

Fire: Law enforcement investigating

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Mattox, along with nephews, nieces and cousins.

The family noted they were thankful no one else was hurt in the fire. Although Mattox's home was destroyed, they were glad neighbors' property wasn't damaged.

The Safari Association is a

membership RV park, according to its website. Members pay dues to stay in the park's 322 lots and use various amenities.

The park, a nonprofit corporation, maintains ownership of the 20-acre property.

It's a crowded place and it does not have fire hydrants, which makes it tough to fight

fires there, volunteer fire captain Gary Forner said.

"It's a place that concerns a lot of people," Forner, a long-time city councilman and candidate for Ilwaco mayor, said.

Safari caretaker Dana Radford referred questions about the park to its board president but declined to provide contact information.

The Pacific County Sheriff's Office is investigating the cause of the fire and the fatality. Chief Criminal Deputy Pat Matlock said foul play is not suspected.

It took 23 firefighters about 2 1/2 hours to finish work at the scene before turning the fire investigation over to law enforcement, Weatherby said.



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Marla Olstedt carefully navigates a flight of stairs in the Times Theater in Seaside during a tour last week.

Theater: 'We're excited to get started'

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"The timing felt right," Utti said.

But turning the theater solely into a brew pub just didn't feel right, Utti said. Walking inside is like stepping into a time machine, with a much of the original 1940s architecture still intact. Many of the other features, such as the water fountains, old film equipment and reels, signage and even a movie poster from 1951, remain intact from a bygone era.

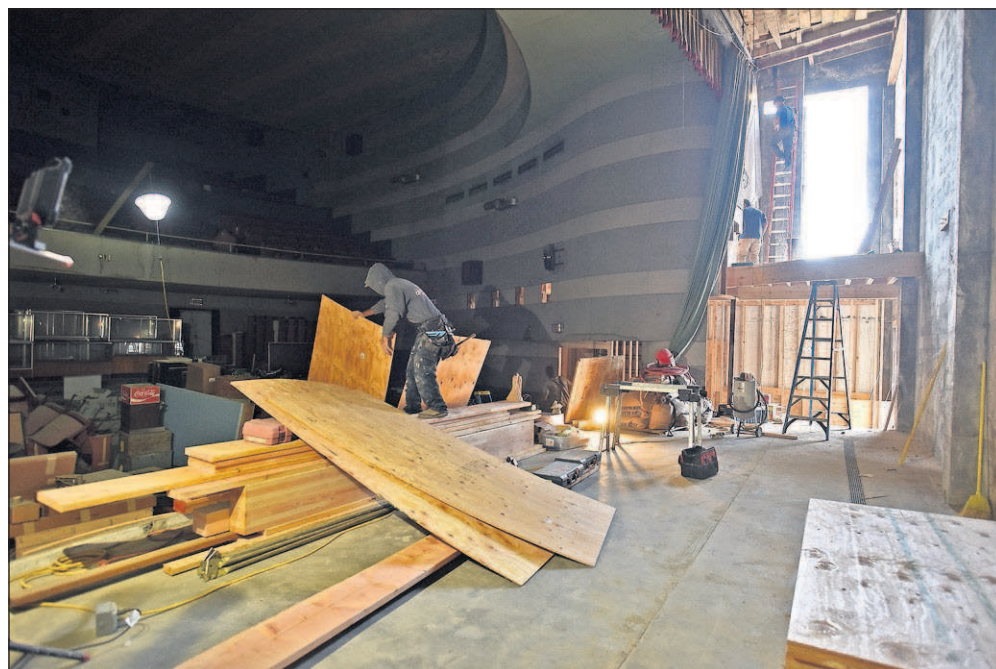
"When you look at the architecture, you just think, 'God, I just can't rip this out.' But opening up a single-plex movie theater is not enough revenue alone, so we need additional revenue sources," Utti said.

Keeping aesthetic

They aim to keep the old theater's aesthetic, though some parts of the building will have to be renovated after 30 years of dormancy, Utti said.

Marketing director Marla Olstedt said the people she has spoken with are excited about the fact it's staying a theater at all.

"This is a unique project



Construction crews use the stage in the Times Theater in Seaside as a staging area as they work to restore the historic venue.

because the locals are excited. It's in the heart of downtown Seaside, and there is automatic foot traffic," Olstedt said. "It will be exciting to watch the collaboration between the brew pub and the theater."

