

Lighthouse: ‘We want to see these things taken care of’

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Davis agreed to meet with the group this month to discuss the lighthouse and what options might exist to get it on the path of being restored.

There are four lighthouses that Davis’ unit is responsible for overseeing, including the North Head Lighthouse — which is owned by Washington State Parks — and the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse. The unit is in charge of servicing the lights in both and upkeep of the Cape D structure.

One of Davis’ first visits as the officer in charge was to the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse, and he said he was “shocked” to find the condition that it was in.

“I can’t speak to why and how it got to the point that it is right now, but I know the reason that I can’t touch it right now, unfortunately, to do a lot of the rehabilitation that I want to is because I have no documentation of any asbestos, any lead abatement that’s been done, or anything,” Davis said. “Because of OSHA regulations and because of our own regulations about being able to disturb paint and repaint and anything like that, unfortunately our hands are tied right now getting it rehabilitated.”

Prior to Gebhardt’s inquiry, Davis reached out to the Coast Guard’s civil engineering unit for the region, which is ultimately in charge of the structure of federally owned lighthouses. That unit operates on roughly a five-year cycle of assessing structures, and Davis was told that Cape Disappointment’s last cycle was at the height of the pandemic shutdowns in 2020, which prevented the unit from coming to look at the lighthouse.

That unit was finally able to come to Cape D last month, and Davis plans on following up with the unit later this month on whether any of the safety tests have been completed, which would allow some rehabilitative work to begin.

One potential development that Davis mentioned, which received the most attention and surprise from the group, is the possibility of getting ownership of the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse transferred from the Coast Guard to Washington State Parks, which is what happened with North Head Lighthouse in 2012.



Damian Mulinix/Chinook Observer

The Cape Disappointment Lighthouse is in need of repair work.

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Jake Davis | officer in charge of the U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation team that is based out of Astoria

It’s something that the Coast Guard is in favor of doing whenever possible, Davis said, although he stressed that he was not guaranteeing anything and that he was not speaking in his official capacity with the Coast Guard.

“It’s basically a funding issue,” Davis said, noting that there’s only so much money that the civil engineering unit is allotted in any given year for performing serious structural work and that it is a competi-

tive process. “If we can get (the lighthouses) over to a parks department, or something of that nature that is comfortable with taking ownership and has the ability to upkeep it more than we do ... We want to see these things taken care of.”

If that’s something the group is interested in pursuing, Davis said he would help connect them with the relevant Coast Guard unit that handles such matters. In cases where lighthouses are trans-

ferred to private or non-Coast Guard ownership, he said it is his understanding that part of the transfer of ownership must allow the Coast Guard to maintain access to the navigation light and continue to service it.

“As a general rule, from what I’ve seen, we are very much in favor of trying to put lighthouses and structures in the hands of people who are going to take care of them,” Davis said.

Fish skin: Initial results of the study are promising

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to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Pacific Seafood, the Clackamas-based seafood company, which has a processing plant in Warrenton, funded the Oregon State study.

Despite the abundance of Pacific whiting, consumers in the United States typically favor salmon and tilapia, Kwon said. Consumers are also heavily dependent on imported fish.

“By focusing on this local, wild-harvest fish stock, we can draw some consumers’ interests toward this currently not-very-popular local fish so that way we can really help the growth of the local fisheries,” she said.

Consuming a variety of fish is more sustainable and can alleviate the pressure on more popular species, Kwon said.

The research findings

were published in a paper in *Marine Drugs*, a journal that focuses on biologically and therapeutically active compounds from the sea. Kwon authored the paper with Elaine Ballinger, of Oregon State, and Se-Young Choung, of Kyung Hee University in South Korea.

The initial results of the study are promising but based on a cellular level. The next step is to use animal models to see if the same outcome can be achieved through consumption.

If the animal models prove successful, Kwon hopes consumers will think twice about discarding Pacific whiting fish skin.

“It can be quite tasty, as well,” she said. “If you ever tried fish skin, and especially for Pacific whiting, it has a really mild flavor and softer texture. So it’s a matter of changing your point of view about that.”

Pressly: ‘I think (older dogs) are forgotten a lot, thrown away, kind of’

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At her place, which she refers to as a “gated community,” she has six dogs up for adoption and four of her own.

