

Human remains identified

Sheriff asks for help in investigation of California man’s death

By The Daily Astorian

Human skeletal remains found near Nicolai Mountain in November 2011 have been identified, according to the Clatsop County Sheriff’s Office.

The remains are of Justin Anthony Eraci, 31 at the time of his death. Eraci was not a local resident and his last known address was in California, the sheriff’s office said. Items found near Eraci’s remains indicate he spent some time in Portland prior to his death. The Sheriff’s Office turned Eraci’s remains over to the state Medical Examiner’s Office shortly after for testing and analysis. Sheriff Tom Bergin said through continued investi-

gation and scientific testing the remains were identified. The circumstances of Eraci’s death remain unknown. The sheriff’s office is being assisted by the Clatsop County Medical Examiner’s Office, the state Medical Examiner’s Office and the Oregon State Police. The sheriff’s office is asking that anyone with knowledge of Eraci and his activities in northwestern Oregon, specifically Clatsop County, to contact De-



Photo courtesy of the Eraci family
Justin Anthony Eraci

tective Ryan Humphrey at (503) 325-8635.

Martin Hospitality gives Surfsand lobby, ballroom a makeover, opens up the view

By MIKE WILLIAMS
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — The Surfsand Resort carries good momentum into spring break with a newly renovated lobby and ballroom. The 3,000-square-foot ballroom got a makeover with fresh paint and new carpet, said Jerry Martin, general manager of the Surfsand and the Wayfarer Restaurant. Renovations in the lobby were more extensive, including moving a fireplace and adding a window. The structure was built in 2000, Martin said. It’s had minor work since then. The company altered the exterior in spring 2014 to make it match the exterior of the rooms. That made the interior seem dated.

“We realized it was time to bring the lobby space into more of the design of what the rooms were,” Martin said. Shifting the fireplace allowed them to add another window, which brings in more light, opens up the view of iconic Haystack Rock and helps the staff direct guests to the different buildings on the property. The new look features wood planks salvaged from bleachers at The Dalles High School. The project started just after Thanksgiving and wrapped up in early February. Staff used a temporary lobby in a couple of guest rooms and a board room, Martin said. Availability of carpeting delayed the project, he said, but they weren’t in a hurry. “We didn’t want to rush the project; we wanted to get it right.” It’s easier to do a project like this during the winter, he said. “Although Christmas is a 10-day run for us,” he said. “Occupancy level is 100 percent or close to it for five of the 10 days and it’s 60 to 70 percent the rest of it.” The Surfsand has 95 guest rooms in four buildings. Martin Hospitality, owner of the Surfsand, keeps guests rooms up to



Submitted photo
Martin Hospitality redesigned the Surfsand Resort’s lobby, including moving the fireplace and adding a window. This was the first significant makeover since this section of the resort was built in 2000.



Submitted photo
Jerry Martin

date, Martin said. Industry standard for rooms is every seven years, he said. Some properties go well beyond that. “We’re closer to that,” he said. “We’re always trying to make sure the product is fresh.” O’Brien Constructors was the general contractor for the project.

Hiring upswing
As of mid-February, March bookings were slightly behind 2014, but

April was even, Martin said. He’s not worried. The booking pace is a lot shorter window than it used to be, he said. Soon the resort will be hopping with spring break crowds, to be followed by the busy summer season. “We’re hiring away right now,” he said. “We need a small army between cabana service, housekeeping and catering.” Martin, second cousin to the company’s late co-founder Steve Martin, worked for the company from 1993 to 2000 before working as a general contractor. He returned to the company in 2009. He talks proudly about the Surfsand’s amenities, but the Wayfarer Restaurant offers plenty of potential on its own. “There’s nobody on the North Coast that competes with what kind of money we do out of that restaurant with breakfast, lunch and dinner and catering for our facilities,” he said. The company needs several layers of management,

a small army to run the restaurant, he added. “Once we get to capacity (at the Surfsand) the Wayfarer is where the big increases come,” he said. “Because they’re not just pulling from one hotel, they’re pulling from the whole town.”

Astoria Warming Center ends first winter as homeless shelter

City Council hears update on sewer work

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Warming Center, a temporary refuge for the homeless, has ended outreach after its first winter in operation. The night shelter at the Astoria Senior Center downtown was approved by the City Council late last year to help shield homeless people from the cold. The shelter was initially going to open only on nights when weather forecasts anticipated that temperatures would fall below 35 degrees. City Councilor Drew Herzig, an advocate for the shelter, has said the criteria was revised in January to 38 degrees or severe weather. Herzig told the City Council Monday night that the shelter opened on 24 nights since late December. The shelter served 56 men and 10 women, he said, with a total of 321 overnight stays.

The city had authorized a warming center at the Astoria Senior Center until renovations began at the senior center. Herzig and others hope to find another location next winter. In other business Monday night: • Matt Hastie, a city planning consultant, briefed the City Council on the Bridge Vista phase of the Riverfront Vision Plan. The city could impose development restrictions over the Columbia River near the Astoria Bridge and west of Second Street, add a new pedestrian-friendly zone in Uniontown,

and allow broader commercial opportunities. The changes will likely go before the Astoria Planning Commission in early April and come back to the City Council in May. • The state Department of Environmental Quality has approved Astoria’s request to extend the completion date for its sewer improvement project by six years, to 2028. The \$40 million to \$50 million upgrade is designed to help the city reduce wastewater overflows into the Columbia River and meet federal clean water standards. City Public Works staff told the City Council that the six-year extension will help contain increases in a surcharge on ratepayers that helps finance the project. • City Councilor Cindy Price has requested a discussion at the council’s April 20 meeting on whether the city should intervene with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the Oregon LNG project. The move could enable the city to have a say on the proposed export terminal for liquefied natural gas in Warrenton and the 87-mile pipeline that would connect Oregon and Washington state. • The City Council approved a proclamation designating April as sexual assault awareness month. The Astoria Column will be lighted in teal, the official color that marks the recognition. • The City Council accepted a \$10,000 gift to buy books at the Astoria Public Library from the late Susanna von Reibold. Von Reibold, who died last year, was a patron of the library until she moved to Florida. She had previously donated a mural to the library.

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Sponsors are NW Early Learning Council, NW Educational Service District and Clatsop Kinder Ready. Major health & education groups of Clatsop County are partnering to make this clinic possible.