



INSIDE

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Steve Petersen steers the John M with owner Kent Craford's two sons aboard on the Skipanon River in Warrenton. Petersen and local shipwright Ric Lahti rebuilt the historic gillnet boat.

New life for the John M

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Kent Craford's wife used to joke that she'd probably have to bury him in the old gillnet boat he bought on a whim when they were young and broke and that for years his children called "the rusty boat."

Many people's boat dreams have sunk at the dock — to the despair of marina managers everywhere. But not the John M, Craford's 113-year old wooden fishing boat. Yes, it nearly sank one day in 2010 when the pump failed and rainwater filled it. That was a turning point.

Craford, who spent summers in Forest Grove and sailed with his grandfather on the Columbia River and around Puget Island, is the co-owner of Alaska Seaplanes. He remembers looking at the John M and thinking, "I need to sell this boat or really do something about it."

Nearly 10 years later, the John M is ready to launch again. Rebuilt by local shipwrights Ric Lahti and Steve Petersen, the John M preserves a shape that regional historians and boatbuilders say is almost impossible to find anymore even though such boats once formed the backbone of Columbia River salmon fishing.

"I think it's an incredible piece of our region's maritime history," Craford said. "It's one of a kind."



Katie Frankowicz/The Astorian

Kent Craford examines original pieces of the John M that did not make it back into the rebuild.

It's among the oldest of its kind and it's just a delight to be able to use it and to have another generation of kids — my kids and others — have some connection to it and to the river history."

He knows how quickly that history is fading, how easy it is for old boats to melt away into the landscape.

'Boat nut'

Craford first saw the John M "looking forlorn" at the Elochoman Slough Marina in Cathlamet, Washington, in 1999.

His grandfather, a "boat nut" who particularly loved old wooden boats, used to take him to the docks in Astoria and Ilwaco and Nahcotta. Craford knew what he was looking at, and exactly how rare it was to see.

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Previous owners of the John M take the boat out for a ride.

Kent Craford

Seaside will start school remotely over virus

New campus still under construction

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — There will still be some construction activity at the new school campus even after students return to in-person classes later this fall.

Seaside Superintendent Susan Penrod on Tuesday recommended starting the school year with a distance learning model for the first six weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic before returning to in-person learning in late October. Students can also opt for 100% online learning.

During a recent quality control check, random testing revealed the weather barrier on parts of the high school and middle school was thinner than specified, Cary Bubenik, operations manager for

Hoffman Construction, said at Tuesday's citizen oversight committee on school construction.

The weather barrier, a sprayed-on application, allows the substrate to breathe but prevents moisture from getting into the building. While considered adequate, the construction team chose to replace the barrier.

The area impacted is a portion of the building between the middle school gym at the north end and the high school gym at the south.

"We're going to reapply the weather barrier and we've ordered new brick and brick veneer, and (will) reinstall the metal panels at no cost to the project," Bubenik said.

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Warrenton talks turn fowl

Some residents upset about chickens

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

WARRENTON — Chickens technically aren't allowed on properties of less than 1 acre in Warrenton, although the city has mostly looked the other way as long as neighbors don't complain.

But after a neighborhood dispute over a coop in Hammond, the City Commission is looking at how to better govern fowl.

Ben Garber owns Dock 420 B&B, a marijuana-friendly homestay lodging near Fort Stevens State Park. He lives on the property and rents out most of it to help cover his mortgage and travel.

Garber unsuccessfully tried to bring a box of dead flies into City Commission chambers Tuesday. He told commissioners the flies had come from a coop

next door, where he said the neighbors had amassed 12 hens, a rooster and several ducks.

On Wednesday at his house, he held aloft two fly traps filled with carcasses he said had been gathered over only three days. Others still buzzed around the property.

"They're beautiful," Garber said of the chickens and ducks. "I've got nothing against animals. It's respecting your neighbors."

The city fined the neighbors around \$1,000 for having a rooster. City Manager Linda Engbretson said the

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Late hairdresser was a fixture in Uniontown

Adolphson was committed to his community

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

LeRoy Adolphson, a hairdresser who was a fixture in Uniontown, died on Aug. 5, just three weeks after being diagnosed with lung cancer, his friends said.

A gracious but gruff man often referred to by his friends as "Ming the Merciless," Adolphson, 72, was a visible part of Astoria's gay community. A longtime advocate for Uniontown, he is remembered for his leadership and deep commitment to his community, friends and clients.

"Some people would say he was the unofficial mayor of Uniontown," said Tessa Scheller, chairwoman of the Lower Columbia Q Center. "Other people would say he was the queen of Uniontown."

Adolphson's legacy has been described as an extension of his

grandmother, Emilia Peuhkurinen-Bohm, a communist who ran for mayor of Astoria in 1934 and was ostracized for her activism.

"That sense of personal freedoms was really dear to him. That's what he magnified that Emilia started," Scheller said.

"And growing up as a young gay kid before the word 'gay' was even used, he kind of led the way in understanding what it means to be oppressed and marginalized and to hold your head high and to stand tall," Scheller added.

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Colin Murphey/The Astorian

LeRoy Adolphson cuts a clients hair in 2017 in Astoria.

