBA Jam and Gauntlet, Mortal Kombat."

They're installing an 85-inch television for Nintendo Switch console gaming rentals in a faux wood-paneled corner in the back of the shop, along with an area for people to gather and

play board games. The couple also sees Gizmo's hosting events, such as gaming tournaments and trivia nights.

"That's definitely what we want to foster, is people coming together again," Andrea McDermed said.

The Astoria City Council has already approved the couple for a liquor license to serve beer and cider. They are posting updates on social media and plan to open sometime in June, playing things by ear given the coronavirus pandemic.

"Hopefully, most of that is ... kind of in the rearview mirror," Galen McDermed said. "We were going to open regardless. I think it's ripe for it. People are ready to get out. Somebody was going to do it if we didn't do it."

County reports four new virus cases

The Astorian

Clatsop County on Monday reported four new coronavirus cases.

The cases include a woman in her 30s living in the northern part of the county. The others live in the southern part of the county and involve a female between 10 and 19, a woman in her 20s and a woman in her 30s.

All four were recovering at home.

The county has recorded 965 cases since the start of the pandemic. According to the county, 24 were hospitalized and eight have died.

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