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Jackson Januik

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ONE DOLLAR

After trim, Pearl fights for height

Neighbors 'not too enthusiastic' about three-story hotel

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Antoine Simmons of Haystack Lodgings hopes to move forward with plans for a new three-story hotel, the Pearl Oceanfront Resort, on the site of the Inn at the Prom and a neighboring Beach Drive lot.

First he'll have to survive an appeal at the City Council Monday night that could set the plan back once again.

Neighbors Susan and Dan Calef, owners of a duplex on Avenue A, said the proposed structure on 341 South Prom "will dwarf our house, invade our privacy by placing hotel balconies feet from our upstairs bedroom and generally diminish the value of our property."

The Calefs object to the height of the building, possible fencing around their property and a loss of views. "In short, we are not too enthusiastic about it," Dan Calef said.

Because of an 8-foot grade difference

See **HOTEL**, Page 7A

Mortgage interest deductions get close look

Fairness in light of housing crunch debated

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A policy that allows some homeowners to deduct mortgage interest from their taxable income has become a point of contention in the growing pressure on lawmakers to address Oregon's housing crunch.

Legislators heard public testimony Thursday on a bill limiting that tax break, referred to as the mortgage interest deduction.

The deduction exists both on state and federal levels and applies to homeowners who itemize their deductions rather than taking the standard deduction.

House Bill 2006 would impose an income threshold for claiming the mortgage interest deduction, limit the amount of interest that can be deducted and eliminate the state income tax deduction for second homes.

See **DEDUCTIONS**, Page 6A



TRAINING DAY

DEPUTIES PUT UNDER STRESS TO PREPARE FOR REAL-LIFE ENCOUNTERS

Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Heather Senquiz, a Clatsop County Sheriff's Office parole and probation officer, participates in confrontation-simulation training at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds on Wednesday. The scenarios help build "muscle memory" in tense situations.

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

The scene was not real, but it looked close enough to rattle nerves: After a shootout at the county fairgrounds, Reyhan Higgins of Astoria emerged from a pickup truck, drew a gun, and ran toward a sheriff's deputy. He fell to the ground within seconds.

Laughing, Higgins stood up. "You didn't hit me!" he yelled at the deputy.

The scenario was part of a four-day confrontation-simulation training held by the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office for deputies. In four-hour sessions, deputies from the criminal, corrections and parole and probation divisions participate in simulations of confrontations they might encounter while on duty. Volunteer role players, such as Higgins, act either as victims, bystanders or suspects.

Muscle memory

The exercises are a culmination of multiple trainings held by the Sheriff's Office each year that include clearing buildings, defensive tactics, crisis intervention and shooting ranges. Scenarios range from a routine traffic stop and warrant arrest at 2 a.m. in Astoria's downtown core

to an active-shooter situation in a dark building with unidentified people running around.

Sgt. Jason Hoover, an instructor, said he still feels nervous before participating in a scenario due to the uncertainty.

"Everyone has that desire to have that muscle memory," he said. "Fifteen hundred correct repetitions create the muscle memory. Proper safety techniques can avoid confrontation through words and actions."

Instructors look for mannerisms and speech considered good practice. Techniques could be as small as keeping a door open and one leg out of the police car while looking up information on a possible suspect or telling bystanders to keep a proper distance before approaching a vehicle during a traffic stop.

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Photos by Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

ABOVE: Nick Miller, a U.S. Coast Guard maritime enforcement specialist, remains on the ground after pulling a weapon on a law enforcement officer during confrontation-simulation training. BELOW: Sgt. Jason Hoover leads officers through confrontation-simulation training.



Deputies work to ID body on the beach

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

CHINOOK, Wash. — Investigators are working to identify the body of a young woman who washed ashore.

"Basically, we have a body that has washed up with no ID, so we are really backtracking to try to find out who this is, and the circumstances surrounding the discovery," Pacific County Sheriff's Office Chief Criminal Deputy Pat Matlock said.

County emergency dispatchers received a call at about 7 p.m. Tuesday from a woman who said there were human remains on a small beach near the end of Third Street in Chinook.

Ken Walters, the man who found the body, said that while walking his dog, he noticed something on the sand that looked a bit like a human form. At

first, he thought it might be a scarecrow or a mannequin. When he got closer, he realized that it appeared to be the partial remains of a young woman. Walters said a brief prayer for her and went to ask a neighbor woman to help out. They returned to the beach, where she made the 911 call.

Deputies responded a short time later and confirmed that the remains were those of a young adult female, who most likely washed up with the tide.

Due to the state of deterioration, deputies believe the woman may have been in the water for an extended period of time. Given her location near the mouth of the Columbia River, she could have come

from the ocean or from somewhere farther upriver, Matlock said. Walters said an unusually large amount of driftwood and other debris has recently washed up on the beach, possibly as a result of a series of strong winter storms.

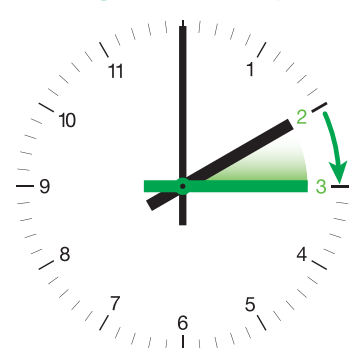
According to Matlock, sheriff's investigators quickly began working with the Pacific County Prosecutor's Office and contacts in other law enforcement agencies to identify the woman.

"One of our main focuses is to check all of our border counties," Matlock said.

So far, the woman doesn't appear to be a strong match for any of the missing persons cases along the Lower Columbia, but it's early days yet. Deputies are still "putting info out to try to elicit any response from agencies that are missing people," he said.

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SPRING FORWARD



Daylight saving time starts on **Sunday at 2 a.m.** when clocks are turned to **3 a.m.** Sunrise and sunset will be about one hour later than the day before, which means there will be more light in the evening.