What beers will be brewed and what type of food will be on the menu is still under consideration, but the name of

the brew pub, Sisu Brewing Co., is firmly rooted in their plans, as well as Utti's family heritage.

"Sisu is an undefinable Finnish word. Loosely, it's a term for perseverance, grit, stubbornness. It defines the character of the Finnish people," Utti said.

Olstedt added that it also represents the hardiness of the

people who live year-round on the Oregon Coast.

"Anyone who has experienced a winter here knows this," she said.

For now, the company is focused on moving in brewing equipment by September to get ready for a January opening.

"We're excited to get started," Utti said.



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Jorge Gutierrez of the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council translates for Minerva Moulin at Monday's meeting of the Seaside City Council.

Seaside: Resolution doesn't make Seaside a sanctuary city

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Minerva Moulin, of La Voz de la Comunidad, an advisory committee to the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council, said she was happy Seaside passed the inclusivity resolution, but would have been happier had the vote been unanimous.

While city councilors may feel safe and protected, many immigrants do not, resident Guadalupe Beltran added.

"We as part of the community want you to be in our shoes for a minute," she said.

A show of support

Discussion of an inclusivity resolution began early this year when changes in federal immigration policy under President Donald Trump created heightened local awareness.

Advocates believe inclusivity resolutions allow cities to support and recognize the contributions of immigrants without getting drawn into the national clash with the Trump administration over immigration enforcement.

Seaside's resolution is similar to ones adopted in Astoria, Cannon Beach, Gearhart and Warrenton.

Resolution 3903 recognizes the contribution of immigrants and refugees "of all nations" to the state as workers and taxpayers. Inclusion and integration "of all residents of Seaside is a vital concern for the general welfare of Seaside in all respects. ... Every Seaside resident should be treated with compassion and respect regardless of national origin or citizenship status."

The resolution does not make Seaside a sanctuary city, a designation some cities have adopted to shield immigrants from federal

law enforcement.

"I think it affirms who we are as a community," Mayor Jay Barber said Monday night.

During public comment, Moulin told city councilors that Seaside's Hispanic community wants to "work hard and make sure our children are part of both cultures: the Spanish and the American cultures."

Moulin thanked the city for putting the resolution to a vote.

"It will help us to continue to grow and prosper economically," she said. "It's simply a gesture, but I think it's a really important way to show cities do support everyone in their community. Even though you say that you do, putting it on record is really important."

Law or policy?

Along with Frank and Morrisey, Councilor Dana Phillips also questioned whether the inclusivity resolution was necessary in a city she said has always respected its immigrant population.

"I really believe we are an inclusive community already, and always have been," Phillips said.

"Of course everyone up here respects immigrants, refugees and Hispanics," Morrisey said. "That goes without saying."

Councilor Tita Montero suggested a different perspective. "We sitting up here are white people," Montero said. "We haven't seen what happens in other places. None of us see it all."

Barber, along with councilors Tom Horning and Steve Wright, joined Montero in speaking in favor of the inclusivity resolution. Phillips also voted in favor. Morrisey and Frank voted against it.

Arcade: 'I'm not sure what's going to happen there'

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Brad Smithart opened the arcade in the Royal Building three years ago. He did not respond to requests for comment.

Building owner Jeff Bjornsgard had previously put a for-lease sign on a window outside the building. "I'm not sure what's going to happen there with the building," Bjornsgard said in a voicemail message.

Before the arcade, the building housed Deals Too, a second location of Bjornsgard's discount store Deals

Only east on Commercial Street.

Smithart opened the arcade while operating the Astoria Riverwalk Inn, where he racked up significant debt to government agencies and contractors through his company Hospitality Masters.

The city won a judgment against Smithart in November for \$118,331 in overdue lodging taxes. Susan Brooks, the city's finance director, said Smithart has not repaid the money.

During operation of the Riverwalk Inn, Hospitality Masters had been sued four

times by the Port of Astoria over landlord-tenant issues.

The Port filed a fifth lawsuit in November and is seeking more than \$400,000 in rent and revenue-sharing the

agency claims Smithart owes. The case has been set aside until a lawsuit by Param Hotel Corp. against the Port over the operation of the Riverwalk Inn is resolved.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

The Arc Arcade, located in the Royal Building at the corner of 11th and Commercial streets, closed Monday.

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