

Bar pilots constructing dock outside 16th Street office

ASTORIA — The Columbia River Bar Pilots, who assist ships, crews and cargo in safely navigating the Columbia River Bar, are constructing a new dock outside of their office on 16th Street.

The structure will be a fixed pier, approximately 5 feet wide and 75 feet long.

Once dredging is complete, the remaining construction, done by Bergerson Construction, is expected to finish sometime this month.

“(It is a) use it or lose it kind of thing,” said Nick Christian, one of the bar pilots. “... Somewhere in the neighborhood of 15 years, we’ve had permits to do this and we’ve had intentions to do it. And we finally just said, ‘let’s do it.’”

While the addition of the dock won’t affect operations, the idea of building a dock has been in the founders’ vision since their office was constructed, Christian said. Additionally, the future uncertainty in getting permits along the waterfront, as well as the ongoing costs, played into the desire to construct the dock now.

The bar pilots do not plan to permanently dock either of their two offshore boats there, as they will remain at their boat house in Warrenton.

However, if the boat – the Connor Foss – that they lease from Foss Maritime, of Seattle, is out of service, one of their boats can fill in and dock outside their office in Astoria. The pier could also be used for any other necessary temporary moorage.

The bar pilots do not plan to bring in any new equipment or vessels at this time, Christian said.



THE TILLICUM HOUSE
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KMUN spring pledge drive set

ASTORIA — KMUN’S pledge drive is happening now through March 20.

The radio station provides news as well as cultural programming for listeners on the North Coast and in southwest Washington state.

The station has more than 30,000 weekly listeners. KMUN’s mission is to provide a voice for listeners in the lower Columbia-Pacific region.

Listeners can donate online at kmun.org or call 503-325-0010.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Rodriguez named employee of the year for transit district

Stephanie Rodriguez has been selected as the 2021 Employee of The Year for the Sunset Empire Transportation District.

Rodriguez has worked for the transit district since 2016 when she began working in Ride Care, the district’s non-emergent medical transportation brokerage service.

When Ride Care was discontinued, Tillamook County Transportation took over the brokerage service and hired Rodriguez. In 2018 she returned to Sunset Empire Transportation as a transportation support specialist.

Rodriguez has learned many jobs

and her knowledge is valuable.

She provides customer service for riders at the Astoria Transit Center, provides paratransit scheduling and dispatch at operations and assists drivers and staff.

Rodriguez keeps the Astoria Transit Center grounds and building clean and sanitized. She also orders and stocks supplies. Rodriguez is an important asset to the transit district, and her enthusiastic work ethic and humor are appreciated by staff and riders.

Rodriguez grew up in the Seaside area and is the mother of five children.

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