

A NEW VIEW OFF MARINE DRIVE

Columbia River Maritime Museum demolishes auto center for pond



Heavy equipment is used to demolish the North Coast Auto Service building.

Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

There is a new view of the Barbey Maritime Center and the Columbia River off Marine Drive.

Demolition crews have knocked down North Coast Auto Service, where the Columbia River Maritime Museum is planning a pond to teach young people about sailing.

The museum will take geotechnical borings of the ground and decide the placement of the pond, a minimum of 20 feet in diameter and 18 inches deep. Construction is expected to start in April and finish in mid-July.

A year ago, the museum purchased the North Coast Auto property from Denis Renaud. Sam Johnson, the museum's director, has billed the park as

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Columbia River Maritime Museum

The Columbia River Maritime Museum is planning a park with a pond for sailing model boats at the site of the former North Coast Auto Service.



Flyers with the message 'The KKK Wants You!' were found around downtown Astoria this month.

Man behind KKK flyers comes forward

Police are concerned with his safety after threats

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

A Washington state man who says he is responsible for posting Ku Klux Klan flyers in downtown Astoria told police he does not have official ties to the klan but wanted to attract politically like-minded people.

Astoria police have declined to publicly name the man because of safety concerns. He told police he received threats after he was identified through social media.

Flyers pasted on the sides of buildings this month depicted a klansman in full regalia and the message, "The KKK Wants You!" Along the bottom were pull tabs with a hyperlink to a server page on Discord, an anonymous voice and text chat website and mobile application.

The content of the flyers is protected as free speech. But posting flyers without the permission of property owners is a violation of a city ordinance. The issue will be forwarded to City Attorney Blair Henningsgaard for review. The violation comes with a fine of up to \$1,000.

"The individual advised that he does not have any official ties to the Ku Klux Klan and only intended to seek politically like-minded people to engage in discussion and discourse," Astoria Deputy Police Chief Eric Halverson said in a news release. "As a result of the postings, the individual reported that he has received threats, and others acquainted with him including family members have been contacted and threatened."

Halverson also pointed out "that threats of violence against individuals do not constitute freedom of speech and may constitute criminal conduct. Astoria Police Department has made contact with the law enforcement agency where the individual lives because of threats and related safety concerns for the individual."

"The Astoria Police Department takes all threats and potential threats of violence and hate crimes very seriously and will commit appropriate resources to identify responsible individuals and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law."

Chamber honors local citizens of the year from Astoria, Warrenton

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Local volunteers Ray Merritt and Jennifer Holen took home the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce's citizen-of-the-year awards at the group's 146th-annual banquet Saturday, while Albert and Debbie Little took home Warrenton's.

The Chamber Ambassadors' Choice Award went to Lewis and Clark Golf & RV Park, owned by Richard Lee.

About 230 people attended the

banquet, held at the Astoria Golf & Country Club.

"The Richard Ford Award and the George Award are among the most prestigious, highest honors our community can give to the super-volunteers in our midst," David Reid, executive director of the chamber, said in a news release. "It is more evidence that we live in a truly special place that we have not several, but dozens, of worthy nominees each year."

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The Daily Astorian

Jennifer Holen, middle, was given the George Award on Saturday by the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce for her volunteer efforts around Astoria. She and her husband, Christopher, background, co-owners of seafood restaurant Baked Alaska, received a Lady Liberty Award in 2014 for their catering of fundraisers and support of the arts.

New code enforcement officer in Cannon Beach

Thompson-Kiefer is a longtime coastal resident

By BRENNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — For years, Jenny Thompson-Kiefer got to know the world of vacation rentals as a house cleaner with a local management company.

Now, she will be returning to that world, but this time as Cannon Beach's new code enforcement officer.

"I've seen the other side, and now I'm going to be



coming from a completely different side. I think seeing the backside of short-term rentals and knowing what it's like will help in this job a lot," she said. "And, I know where a lot of them are already."

Last year, the city decided to hire a code enforcement officer after not having one since the 1990s. Thompson-Kiefer will look at everything from design review and planning codes

to vacation rentals.

Thompson-Kiefer's journey to this job started about 20 years ago as an 18-year-old girl in the Columbia River Gorge with a dream to go into law enforcement. After high school, she began college but left early when "life unfolded," and eventually moved around and worked a variety of jobs.

In 2004, she made it out to the coast, where she was drawn by the natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities.

"I love the coast, the beach, the atmosphere," she



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

Jenny Thompson-Kiefer joined the Cannon Beach Police Department as the new code enforcement officer this month.

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