

ONE OF A KIND



Seaside Aquarium

A sea star relative that looks nothing like what people are used to seeing clinging to tide pool rocks is now on display at the Seaside Aquarium. The basket star's five arms branch out into hundreds of tiny branchlets giving it a bizarre twiggly, plant-like appearance. Basket stars live in deep ocean waters, usually among rocks and coral on the ocean floor. They use the hooks and spines that cover their arms to capture their prey.

Historic house on Alameda will come down



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

ABOVE: A house at 347 Alameda St. in Astoria has been the source of a preservation debate. BELOW: A sign posted on the house warns people to avoid the property.

Preservationists were divided on value

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

The owner of a 110-year old house on Alameda Avenue has called the neglected building a dead body, a cadaver. Now, it's going to be buried.

The Astoria City Council unanimously approved Ted Osborn's request to demolish the large house-turned-apartments in the Uniontown-Alameda National Register Historic District. In January, Osborn's request was rejected after the Historic Landmarks Commission ended in a gridlock vote of 3-3. Osborn, an architect and former president of the Lower Columbia Preservation Society, appealed the decision to the City Council.

A slow-moving landslide has kicked the house off its foundation while years of neglect have eaten away at the rest of the structure, Osborn argued. He and his wife, Wendy, who live in a home they built next door, estimate rehabilitation costs could soar above \$690,000. The appraised value of the property was \$250,000 in 2017 and is now \$189,000, according to Osborn.

No one debated the fact that restoring the building would be costly. But City Planner Nancy Ferber noted in her report that Osborn had not shown he had exhausted all other options to either reduce the cost of restoring the building or fund the work through tools like tax credits and grants. The City Council, however, found that the repairs were too costly and that the building was dangerous and of questionable restoration value.

City Councilor Cindy Price wondered what the city would gain from any restoration. To recoup his costs, Osborn would likely not be able to turn the building into affordable housing, something the city

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'I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT THESE PROJECTS ARE. I'VE BEEN THROUGH IT MYSELF. IT'S NOT FUN, IT'S NOT EASY, BUT IT'S WORTHWHILE.'

Doug Thompson | a volunteer with the Lower Columbia Preservation Society



Local legal experts skeptical of Trump's call for death penalty for drug pushers

Marquis, a longtime death penalty advocate, opposes idea

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

While President Donald Trump's call to impose the death penalty in severe drug trafficking cases has reignited the national debate over capital punishment, local legal

experts are skeptical.

As part of a plan to address the opioid epidemic — announced Monday in a speech in New Hampshire — the president proposed that penalties for drug traffickers be toughened, especially when they cause deaths.

"This isn't about nice anymore," Trump said. "This is about winning a very, very tough problem, and if we don't get very tough on these dealers, it's not going to happen folks. I want to win this battle."

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President Donald Trump spoke about his plan to combat opioid addiction at Manchester Community College Monday in New Hampshire.

AP Photo
Elise Amendola