

Riverwalk Inn hoteliers get two more years

Developers have made improvements

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The Port of Astoria Commission on Tuesday extended Astoria Hospitality Venture's lease on the Astoria Riverwalk Inn through October 2018.

The company, headed by developer Chester Trabucco and fish processor William Orr, had been operating on a month-to-month lease since being chosen as the short-term operator nearly a year ago. Port Executive Director Jim Knight said nothing about the lease will change, except for the term.

Orr and Trabucco's work on the inn has been lauded by Port commissioners and administration. But Orr said the company needs more certainty to fix bigger-ticket items at the hotel.

"I think it's only fair we let them work on a lease to continue that effort," Commissioner James Campbell said.

Pointing down at the hotel rooms overlooking the West End Mooring Basin from the Port's second-floor meeting space during the meeting Tuesday, Orr said the company is replacing many of the railings and sliding glass doors. He has



The Daily Astorian

William Orr and Chester Trabucco, who operate the Astoria Riverwalk Inn through Astoria Hospitality Ventures, received an extension on their month-to-month lease through October 2018.

said it will take \$40,000 alone to replace an aging laundry facility in the hotel.

Through another of his companies, Marina Village LLC, Orr is in negotiations with the Port to take over operation of the Chinook Building, a commercial structure near the hotel. The agreement could include an option to lease the former Seafare Restaurant, a run-down building in between the hotel and Chinook Building. Orr has expressed interest in redeveloping as part of a larger, unified tourist destination around the West End Mooring Basin.

Still in court

Until now, the Port has kept the agreement short term until the resolution of a lawsuit filed by spurned rival suitor Param Hotel Group. After Hospitality Ventures was chosen, Param filed suit against the Port, claiming their rival's personal connections to the Port gained them favorable treatment. Orr is the brother-in-law of Commissioner Stephen Fulton, and purported by Param to be a friend of Commissioner Bill Hunsinger. A trial is scheduled to start in January.

Orr and Trabucco were

named as co-defendants on the claim they intentionally interfered in Param's business by lobbying the Port Commission. Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge Philip Nelson ruled the lobbying of a public body, even for commercial interest, is protected. A court hearing on attorney fees is set for later this month.

In other news:

The Port Commission voted to award the contract for stormwater improvements to Conway Construction of Ridgefield, Washington. The commission had voted late last month to go with Conway. Port Permit and Project Manager Robert Evert said the company will use about six local subcontractors for much of the work.

Knight said he has a tentative agreement between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and log exporter Astoria Forest Products regarding a labor dispute. The Port and the forest products company have been subsidizing so-called "ghost riders" — longshoremen who mostly sit in the passenger seat of contracted third-party log trucks taking timber between Piers 3 and 1 — to satisfy a contract provision. Knight said the company will buy or lease its own trucks, hiring longshoremen to drive.

Astoria man accused of luring a minor

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

A 38-year-old Astoria man was arrested this week for luring a minor.

Thomas Joshua Hayes thought he was messaging an underage girl online, but was actually communicating with an Oregon City Police officer.



Thomas Joshua Hayes

The officer, who had set up the fake profile online, notified Astoria Police. The case was not a coordinated effort, according to police, but simply a suspect that happened to be from Astoria.

Hayes was arrested on a felony warrant Sunday in Warrenton. He is charged with luring a minor, a class C felony. According to the state statute, a person commits the crime of luring a minor by sending messages or photographs of sexual conduct to a minor or a police officer posing as a minor with the intent to engage in sexual conduct.

It is common practice for officers to set up profiles and wait for a suspect to make contact, according to police. Officers do not usually go out looking for suspects online.

While messaging the fake profile, Hayes apparently wanted to meet the underage girl in Astoria.

He pleaded not guilty Monday in Circuit Court. He remains in custody on \$50,000 bail.

Hayes' criminal history includes previous convictions for burglary, theft, criminal trespass and drug possession.

He is due back in court next month for an early resolution conference.

Emergency preparedness focus of Bonamici visit

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — For a second time in two weeks, U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici was on the North Coast, this time for a town hall meeting Tuesday in Seaside and a visit to the Cannon Beach Fire Department.

The congresswoman's hour-long town hall attended by about 40 people at the South County Campus of Clatsop Community College followed a visit to the fire department earlier in the afternoon. While Bonamici touched on a variety of hot-button issues, including education, housing, seniors, jobs and health care, improving emergency warning systems on the North Coast was the primary focus.

Bonamici and Cannon Beach public officials met to discuss tsunami early warning systems and how to best communicate emergencies to residents.

"Cannon Beach is a great example," Bonamici, D-Oregon, said. "I really like the creative solution of having people store their things out of the tsunami zone. I appreciate the partnerships and the local, state and federal folks working together because we want people to be

prepared and we don't want to discourage people from coming over to the coast."

Leland O'Driscoll, University of Oregon earthquake project manager and seismic field technician, explained the early warning system used to detect earthquakes' size and magnitude through a network of seismic sensors. This system would be more available by 2018, O'Driscoll said.

The group also listened to the "mooring cows" emergency test warning system, spearheaded by former Cannon Beach fire board president Al Aya.

"We turned it into a marketing tool rather than fear," Public Works Director Dan Grassick said. "Our next phase is to take a serious look at survival and where we will put people post-tsunami."

Bonamici said she is still working to get the Tsunami Warning, Education and Research Act "over the finish line."

Cannon Beach has eight sirens, but the fire board eventually hopes to install more alarms in the southern end of town and Arch Cape.

"It took us a long time to convince people, don't be scared," said Cannon Beach Mayor Sam Steidel, "be educated."

Consult a Professional

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A:

- 1) Remove any DVDs and disconnect any flash drives, external drives, etc.
- 2) If you hear beeps, note the pattern. Look up "Beep Codes" on your manufacturer's web site for info on what to check next.
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Q: How do I clean my mattress?

A: The only effective method available to clean a mattress is to spot clean any soiled areas. The most effective method is to prevent soils or stains happening in the first place. The best way to prevent this from happening is to purchase a water-impermeable/air-breathable mattress protector.

Q: It has been a long time since I last visited the dentist. What should I do?

A: First, acknowledge yourself for considering your dental health. Most importantly, understand that you will be welcomed and given respect, understanding, and accurate information to help you determine your course of action. Dentistry has lots to offer to all who are ready.

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Q: What is the theme for Dog Day Afternoon this year?

A: Dog Day Afternoon is our annual fashion and carnival for dogs with funds benefiting Clatsop Animal Assistance! The theme for the fashion show is Astoria Clowns in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Astoria-Megler Bridge. So come clown around with us on Sunday, August 28! We give awards and prizes for best dressed and other honors.

Mary Altieri's goat, Alert, won the Pirate themed contest last year

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503-325-3211
www.dailyastorian.com

949 Exchange St.
Astoria, OR
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