

Tiki bar: Ceiling filled with nets, floats, lanterns

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Everybody coming into the gallery keeps asking when the tiki bar is going to open, Miles Nielsen said. The family didn't want to simply ask people for money without giving them anything in return, he said. The family organized a 20th anniversary party for Munktiki on April 4, and 100 tickets sold out in minutes. The party will also mark the launch of customized, limited-edition mugs to raise money for Dead Man's Isle.

What doesn't sell at the party will be available at Munktiki afterward. The family will then release more customized, limited-edition mugs on their website, charging a bit more than usual as they save up to open the tiki bar without taking out a massive loan, Van Dyke said. One mug will be the skull of Sloth, a character from "The Goonies," which will also be memorialized at the bar with a rum drink called Never Say Die. The ceiling of Dead Man's Isle next to the gallery is already filling with nets, floats, glowing fish lanterns and other nautical and



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

The family behind Munktiki, a tiki mug company and art gallery on Duane Street in Astoria, has begun construction on Dead Man's Isle, a tiki bar they plan to open next door by the end of the year.

tropical tchotchkes.

"The whole space is supposed to be like this captain got ... stuck on an island and has been reclaiming stuff from other wrecked boats and whatnot," Miles Nielsen said. A mezzanine up above will take on the feel of a tiki shack built by the captain, while the downstairs will have a more scavenged, nautical, "Swiss Family Robinson" vibe. The full-

size skeletal remains of the captain will be permanently hunched over the bar holding a cocktail. A special effect reminiscent of a lightning storm will go off each time a customer orders the bar's signature drink. A collection of historical tiki mugs will be on display. One vending machine will dispense tiki mugs, while another vintage coin-operated prize machine will pop out tiki trinkets in plastic

eggs. The family hopes to open the bar by the end of the year, but doesn't make any promises while running their tiki mug and stein companies. Their home tiki bars have become a standard of tiki bar excellence featured by The Oregonian and other news outlets. "We just have a lot going on, so we're not going to pressure ourselves," Van Dyke said.

Dorms: Neighbors argue facility not fit for so many

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City staff recommended approval of the company's application with several conditions. The permit would last a year. The company would provide three shuttle buses to take most workers to and from Pacific Seafood's processing plant in Warrenton and for shopping. No more than 13 employee vehicles would be allowed to park at the dorms. The company would also have to add 24 bike spaces. Pacific Seafood was recently approved by the Warrenton City Commission to turn part of a machine shop in Hammond into a 70-bed bunkhouse, which could increase to 90 beds after a one-year trial. The approval followed a good-neighbor agreement approved by the company and city to govern the behavior of residents and the eviction process. Mike Robinson, the company's attorney, and Mike Miliucci, another attorney and manager of special projects, argued the dorms are necessary to allow the new

Warrenton plant to operate at full capacity in the busy summer months and not take away from the region's housing stock. Miliucci said he was tasked 1 1/2 years ago with finding housing along the Oregon and Washington state coasts for Pacific Seafood's workers but ran into a housing market just as tight as Portland, with apartments running on average \$1,250 a month, he said. Workers in the company's rented housing, who pay about \$10 a day, have to abide by house rules for good behavior or risk losing a place to stay while they work, Miliucci said. He argued the company has a proven track record of providing worker housing, including about 60 workers in rented cottages in Westport, Washington, 60 workers housed in Warrenton and about 200 in rented motels and hotels elsewhere along the coast during the summer. "They work very hard, and at the end of the day, they just want to go home at the living quarters and eat and

sleep," he said. Neighbors worried about the impact of so many people. David Gasser, who lives on the eastern edge of the Astoria Pointe property and was one of about 10 neighbors testifying against the project, said he experienced damaged fences, dented walls and noise issues with just 20 to 40 people in the treatment center. "The idea of 125 people coming and going at 4 in the morning," he said. "I simply don't know how I would stay there, because it would be too noisy, too smoky and intolerable. I want cheap housing, but I'm 20 feet from the east door." Neighbors argued the facility and neighborhood is not fit for so many people and will lead to decreased property values and increased danger for pedestrians. They called for a lower number of workers to be housed at the treatment center, which Miliucci said once housed nearly 80 people. "I think this is an accident waiting to happen," said Scott Fenton, who lives

nearby. "The living conditions for the workers? Let's be honest. This is a barracks." Tammy Sanderson, a real estate consultant with John L. Scott Realty representing building owner Eleanor Dooner, said allowing Pacific Seafood to lease the building will help keep her client's property value up. Dooner, who lives in Memphis, Tennessee, and her late husband, Bill, a recovering alcoholic, opened drug and alcohol treatment centers around the country. But lowering insurance reimbursements made the treatment center financially infeasible, she said. Pacific Seafood asked that the hearing be continued to next Tuesday so it could address concerns that were raised and craft a draft good-neighbor agreement for Astoria. Miliucci said the company is willing to listen to neighbors' concerns and make changes, including a lower number of workers than the 125 proposed. "I'm willing to talk to the neighbors about 80" residents, Miliucci said. "It doesn't have to be 120."

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