



## ALMOST THERE

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Work continues on Patriot Hall on the campus of Clatsop Community College in Astoria.

## Patriot Hall nears opening day on campus

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The Patriot Hall redevelopment project, started nearly two years ago, is quickly approaching completion.

Clatsop Community College's leaders hope to have the building available for graduation June 16, with substantial completion by the start of summer term.

The \$16 million, 30,000-square-foot academic hall was half funded by county voters and half by state bonds. The building will add a new 540-seat gymnasium, several new studios and classrooms, exponentially expanded cardiovascular and weight-training areas and a third-floor elevated running track looking out over the Columbia River.

How all that new space will be used is still a work in progress.

**'We know, though, that this building wouldn't be possible without the community, so we want to make sure the community will have access to it.'**

**Julie Kovatch**  
spokeswoman for Clatsop Community College

the college's community education program, said the college will start enrolling people in June for the fitness program so residents can access the building's training rooms and track. The program will cost \$99 per term for the general public, \$60 for seniors and veterans and \$55 for alumni.

Kovatch said priority in the fitness rooms and track will go to students. "We know, though, that this building wouldn't be possible without the community, so we want to make sure the community will have access to it," she said.

### Summer pilot

Don't expect to be doing laps around Patriot Hall's new indoor running track right after graduation.

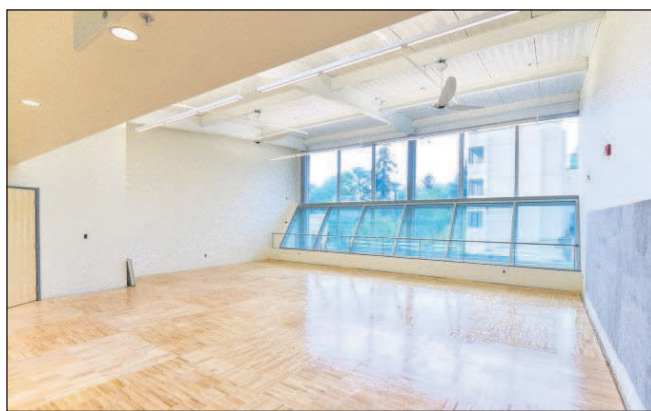
The college plans to open the building's main gym floor for graduation, then close down to bring in more equipment before a pilot opening of the building for summer term with several physical education and community courses. If Patriot Hall isn't available by June 16, the college will create a venue for graduation in the parking lot behind Columbia Hall.

"We're playing it pretty low-key over the summer," said Julie Kovatch, a spokeswoman for the college, adding the summer will help determine firmer staffing levels and community demand before a more robust fall opening. The building will initially be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Mary Kemhus, coordinator of the college's community education program, said the college will start enrolling people in June for the fitness program so residents can access the building's training rooms and track. The program will cost \$99 per term for the general public, \$60 for seniors and veterans and \$55 for alumni.

Kovatch said priority in the fitness rooms and track will go to students. "We know, though, that this building wouldn't be possible without the community, so we want to make sure the community will have access to it," she said.

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Submitted Photo

Patriot Hall includes several new classrooms and studios.



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

**ABOVE:** At the end of a long day's work at the Patriot Hall construction site, worker's safety equipment bears the marks of concrete work. **BELOW:** The new Patriot Hall building on the Clatsop Community College campus will include new classrooms, a gymnasium and recreational facilities.



## Astoria's Van Dusen Building up for sale

The Harbor deems remodel too costly

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

The Harbor, a regional advocate for victims of domestic and sexual violence, is selling the Van Dusen Building, which was once supposed to be the nonprofit's new headquarters.

The group has been based in the Norblad Building since 2010. Sue Farmer, the interim executive director since the quiet departure of Melissa Van Horn in September, said the Van Dusen Building, hasn't gone on the market yet, but has attracted interest.

"This sale will provide much needed financial stability, which in turn will allow us to better leverage grants, and in turn increase core services that support our mission," the group said a release. "How we get there, and how we create a sustainable future, is all a part of the long-term strategic planning currently being pursued by the board."

For more than 40 years, The Harbor has assisted in the intervention, recovery and well-being of survivors of domestic violence,

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## ACLU talk draws crowd in Astoria

Group reaches out to share its message

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon visited Astoria for the first time in years Thursday as part of a wider effort to reconnect, face-to-face, with communities across Oregon after the contentious presidential election last November.

The organization held a community forum at the Performing Arts Center, drawing an audience of more than 60 people to discuss legislation the group is working on in Oregon, as well as concerns particular to Clatsop County.

The ACLU is a nonpartisan organization "dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights" — a mission statement that takes the form of lobbying to support the passage of certain laws and prevent the passage of others at local, state and national levels, and providing educational outreach and legal assistance, among other actions. Thursday's audience was a mix of longtime "card-carrying" ACLU members, non-members and people who signed up for the first time after the election.

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## Women motorcyclists 'Flock to the Rock'

Touring group finds kinship, support in new event

By BRENNA VISSER  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH—Four years before leading 80 women on a three-day motorcycle tour to Cannon Beach, Ruth Belcher was terrified of driving on the freeway.

It had been 15 years since Belcher had last ridden a motorcycle. She started riding dirt

bikes with her grandma when she was 9 years old in Kentucky's Appalachian mountains, but took a hiatus to raise her two sons until four years ago.

"I realized there was something that I was missing that I loved," Belcher said.

Things were different when she returned. She said she felt "a little older, and a little heavier," and some of her riding confidence had waned.

### Reaching out

When she sought a way to reach out to other women

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Stephanie Luper, Mary McGee, Ruth Belcher and Dionne Haroutunian pose for a photo by Luper's bike. McGee and Haroutunian were both speakers at the event.

Brenna Visser  
The Daily Astorian

