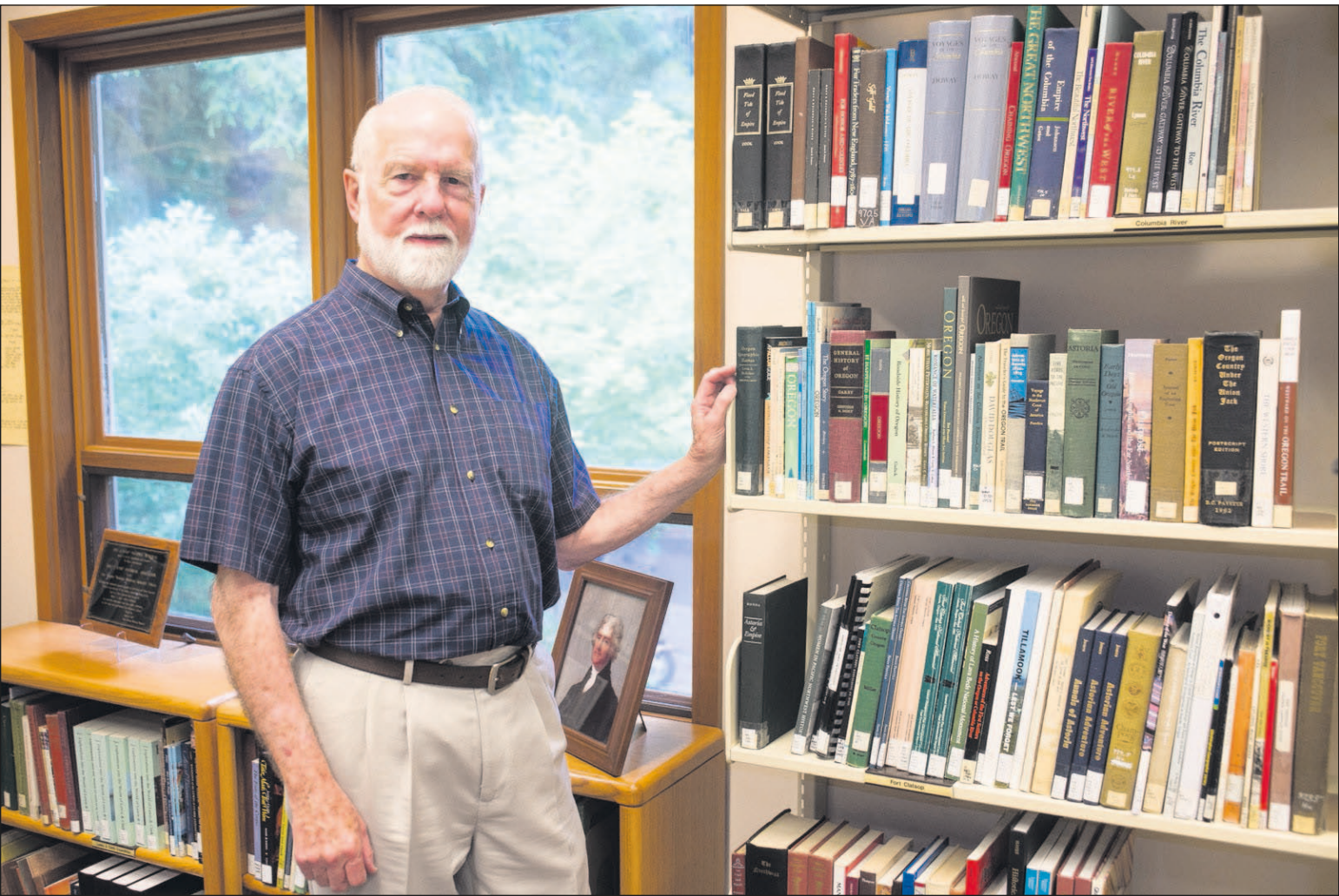




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Dismal, but documented



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Historian Gary Moulton has spent the last 20 years editing and publishing the 13-volume set of the Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition for the 200th anniversary of the expedition.

Historian turns Lewis and Clark journals into a narrative account

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Few people know more about the day-to-day of the Lewis and Clark Expedition than historical scholar Gary Moulton. The former University of Nebraska professor is the editor of the latest, full edition of Lewis and Clark's journals. The original journals are kept in Philadelphia and St. Louis.

Moulton spent two decades compiling the journals into 13 volumes. He wrapped the work into an abridged version in 1999, the same year he spent six weeks at Fort Clatsop in Astoria.

Moulton returned this month to Fort Clatsop as a scholar-in-residence at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

"His willingness to share his expertise with the staff and public both in the park and in the community provides opportunities for everyone to make a renewed connection with the story we are tasked with protecting," Scott Tucker, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park superintendent, said.

