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CORONAVIRUS



County tackles vacation rental rules

Discussions started in South County

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Clatsop County is tackling rules around vacation rentals, considering some big-ticket policy items that could increase restrictions.

During a county Board of Commissioners work session in February, the county set the table for discussions, laying out ways to tighten short-term rental ordinances as well as potential policies to consider down the road.

Cities on the North Coast have struggled to balance the growth in vacation rentals as the region becomes a more popular tourist destination. Pockets of the county have also felt the same pressures.

Many of the questions and policy suggestions came out of quarterly community discussions the county started hosting last summer.

The virtual discussions began in Cove Beach in July to promote dialogue after strife over vacation rentals. The meetings were expanded to Arch Cape and Clatsop Plains.

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GOING GREENER

TOP: Garrett Lyle, from Elemental Energy, installs the first solar panel on the roof of the Astoria Co-op on Wednesday afternoon. The 51-kilowatt solar array is expected to generate about a third of the grocer's electricity. **RIGHT:** Co-op general manager Matt Stanley looks at the new solar panels. **BELOW:** Elemental Energy installs solar panels on the roof.

Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian



Resources limited for crisis response

Mental health director, sheriff outline challenges

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Amy Baker, the executive director of Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, and Sheriff Matt Phillips on Tuesday outlined the limitations of getting people in mental health crisis the help they need.

The Astorian has reported on several incidents over the past year that played out in public view, including two deaths after interactions with police.

Some people in the community have called for directing more resources to a mobile crisis team, like the CAHOOTS model in Lane County, where mental health professionals respond to crisis calls.

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Port signs fishmeal processor to a long-term agreement

New plant planned at Airport Industrial Park

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Port of Astoria Commission has agreed to a lease with Scoular at the Airport Industrial Park in Warrenton that could take the grain-and-feed trading company through 2061.

Scoular, based in Omaha, Nebraska, plans to spend about \$10 million building a plant along 12th Place next to the airport turn-

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ing seafood scraps from local processors into fishmeal for aquaculture and pet food.

"This is the largest development project that the Port's undertaken in certainly since my tenure, and the largest one in the last 10 years or so," said Matt McGrath, the Port's deputy director.

The lease initially pays the Port more than \$2,000 a month, including rent credits. It jumps to \$4,000 a month in 2022 and escalates to

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Astoria reopens hearing on hotel

City must decide by end of May

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

Developer Mark Hollander hopes to build a four-story Fairfield Inn and Suites at the site of The Ship Inn, a former seafood restaurant vacant since 2017.

The Astoria City Council reopened the hearing on a controversial hotel along the Columbia River after the state ordered another review.

Over the summer, the city denied an extension of building permits for the four-story Fairfield Inn and Suites that developer Mark Hollander wants to build at the site of The Ship Inn restaurant.

Hollander's hotel had been approved in 2018. But he made little progress before seeking a

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