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'I just wonder what the story is'

Mystery boat at Fort Stevens may tell many tales

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

The thing sunk in the muck and sand at Trestle Bay looked like the lower jaw and teeth of a giant monster — like dragon's teeth from a story, Aaron Trotter thought.

But as he walked across the water-emptied bay in Fort Stevens State Park at low tide, he suddenly realized what he was looking at: a wooden boat, tilted to one side, planks crusted in a layer of marine plants and barnacles.

Caspian terns screamed and swooped over the flats. Back across the bay, people wandered with the curve of the beach. Beyond them, large trucks rumbled down a side road carrying massive rocks to repair the nearby South Jetty. Everyone was oblivious to the discovery, the real life shipwrecks-and-buried-treasure delight Trotter was experiencing.

The boat, Trotter thought, could be anything.

Maybe it was a life boat from an old shipwreck. Maybe it was used in the making of South Jetty, built more than



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian
TOP: The remains of a boat in Trestle Bay. ABOVE: Aaron Trotter points to the boat he encountered.

100 years ago — railroad trestles from the rail line that ferried large rocks to the jetty still border one edge of the bay. Maybe it's an old fishing boat.

Trotter, a Portland artist who sells his illustrated playing card decks at the Astoria Sunday Market, prefers his shipwreck theory.

"I just wonder what the story is,"

Trotter said.

It's a mystery, but there are some clues. For instance, it seems clear what the boat is not.

First, it isn't a new discovery.

Mark Schacher, who operates Arrow Tugboat and Tour Co. out of

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College nursing program receives a financial boost

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

A new nursing instructor position at Clatsop Community College will be funded, in large part, by Columbia Memorial Hospital.

Under an agreement formally signed Friday, the hospital will provide \$80,000 annually to support the position. A starting salary for a nursing instructor can be around \$70,000 before benefits. The hit to the college's budget for these types of positions can be more than \$100,000, said Chris Breitmeyer, the college president.

"This will free up other money for the nursing program," he said of the hospital's donation.

Nursing programs, and the equipment and supplies they require, are among the more expensive programs to run, Breitmeyer noted. Meanwhile, enrollment — and related tuition dollars — dipped at the college due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The budget is in a good place, Breitmeyer said, "but every dollar at a community college is important."

The donation will also help in retaining staff by allowing the college to offer a good wage, Breitmeyer hopes. Someone with the level of



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian
Clatsop Community College signed an agreement Friday with Columbia Memorial Hospital that will fund a new nursing instructor at the college.

'WE RELY ON THIS PROGRAM TO BE A PIPELINE IN ORDER FOR US TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE CARE TO OUR COMMUNITY.'

Erik Thorsen | Columbia Memorial CEO

education necessary to be a nursing instructor could make more money outside of the academic world, he noted.

"We're looking to reward the folks that made that decision and that commitment," he said.

A career in nursing education pays less, agreed Judy Geiger, the hospital's vice president of patient care

services.

"You have to be very dedicated," she said.

She is glad Columbia Memorial can help support paying someone a living wage to teach in the college's nursing program because the program acts as a pipeline to the hospital.

Numbers vary from year to year, but Geiger estimates

that the hospital hires five to 10 of the college's nursing program graduates each year.

Without the program, she said, "we'd be in trouble."

The coast is isolated, more rural and it can be hard to attract job candidates from outside the area. College nursing students are often already very familiar with the area or grew up here. Many are interested in staying.

For the hospital, the presence of a nursing program in the community is of huge importance, said Erik Thorsen, the CEO at Columbia Memorial.

"We rely on this program to be a pipeline in order for us to continue to provide care to our community," he said.



Viviana Matthews

Josh Davis is the county's new veterans service officer.

Veterans service officer focuses on community

Davis served in the Army

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

EVERYDAY people

Clatsop Community Action has a new veterans service officer.

Josh Davis, a U.S. Army veteran and former veterans service officer for Multnomah County, has been on the job since early June. He replaces Stephen Bobian, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, who was hired last year after Clatsop County shifted the contract for the position from Luke Thomas, a Coast Guard

veteran, to Clatsop Community Action. The nonprofit operates the regional food bank and provides housing, energy assistance and other critical services to low-income people. The goal was to expand outreach to the county's more than 3,600 veterans and help make the agency's social services more accessible.

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