This time around, Moulton is working on a new project. He is revisiting the edited volumes to write a narrative account of each day of the expedition. He will summarize the activity on each of the 863 days. Some days may only describe the weather, while other days may detail a dramatic experience.



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Lewis and Clark historian Gary Moulton talks about the explorers during a presentation at the Seaside Public Library on Aug. 18.

He is calling the work, "Lewis and Clark Day by Day."

"A person could sit there and say 'I want to see everything that happened on this day,'" Moulton said. "I am simply giving an account of each day of the expedition."

Documentary history
Moulton calls his work documentary history, which differs

from the work of historians such as Stephen Ambrose, who wrote the popular book "Undaunted Courage."

Historians like Ambrose read the journals, interpret it and write their own account. They follow a theme or thesis to ask what does this mean? Why is this important?

"That is what a historian usu-

ally does," Moulton said. "They want to prove something or want to disprove something. That is not what I'm doing."

Moulton updates the journals with footnotes to explain new information on native tribes, maps and plants. He does not take the next step by following a thesis.

See HISTORIAN, Page 10A

A place to call home

Low inventory, high rents pose big obstacles

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

Anyone who has tried to rent an apartment or buy a house in Astoria since the recession knows the story: few choices, relatively high cost.

A draft affordable housing study prepared by city planners provides context that might help the City Council find solutions.

The study concluded there is a shortage of both affordable rental housing and affordable housing for sale. Rents and sales prices, while reasonable for Portland or Seattle, are too high for most middle-income families in Astoria.

Remodeling permits — in a city that celebrates historic restoration — have significantly outnumbered permits for new units.

The study's math, while striking, may have understated the challenge. The vacancy rate for the city's 4,887 housing units in 2013 was 14.3 percent, according to the U.S. Census

See STUDY, Page 10A

Step into the fray?

Port has options to run rundown waterfront hotel

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

A merry-go-round of suitors for the Astoria Riverwalk Inn — or their lawyer or real estate broker — showed up at Tuesday's Port of Astoria Commission meeting to make their pitches.

Port Executive Director Jim Knight had called the meeting last week to hear one more presentation from the well-connected Washington hotelier Mark Hollander, who has said he wants to bring a Marriott franchise to Astoria but isn't interested in an open bidding process.

Hollander, who operates Hollander Hospitality out of Bellingham, Wash., proposed leasing the Riverwalk Inn and a vacant land parcel owned by the Port near the Maritime Memorial, operating the 50-year-old hotel and constructing a new building on the vacant land. Knight has said Hollander is interested in multiple hotels.

See PORT, Page 4A

OLCC rolls out plans for recreational marijuana

'All marijuana, all the time' for licensing agency

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

North Coast communities have been scrambling to deal with the fallout, both real and imagined, of Measure 91, which was passed in November 2014 and legalizes the use and possession of recreational marijuana for Oregon adults.

Meanwhile, it has been "all marijuana, all the time," for the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, according to Steven Marks, the agency's executive director, at a lunch

in Astoria Tuesday.

With a looming deadline of Jan. 4 to begin accepting applications for licenses to set up marijuana operations, the agency has much to accomplish in a short amount of time.

It's job is pretty simple: Oregon statute gives them a mandate to know what's going into a product, to track the product along the supply chain and to make the product available to Oregon residents in a system that the agency licenses and regulates.

When it comes to marijuana, Marks knows the numbers:



Steven Marks

Of the 2.9 million Oregonians over the age of 21, roughly 20 percent have reported using marijuana within the last year. Of those users, about 30 percent — medical patients and "super users" — accounts for 70 percent of marijuana consumption in the state. That leaves about 70 percent of users — probably recreational users, Marks said — responsible for the remaining 30 percent of consumption.

Unlike Colorado and Washington — the first two states to legalize recreational pot — "we have a highly evolved marijuana grow

community," in part, because the plant is easier to grow outdoors in Oregon, Marks said. "In Oregon, we're transferring an industry in from an illegal to a legal system."

Sounds simple enough. But "simple" doesn't mean "easy."

In the pipeline
On the policy side, the agency needs to finalize the rules for licensing marijuana businesses and tracking product from grower to market. These rules must be in place before the agency can set up the online licensing application and fee system.

The agency recently announced 30 new full-time positions. A handful of these positions are policy-based

while the bulk are responsible for licensing and inspections. The agency hopes to have each spot filled by early October and the personnel trained on the new rules and system-to-be-developed before November, Marks said.

Then there's the "seed to sale" system for keeping tabs on the marijuana itself.

"Seed to sale" will require the barcoding of viable seedlings. The agency can then track a batch's location, including who grew it and where. This is, in fact, a standard held to all legal consumables for the sake of consumer protection, one that allows for product recalls and the ability to trace the product back to its source.

See OLCC, Page 10A

