

College nears maritime excellence designation

Legislation signed by Trump

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

The passage of the National Defense Authorization Act has brought Clatsop Community College's maritime program one step closer to being named as a Maritime Center of Excellence.

The bill included language from the Domestic Maritime Centers of Excellence Act of 2017 co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore. It was signed Tuesday by President Donald Trump.

"This is huge for us," Bill Antilla, director of the program, said in a release. "There are a handful of colleges that could qualify for this and we are one of them. Next, we await how the U.S. Maritime Administration will implement measures and criteria



The Daily Astorian
Clatsop Community College, named Oregon's Maritime Training College in 2014, is nearing a designation as a national Maritime Center of Excellence. The designation could help acquire new training vessels to augment the Forerunner.

to determine which colleges qualify."

As federally-designated Domestic Maritime Centers

of Excellence, two-year colleges will be able to obtain support from the federal government to expand their capac-

ity to train domestic maritime professionals. The designation could help the college obtain another training vessel to aug-

ment the 47-year-old Forerunner, Antilla said.

"Not only does this open doors for resources and direct funding, it recognizes the maritime industry as a valuable occupation," added Antilla. "People don't always recognize what a lucrative opportunity the maritime industry can be. We need serious students in these programs to fill the demand of these good paying jobs."

The federal legislation for maritime centers was originally introduced last year, but the effort stretches back to 2004, Antilla said. In 2014, the state Legislature designated Clatsop the state's Maritime Training College.

A law passed earlier this year by the Legislature provided the college \$8.1 million in lottery-backed bonds to help add a second story and new infrastructure to the main building at the Marine and Environmental Research and

Training Station housing the maritime science program.

The college has six years to come up with an equal local match and spend the bonds. President Christopher Breitmeyer said the college will likely look at a large capital campaign supported by large corporate donors and members of the maritime industry.

By 2020, according to the Maritime Administration, there will be a shortage of 70,000 licensed merchant mariners, a high-wage profession. Another law passed this year called for the creation of a 17-member task force to study and describe the maritime sector in Oregon and make recommendations for the State Workforce Investment Board.

"We are honored and greatly appreciative that Congress is recognizing community colleges as training sources for mariners and marine technology workers," Breitmeyer said in the release.



Pamplin Media Group
Protestors demonstrate outside of Bullseye Glass Co. in southeast Portland in 2016, calling for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to shut down the company's operations during an air pollution investigation.

Federal lawsuit claims Bullseye was scapegoat

Company seeks \$30 million

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

The owners of Bullseye Glass Co. have sued Gov. Kate Brown and state regulators for \$30 million for unfairly targeting the company for elevated levels of air toxins detected in 2015 near the company's southeast Portland stained-glass factory.

The 80-page civil rights complaint filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court claims the governor and state regulators arbitrarily used Bullseye as a scapegoat for air pollution that came from multiple sources and for the state's lax enforcement of air quality regulations.

State regulators "used Bullseye as a scapegoat to conceal from the public (the Department of Environmental Quality's) failure to establish any program to identify or control toxic waste emissions from small and medium-sized businesses," the lawsuit says.

The state's actions damaged "the goodwill, good name and brand that Bullseye's owners had spent a lifetime building," according to the filing.

A spokesperson in Gov. Brown's office was not immediately available Tuesday morning to respond to the allegations, but the governor typically does not comment on pending litigation.

The Portland Mercury reported in February 2016 that the U.S. Forest Service had found high concentrations of toxic metals in moss near Bullseye's factory in October 2015.

The federal agency had shared the results with the Department of Environmental Quality, but the department did not notify Bullseye or the public.

"When alerted to a possible emissions problem for the first time in early February 2016, Bullseye acted quickly and conscientiously to address those concerns," the lawsuit says.

Bullseye was in full compliance with Department of Environmental Quality permits at the time that the agency brought enforcement action against the company, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit says the Department of Environmen-

South Hemlock cannabis dispensary 'dead'

Two shops are still in play for Cannon Beach

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — One of three cannabis dispensaries planned for Cannon Beach has dropped out.

Daryl Bell, who had planned to open a marijuana shop at 3115 S. Hemlock St., decided recommendations from the Design Review Board were too extensive to pursue.

"The application for 3115 S. Hemlock was denied by the Design Review Board at their Oct. 19 meeting," City



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian
Plans for a retail marijuana dispensary on South Hemlock have been withdrawn.

Planner Mark Barnes said Tuesday. "I've had no further communication with the applicant, so I assume the project is dead."

Nancy Benson, operations manager of PPC Holdings, confirmed Bell's withdrawal.

In Design Review Board hearings earlier this year, Bell had requested approval

for major modification to an existing commercial building for the purpose of opening a high-end retail cannabis dispensary.

In August, Bell provided plans for exterior building and landscaping upgrades, but the board asked for a more detailed plan for the property, owned by Limnes Investments LLC.

Bell was granted a continuance and asked to return in October with revised plans. When he failed to appear or submit revisions, his application was rejected.

Bell owns and operates dispensaries in Lincoln, Coos and Tillamook counties.

In 2016, he attempted to open a retail marijuana shop in a condominium complex near Pier 39 in Astoria. The store did not open, however, after the Astoria City Council decided the Planning Commission had not properly considered the residential nature of the site.

Two separate applications for retail cannabis dispensaries remain active in Cannon Beach, Oregon at 215 South Hemlock and Five Zero Trees at 140 S. Hemlock.

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