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ONE DOLLAR



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

The Jia Da bulk carrier anchored in the Columbia River on Tuesday with snowy peaks in the background. Snow and sleet is in the forecast for Astoria today as the National Weather service issued a winter storm warning until midnight tonight.

Snowy weather forecast prompts area closures

The weather outside could be frightful

The Daily Astorian

It could be a wintry day. The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for the North Coast until midnight. "A winter storm warning means significant amounts of snow, sleet and ice are expected or occurring," the weather service said. "Strong winds are also possible. This will make travel very hazardous or impossible." The storm notice prompted the closure of Clatsop County offices, although the courts remained open. State offices also closed. Clatsop Community College announced it

was closing at 1 p.m. Final exams scheduled prior to 1 p.m. will still be held. School districts in Astoria, Knappa, Warrenton-Hammond, Seaside, Jewell, Neah-Kah-Nie, Tillamook and Clatskanie also closed, along with the Northwest Regional Education Service District's Clatsop Service Center in Astoria and Washington's Ocean Beach School District. Craig Hoppes, superintendent of Astoria School District, said school districts throughout the county had been conferring and decided to cancel school after taking part in a webinar with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which upgraded the likelihood of a winter storm from possible to imminent. "The other thing that makes me nervous is that ... the storm was supposed to happen

while kids were in school," Hoppes said. Hoppes said the district didn't want a situation in which parents would have trouble picking up children from school. He said it has been at least two years since all school districts closed at once. The schools also canceled all athletic and extracurricular activities for today. Warrenton also closed the preschool and kids care programs. Snow of up to 1 inch is possible near Astoria and Long Beach, Washington, according to the forecast. Federal agencies, meanwhile, have postponed a public meeting in Astoria to discuss the future of dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers. The meeting, which had been scheduled for this afternoon at The Loft at the Red Building, will now take place Dec. 15.

Seaside files suit against Shilo Inn

Hotel chain owes city more than \$100,000

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Shilo Inn owes Seaside more than \$100,000 in lodging taxes, and the city went to court this month to collect. The complaint in Clatsop County Circuit Court asks for delinquent taxes of \$112,574, with interest of 1 percent per month and an additional penalty of nearly \$17,000. It is the third time the city has sued Shilo for back taxes this year. "If you've looked at the complaint that I've filed, this is the third time I've had to do that within the last five or six months," City Attorney Dan Van Thiel said. "I take the position that any of the hotels or anybody who has the responsibility to collect that money is a fiduciary. That's the city's money." Altogether, the city is seeking to collect almost \$143,000 in tax, penalties and interest on Shilo's taxable room rentals of almost \$1.5 million.

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Submitted Photo

The Shilo Inn in Seaside owes more than \$100,000 in room taxes to the city of Seaside.



The Daily Astorian/File Photo
Warrenton could sue the Skipanon Water Control District and take over the Eighth Street Dam for flood control.

Warrenton prepares to sue over dam

The city would operate dam for flood control

By DERRICK DePLEGGE
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The city has drafted a lawsuit against the Skipanon Water Control District to take over the Eighth Street Dam and operate the aging structure for flood control. The lawsuit describes the dam

as an integral part of the city's levee system overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The suit claims an emergency exists and that Warrenton must reinstall tide gates on the dam to avoid the harm of flooding. Akin Blitz, a Portland attorney representing the city, gave the water district until a City Commission meeting on Tuesday night to resolve the dispute or face the lawsuit in Circuit Court. Tessa Scheller, the chairwoman of the water district, said the water district remains committed to removing the dam as a hazard and to improve

fish passage on the Skipanon River. The water district removed the tide gates last year and believes the dam is not useful for flood control. "We are sad to see the city proposing to waste public funds on litigation against another public body," Scheller said. "We have previously suggested the city engage in mediation through (Portland State University's National Policy Consensus Center). "It's not clear to us why they have instead chosen to go to court and to waste taxpayers' funds doing so."

Quiet title
The city has threatened to sue since September to settle ownership rights to the dam. Blitz has drafted what is known as an action to quiet title, which seeks a court order to establish property ownership. The Eighth Street Dam was built in 1963 with the financial help of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The water district obtained an easement from the city to operate the dam in partnership with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Cannon Beach adopts first affordable housing plan

Park models, code changes could come

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach City Council has voted unanimously to adopt the city's affordable housing task force report. The plan — which aims to create long-term workforce rentals for year-round residents — recommends placing park model homes within the city-owned RV Resort and

amending municipal code. "Most, if not all, of the initiatives end up coming back before you in a more detailed form as a fleshed-out proposal," City Planner Mark Barnes said Tuesday to the council, which reviewed the report in November. "If you do adopt this, some of this you'll see very soon." Each proposal requires additional action by the City Council, Planning Commission or Design Review Board. Barnes will present implementation measures at the



Mark Barnes

council work session in January. **Workforce housing**
Up to 10 spots in the RV Resort should be dedicated to park model homes, the report stated. The customizable homes, about 400 square feet, can be installed in the RV spaces and hooked up to existing water and electrical systems. The program could start with three to eight park models and potentially grow to 25.

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Submitted Photo

The city plans to place up to 10 park model homes at the city-owned Cannon Beach RV Resort.

