

# the Astorian

148TH YEAR, NO. 134

WEEKEND EDITION // SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021

\$1.50

## CORONAVIRUS



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

**TOP:** Instead of a live audience, Astoria High School theater students performed 'The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon' to a camera, two microphones and a laptop on Wednesday evening at the Astor Street Opry Company Playhouse. The play aims to combine the 209 classic fairy tales, like Rapunzel and Rumpelstiltskin, into one performance. The recording of the performance is available for \$5 online and can be watched anytime on May 14 and May 15.

**RIGHT:** Senior Eli Harold as Rumpelstiltskin, left, talks with senior Sadie Wilkinson through a tin can phone.

**BELOW:** Freshman Aria Larsen plays Rapunzel in her tower as senior Daniel Lempke plays the prince trying to win her heart.

# GRIMM TALES



## College crafts budget with eye on enrollment

President calls decline 'very significant'

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Astorian*

After a uniquely challenging year, Clatsop Community College leaders say they are in a strong financial position, but low enrollment remains a concern.

The college, which benefited from emergency federal aid and early precautionary budget reductions by college leaders, cannot sustain the lower levels of enrollment it has seen as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Chris Breitmeyer, the college president, told the budget committee this week.

Still, he feels positive about the future of the college. The budget presented to the committee did not add anything, he said, "but it doesn't cut anything from our budget either."

The college's \$44.4 million spending plan, adopted by the budget committee but not yet approved by the college board, will keep the tuition cost per credit at \$105. Included in the spending plan is \$21.5 million in case a proposed expansion of the maritime science program, on hold because of the pandemic, moves forward.

*See College, Page A6*

### MORE INSIDE

County reports new virus cases • A6

## Homeless liaisons begin outreach

Countywide push to help with housing

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

During her first month in a new role, Cheryl Paul, a Clatsop County homeless liaison, has been getting to know the homeless population in Seaside, offering to help connect people to different housing options.

During an Astoria homeless task force meeting on Thursday, Paul was credited for helping a woman in a camper find permanent housing and store the camper.

Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham said the woman's camper was parked on 12th Avenue and Necanicum Drive, an area where several RVs are parked at a given time.

Residents raised concerns about the number of RVs in the area during a Seaside City Council meeting in April.

"It was great timing that she had come over that day," Ham said. "I had actually made contact with somebody there ... and they had mentioned that they had been in contact with her. So it was neat to see that the liaison community person was out there working that."

*See Outreach, Page A6*

## Grants help museum, Craft3

Money for Lightship Columbia, entrepreneurs

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust has awarded grants to a historic vessel restoration by the Columbia River Maritime Museum and new lending staff for Craft3 to help underserved

entrepreneurs.

The Astoria museum received \$383,000, a third of the cost needed to dry dock the Lightship Columbia and open further areas of the vessel to the public. The lightship, commissioned in 1951 and sold to the museum 40 years ago, is a national historic landmark that once guided ships into the mouth of the Columbia River.

The vessel is about five years overdue for a dry dock. In October, it heads to Diversified Marine in Portland, where crews will rehabilitate the hull to withstand the region's brack-

ish water. The museum has been fundraising for a \$1.1 million project to maintain the hull and make areas of the ship, such as the engine room and crew quarters, safe for the public.

Bruce Jones, the deputy director of the museum and the Astoria mayor, said the museum's board has wondered periodically whether to keep spending money maintaining the lightship. But the vessel is an integral part of the museum experience, Jones said, and was boarded by 60% of the 115,000 visitors in 2019.



Edward Stratton/The Astorian

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust awarded the Columbia River Maritime Museum \$383,000 toward the rehabilitation of the Lightship Columbia, which heads to dry dock in October.

*See Craft3, Page A6*