“It can be chaotic, especially around feeding time ... for the most part, everyone gets along really good,” she said. “They’re mellow, they’re great.”

While the coronavirus pandemic affected volunteer turnout, Pressly is grateful for any help she can get with cleaning the sanctuary or spending one-on-one time with the dogs.

On the first Saturday of every month, Pressly brings a senior dog to Petco in Warrenton in hopes of getting them adopted or fostered. She doesn’t push people to adopt older dogs if they aren’t interested, but

she sees several advantages to owning one if the fit is right.

“Usually, they’re house trained except for sometimes when they get incontinent,” she said with a laugh. “They’re not as playful so they don’t chew up things. They’re laid back more so you don’t usually have to walk them as far.”

Pressly often gets older dogs when owners can no longer take care of them, but sometimes she sees older dogs that are left behind as medical bills grow or families seek out a puppy instead.

“I think (older dogs) are forgotten a lot, thrown away, kind of ... It’s heartbreaking, but at least we can give them some kind of peace and some kind of love and we’re with them when they pass over,” she said.

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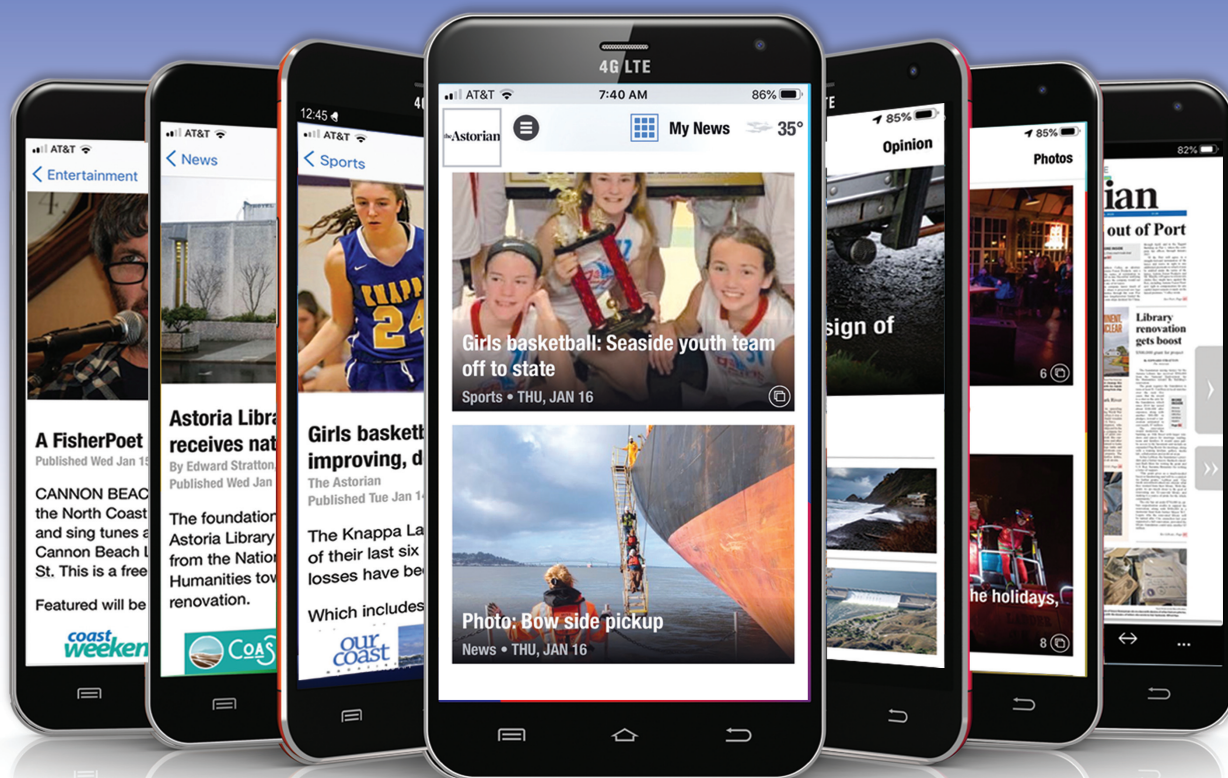
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