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ONE DOLLAR

## Lee calls for Thompson's resignation

Chairman cites commissioner's lost confidence of staff, others

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners Chairman Scott Lee called

for Commissioner Lianne Thompson's resignation Wednesday after a meeting in which she was criticized for her conduct and spending.

One topic included Thompson's interaction with a county staff member in June, which led to an independent internal investigation that found she "crossed the boundary of acceptable decorum." Though the county does not intend to take disciplinary action, commissioners chided her for the incident, as well as her response to



Lianne Thompson



Scott Lee

the investigation.

She also was criticized for claiming thousands of dollars in travel and edu-

cation expenses in the first quarter of this fiscal year, an ongoing issue since she became a commissioner in 2015.

"I think she should resign," Lee said. "She's lost confidence of staff and other commissioners."

The chairman's statement represents the latest escalation in tensions between Thompson and Lee — along with other commissioners and County Manager Cameron Moore — that has been building for months. Thompson said she does not intend to

resign and will respond to the additional accusations at the board's Nov. 8 meeting.

"This whole exercise was designed to coerce me into resigning, which I refuse to do," Thompson said.

### Spending limit

A financial report presented at the meeting revealed that Thompson has accumulated \$3,640 in expenses

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AP Photo/Molly Riley

A visitor touches a name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

## Memories stirred by Vietnam War documentary

About 13 million watched first episode

By JACK HEFFERNAN  
The Daily Astorian

Sitting at his desk in a small Alderbrook home, Phil Hertel peered through his three pages of handwritten notes as a "A Bright Shining Lie" — a Pulitzer Prize-winning book in which author Neil Sheehan takes Vietnam-era policy makers to task — lay on a dinner table just a few feet behind him.

Hertel, an Army veteran of the Vietnam War, was explaining — using the notes — his thoughts on Ken Burns' recently released television documentary about the conflict.

The film reflected a negative perspective of the war that has only strengthened with time, Hertel said.

"I knew we didn't belong there, but I couldn't articulate it at the time like I can now," he said. "It confirmed and detailed and provided one or two facts that I had not already gained from the study from the rest of my life or the mild interest in the Vietnam experience."

Hertel has become increasingly disillusioned with the U.S. military over the course of his life. Since moving to Astoria 10 years ago, though, he has connected with other local veterans and helped connect them with career resources. He and a fellow veteran spend 4 to 5 hours each Saturday night "saving the world" by discussing hot-button issues.

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## CASTOFF CONUNDRUM

Warrenton Marina puts derelict boats on notice



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** The Dixie Lee lies derelict on Tuesday at the Warrenton Marina. The commercial fishing vessel Master Chris is the largest ship in the Warrenton Marina on a list of derelict property. A notice posted on a boat in the Warrenton Marina indicates the vessel is in danger of sinking. Owners of derelict property at the Warrenton Marina have been asked to claim and remove their property. Find more photos of the marina online at DailyAstorian.com

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

**WARRENTON** — It happened at night — these things usually do. The boat showed up in the Warrenton Marina, its fishing permits already sold. Someone else bought it from the previous owners for next to nothing. They took what they wanted off it and left it sitting in a boat slip. It's still there.

Last month, marina staff issued seizure notices to the owners of seven derelict or abandoned boats in the Warrenton Marina, most of them older, wooden commercial vessels and ranging in size from a 26-foot recreational boat to the 62-foot wooden fishing vessel Master Chris. Often such boats end up abandoned in the marina because the owners get sick, or there's a death and the question of who has ownership is muddled. Others realize they've taken on a bigger project than they can afford or have the knowledge to tackle.

"I think life just happens to a lot of these people," said Harbormaster Jane Sweet.

All of the owners owe the marina several thousand dollars in salvage, towing, storage and disposal costs and could owe even more if the marina ends up needing to demolish the vessels. If an unattended vessel ends up sinking — like the abandoned 44-foot Western Skies did this summer — the costs increase along with the hassle to marina staff.

A state fund created over a dozen years ago to help offset the cost of dealing with derelict or abandoned recreational boats is fed in part by the cost of title registrations of recreational boats.

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## Local developer looks to add on to Astoria portfolio

Medical, money services to be offered at site

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Medical and financial services buildings are in the works for the vacant lot at the corner of Sixth Street and Marine Drive.

Local developer Chester Trabucco plans to submit a conditional use permit to the Astoria Planning Commission next month for a 7,200-square-foot medical building at the corner of Sixth Street and the Astoria Riverwalk.

The corner of the lot is owned by No. 10 Sixth Street, a company includ-

ing Trabucco, local accountant Stephen Allen and the late Randal Bowe, a local real estate agent. A conditional-use permit is required because the land is zoned for tourist-oriented businesses.

A separate 3,400-square-foot financial services building is not a part of Trabucco's conditional-use application, but is part of his eventual development of the lot.

"We're doing what's known in the industry as a build-to-suit," Trabucco said of the buildings, adding that neither of their intended tenants is committed until he can get the permit to build.

The financial services building would be on the southwest corner of the lot owned by the Bechtolt family. Cary Bechtolt said Trabucco has a purchase and sale agreement to buy out

the family after getting the permit to build.

The family has owned the lot since the 1950s, he said, when his grandfather was a local fuel distributor. The last brick-and-mortar store on the site was a gas station that closed down in the late 1990s.

"All we've really done is try to sell it," Bechtolt said of the site, which has briefly played host to food carts, a wood-carver, a street fair and other vendors and events.

Trabucco said the buildings will help fix a blighted portion of Astoria and complete a node of development including the Fisher Bros. Building and Buoy Beer Co.

"Having some activity there and some low-profile structures, it's a win for everybody," Trabucco said.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Local developer Chester Trabucco is planning a medical and financial services buildings in a vacant lot at the corner of Sixth Street and Marine Drive.



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