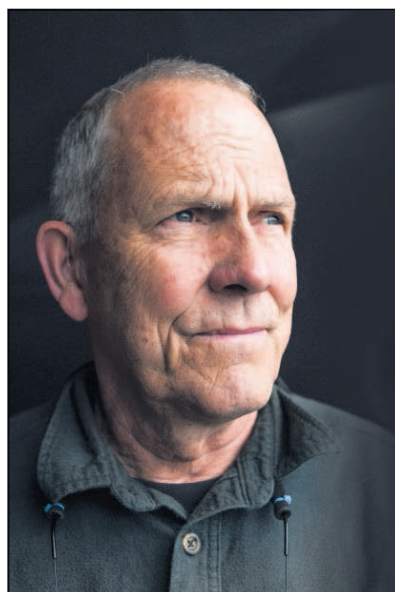




DOWNTOWN RALLY
FRIDAY EXTRA! • 1C

TRUCK ATTACK MARKS DEADLY TWIST IN TERROR
PAGE 3A



Building a better boat in Astoria

J&H Boatworks looks to future with owner's retirement and Port's new plans

Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Tim Hill is a co-owner at J&H Boatworks at Tongue Point in Astoria.

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Tim Hill stood underneath the towering hull of the fishing boat Taasinge, raised on a trailer on the tarmac at North Tongue Point, examining the rudder his company, J&H Boatworks, Inc., was hired to replace.

The boat's owner, Mike Haggren, had the Taasinge towed north two days from Crescent City, California, to J&H, unable to find a closer spot at any of the scant number of West Coast shipyards.

Despite having so much business — Hill has to turn some away — Hill faces uncertainty over what's going to happen to his main boat-working facility as the Port of Astoria decides what to do with Tongue Point. Add to that his efforts to create a smooth transition for employees as he approaches 70 years old and retirement in March.

"Personally, I think the industry for repair and building is ... I haven't seen the future look as bright ever, since I've been in boats," Hill said.

Sharing a dream

These days, Hill spends less time welding and more at Columbia Steel Supply, which J&H acquired in 2004 to expand its metalworking and welding operations. He organizes projects in an upstairs office with his wife, Debi, who has taken on much of the company's administrative and financial side since the couple married in 1981. The walls are filled with photos of the dozens of fishing boats the company has made or modified over the past 40 years. The windows look out on Miles Crossing, from which Hill can see his company's original boat shop on Wireless Road, where he and former partner Al



WCT Marine & Construction Inc. employee Jeremy Milligan works to cut out the outer-skin of a ship in order to remove an engine. The WCT and J&H Boatworks warehouses are adjacent to one another and the businesses sometimes work together on repair jobs.



J&H employee Kevin Eaton works to install a replacement rudder on the Taasinge.

Jacques started J&H in 1976.

A trawl fisherman before he became a boat-builder, Hill said he got an inside look at the Russian trawlers that appeared off the

coasts of Oregon and Washington state in the 1960s and thought he could recreate their design in smaller boats for American fishermen. Then 30, Hill went to his

friend Jacques, then at the Astoria Marine Construction Co. yard in Miles Crossing, and shared his dream.

Hill sold off his interest in his fishing boat for seed money — and later his house — as he and Jacques spent the next two years building the steel-hull, aluminum-house fishing vessel Milky Way, which they launched in 1978.

"We survived it barely, but we established a reputation that we do what we said we were going to do," Hill said.

J&H's second project — Haggren's Defiant — came out in 1980, followed by dozens more boats, repairs and modifications, as J&H tracked along the same ups and downs as the fishing industry.

See **BOATWORKS**, Page 8A

No place to roam, or stay

RV park on river closes, displacing tenants and prompting inquiry

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Residents are emptying out of the Pier 38 RV Park after the owners moved to close the park by September.

At least two long-term residents have retained an attorney, claiming they have been illegally forced out.

The RV park and adjacent Hampton Inn & Suites are both owned by Pier 38 Marina & RV Park, whose registered agent is Karshan Patel. The company issued a press release Tuesday saying it would shut down the park, although current and previous residents say the rousting started in June.

"Managing transient guests for (the) RV park has been a challenge for us and we agree with our neighbors that the best decision is to close the park," the release said, adding there are no plans currently to develop the property.

See **RV PARK**, Page 8A

Neacoxie barn faces foreclosure

Gearhart event center scheduled to be auctioned

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

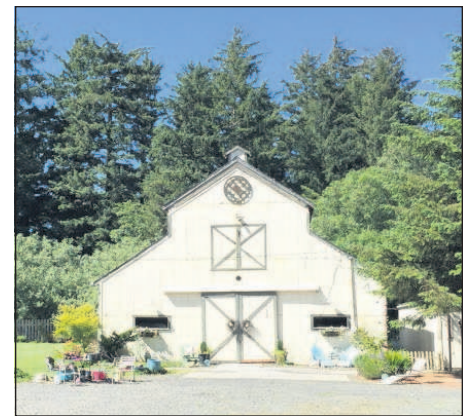
GEARHART — Martha Strickland, a co-owner of Neacoxie Barn in Gearhart, is facing foreclosure at the former livery stable on the banks of Neacoxie Creek.

"In October, the bank puts it up for auction, or it forecloses," Gearhart City Administrator Chad Sweet said.

While Gearhart's Shannon Smith is listed on the property deed, she is not listed as a party to the foreclosure proceeding, which appeared as a legal notice in The Daily Astorian. The notice of default comes after Strickland's failure to repay \$297,741 and other advances and expenses. The property is scheduled to be sold at auction at Clatsop County Courthouse on Oct. 7.

The Neacoxie Creek Barn, at 774 Pacific Way in Gearhart, has been used for weddings, family reunions and other commercial events. Without a conditional use permit and a building occupancy permit, according to Gearhart officials, the owners have put the health and safety of guests and residents at risk.

See **BARN**, Page 8A



The Daily Astorian/File Photo
Neacoxie Creek Barn in Gearhart.

Police work to bridge dangerous divide



AP Photo/Seth Wenig

Members of the Cure Violence group talk with a man near the Stapleton Houses low-income housing complex in the Staten Island borough of New York on June 8. The group, five black men and one Latino, all acknowledge past crimes or prison time. Mike Perry, second right, used to deal drugs around another low-income housing complex, two miles away.

Staten Island officers spend a third of their shift forging relationships

This story is part of *Divided America*, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

By ADAM GELLER
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — On an unusually cool night for summer, Mike Perry and his crew thread the sidewalks running



through the Stapleton Houses, tracked by police cameras bolted to the apartment blocks and positioned atop poles.

Perry's group, five black men and one Latino, all acknowledge past crimes or prison time. Perry, himself, used to deal drugs around another low-income housing complex, two miles away. Now, though, their Cure Violence team works to defuse arguments that can lead to shootings. Their goals are not so different from those of the police.

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