

After \$1.8M in fines, a federal case

Vacation rental dispute boils in Manzanita

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

MANZANITA—A property owner hit with \$1.8 million in vacation rental fines has filed a federal lawsuit against Manzanita claiming the city's enforcement is unconstitutional.

Sandra Petersen, a co-trustee of the Kingwood Trust, which owns the home on Edmund Lane, was fined by the city in October for operating a vacation rental without a license and for not paying the lodging tax.

Petersen, who lives in Washington state, said the city notified her of the citations in one document, nearly two years after the first alleged violation in January 2015.

"When I got the letter, I was in total shock," she said. "It was very unex-

pected. I had no idea that I was disobeying any ordinances."

In a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Portland in June, Petersen has tried to block Manzanita from enforcing the citations, alleging the \$1.8 million penalty is a violation of the Eighth Amendment, which protects against excessive fines.

The city declined to comment.

Cities on the Oregon Coast have struggled to rein in property owners who have taken advantage of the explosion in the vacation rental market but do not follow regulations or pay lodging taxes. Some property owners openly advertise homes on websites like Airbnb and VRBO, but enforcement can be more challenging when owners are less obvious about their rentals or claim to be unaware of licensing and tax responsibilities.

According to a court filing, Petersen believed she

See **RENTAL**, Page 7A



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A section of railing is missing at Pier 39 in Astoria after a car crashed through it and plunged into the water Thursday afternoon.

Motorist plunges into river at Pier 39

Police say it was intentional

By **HANNAH SIEVERT**
The Daily Astorian

A Portland woman intentionally drove off a wooden bridge and plunged into the Columbia River at Pier 39 in Astoria on Thursday afternoon.

The 23-year-old woman

was able to swim away from the vehicle and get out of the water after the crash, which occurred after 1 p.m.

"Both witness statements and conversations with the woman indicate that she intentionally drove off of the pier and was suffering from apparent mental health issues," police said in a statement.

See **PLUNGE**, Page 7A

DALY'S

CRAZY TRAIN



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Jeff Daly turns on one of the Joy Train's many visual features.

A nod to history – and imagination – in Astoria

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Kee your eyes peeled and ears open Saturday evening for the Joy Train downtown.

Jeff Daly, an Astoria native known for restoring pieces of the town's history, is putting the finishing touches on his Forty & Eight train, a former American Legion parade float that will lead a motley column of vehicles along Commercial and Duane streets.

Named for the Society of Forty Men and Eight Horses honoring the box cars that carried American soldiers in France during World War I, the train was originally built by American Legion members on a flatbed truck after World War II and rebuilt several times over decades. The vehicle was passed around Clatsop County and went into disrepair as the people who built and maintained it died.

Daly, who remembered seeing the truck in parades as a child, spotted the decorative train engine of the vehicle languishing behind the Yankee Trader in Gearhart. He bought the truck — and, later, a rotting motor home from Knappa that has become the new platform — for what he is calling the Joy Train.



Jeff Daly puts the finishing touches on his latest vehicle renovation.

"We wanted to have something fun like the Glam Tram," Daly said of his open-air downtown taxi, a former minibus from the Los Angeles Zoo.

Helping Daly construct the Joy Train are a collection of friends with metal, carpentry and electrical experience. Derik Nelson and Kevin Sealy, fabricators with Columbia Steel in Miles Crossing, built the substructure and frame of the train up from the motor home

chassis. They attached the fake train engine to the back of the motor home using a forklift, and installed the window grates, ship hatches and other decorative metal items adorning the outside.

"Our day revolves around building random things for people," Sealy said. "You never know what's going to come through the door. This time it happened to be a train."

See **TRAIN**, Page 7A



A hand-drawn mural of local wildlife.
Hannah Sievert/The Daily Astorian

Bound together

By **HANNAH SIEVERT**
The Daily Astorian

Upward Bound students showed off their summer projects Wednesday evening at the Barbey Maritime Center with an art show, a photo exhibit and stand-up comedy.

The six-week program through Clatsop Community College is for college-bound high school students.

In one of the projects, a hand-drawn mural of local wildlife was chalked outside the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

