

# THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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ONE DOLLAR



Clatsop Community College

Clatsop Community College is hoping to expand its maritime science program in response to a growing demand for workers in the industry.

## Developer dinged for overgrown property

Hotel project under microscope

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian

A developer who hoped to build a four-story hotel on Astoria's waterfront may be on the hook to take care of overgrown weeds around a shuttered restaurant on the property.

City Manager Brett Estes said Tuesday he will talk with Hollander Hospitality about the landscaping and tall grass on lots the Bellingham, Washington, company owns off Marine Drive and Second Street, home to the former Stephanie's Cabin and The Ship Inn.

The unmet state of landscaping around Stephanie's Cabin, in particular, prompted complaints from the community and from the Design Review Committee at hearings for the hotel proposal in June and again at meetings on Tuesday. Estes said if Hollander doesn't address the overgrown areas around Stephanie's Cabin, the city will proceed to code enforcement.

*'IF THEY GET ANYTHING THROUGH THIS, IT IS THAT THEY NEED TO LISTEN.'*

Jared Rickenbach | president of the Design Review Committee

In June, the Design Review Committee and the Historic Landmarks Commission tentatively denied Hollander's proposal to build a four-story, 66-room hotel next to the Ship Inn, citing a variety of concerns that included the size and appearance of the new building as well as how it incorporated the Ship Inn as a lobby and restricted river and bridge views. On Tuesday, both boards adopted findings of fact to reflect the reasons for the denials.

No one from Hollander Hospitality was present at the meetings on Tuesday. Company representatives told Estes they would not be attending, but asked to be kept in the loop on the final findings of fact. The reasons behind the denials could provide a guideline for what may pass muster in the future.

See DEVELOPER, Page 7A



Hollander Hospitality

Two city boards have been critical of a proposed hotel along the Astoria waterfront.

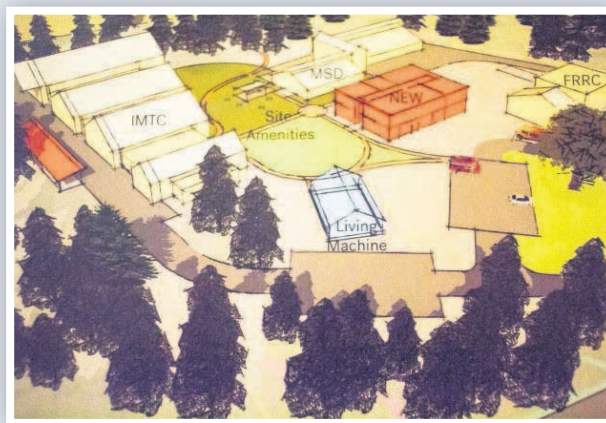
## College hopes to catch maritime workforce wave

A \$20 million expansion

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Some have called it the gray tsunami. With an average age of more than 50, the maritime workforce is one of the high-skilled, high-paying industries facing a large shortage as baby boomers prepare to retire. Clatsop Community College is hoping a \$20 million modernization and expansion of its maritime sciences program at South Tongue Point can help position the school to train the next generation of seafarers.

See WORKFORCE, Page 7A



SRG Partnership

Improvements to the Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station include a new maritime sciences building at the center of campus.

Clatsop Community College is planning improvements to the Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station campus on the eastern edge of Astoria.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian



## Holiday spoiled by rental scam in Cannon Beach

Renters lost \$1,400 after fake listing

By BRENNNA VISSER  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — When Carolyn O'Brien got a phone call from a family saying they rented her home in Cannon Beach, she knew something was wrong.

The renter, who asked to remain anonymous, had been to the beach town many times with his family over 20 years. For the Fourth of July, he found a rental online

### AVOID SCAMS

Tips from the Federal Trade Commission on how to avoid scams.

- Pay with a credit card.
- Be wary of cheap rates.
- Check the contract.
- Avoid third-party sites.

but was perplexed when John Robson, the person who claimed to own the home, never showed up.

A neighbor informed him there was no John Robson and put him in touch with O'Brien.

When the renter told O'Brien he rented her house



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Vacation rentals are popular in Cannon Beach.

on Craigslist, her heart sank. O'Brien's family exclusively uses the vacation rental site

VRBO. It became clear someone had copied her ad and scammed the family.

O'Brien filed a police report. The family was able to find a rental in Manzanita, but their excitement for the holiday trip — and \$1,400 — was already lost.

"The scammer knew we were receiving the whole family — including our 2-year-old granddaughter — and even that fact didn't faze him," the renter said.

This is the second time O'Brien's house has been used in a scam.

"We've been doing this for decades. It wasn't an issue before electronic booking became available," she said.

See SCAM, Page 7A

