



TIME TO WINE

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Seaside firefighter Cody Parry pulls out a drawer of oxygen tanks and equipment from the station's new fire engine during an open house on Saturday. With more resources, the Seaside Fire Department will sometimes aid the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District during rescues.

Cannon Beach fire district looking for ways to sustain operations

Struggle is not uncommon for rural districts

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District is exploring options to increase revenue to sustain operations.

The struggle is not uncommon for rural fire districts. Agencies throughout Clatsop County have reported steep increases in call volumes over the past decade, along with a dwindling number of volunteer firefighters.

Staff and volunteers are left stretched thin, which has contributed to the turnover of fire chiefs in Cannon Beach.

"The old adage has always been, 'We're going to do more with less.' And I think the fire service has done that, but I think it's gotten to a point in many districts, including ours, that we just can't sustain. We really cannot sustain functions with what we have," said Marc Reckmann, the interim Cannon Beach fire chief.

The fire district's board is deciding whether to ask voters to approve a levy in May.

The additional revenue is needed to hire a second commanding officer and replace aging equipment while developing a replacement cycle to reduce maintenance costs.

The board has looked at different options for funding to avoid burdening taxpayers, but options are limited.

Fire districts draw revenue from property taxes and, unlike city fire

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Firefighters' coats, boots and helmets hang on the wall of the Seaside Fire Station.



'WE REALLY CANNOT SUSTAIN FUNCTIONS WITH WHAT WE HAVE.'

Marc Reckmann |
interim Cannon Beach
fire chief

ASTORIA | PACIFIC SEAFOOD

Dorms under review

Neighbors complain about traffic, safety and noise

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Pacific Seafood confronted a wave of community concerns Tuesday over a proposed 125-worker dormitory in the former drug treatment center at Astoria Pointe.

The seafood processor applied for a one-year conditional use permit at the nearly 16,000-square-foot building off Exchange Street in Uniontown. The building, opened as a nursing home in 1966 and reopened as a drug treatment center in 2006, closed two years ago and has since sat vacant.

The property, surrounded by single-family homes and narrow, hilly streets without sidewalks, is zoned for high-density residential. Neighbors came out in droves to City Hall on Tuesday to raise concerns about traffic, safety, noise and other impacts they argue will result from moving so many workers into a quiet neighborhood.

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Wauna-Astoria rail line goes dormant

Railroad waiting for a new idea

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Portland & Western Railroad Inc. has put the 22.6-mile line from Wauna to Astoria into dormant mode with federal regulators until a new idea comes along.

The company applied for a discontinuance of service exemption with the federal Surface Transportation Board certifying the line hadn't been used in years and had no potential new traffic coming.

"The filing is essentially a technicality to provide the proper federal status for this section of track, reflecting that it's been out of service for many years due to landslides and washouts," Michael Williams, a spokesman for Portland & Western's parent company, Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services Inc., said in an email. "We have no intention of abandoning it as we're always seeking viable future business for which it could be restored."

The segment is part of the nearly 100-mile Astoria Branch that runs along the Oregon side of the Columbia River to Portland. The line is still active from

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Family preps for downtown tiki bar

A place called Dead Man's Isle

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Astoria could be getting another tiki bar sooner than expected.

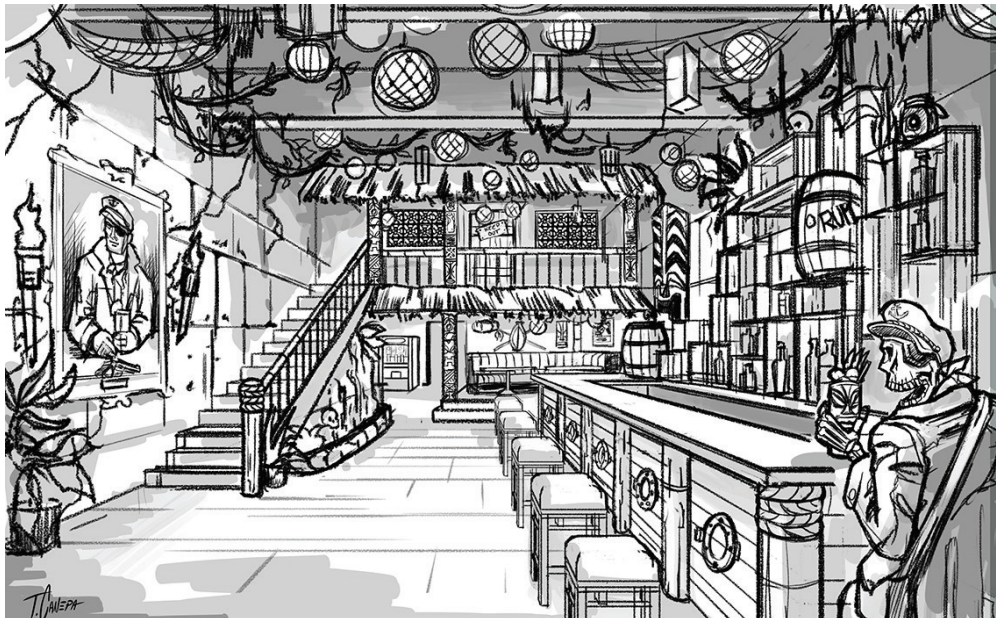
The family behind Munkitiki, a tiki mug company and art gallery on Duane Street, is holding a sold-out anniversary party in April and putting out limited editions of their tiki mugs to kick-start fundraising for Dead Man's Isle, the tiki bar they're planning next to the gallery.

Paul Nielsen and his wife, Debra Dun-

agan, along with son Miles Nielsen and daughter-in-law Annie Van Dyke, run Munkitiki, whose ceramic and stoneware mugs have turned up in bars across the U.S. over the past 20 years. They also operate Munkstein, a newer venture of humorous and dark beer steins.

Over the past year, the family has fixed up the former Charter Communications building into a chic, midcentury art gallery filled with the works of Dunagan, along with their mugs and steins, with a loft upstairs for the parents.

Next door will be Dead Man's Isle, a new tiki bar they initially hoped to build out in several years. It would be the first in the city since the closure of Charlie's Chowder House and Tiki Bar last year.



Munkitiki



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The conceptual design of Dead Man's Isle.