



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

143rd YEAR, No. 114

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015

ONE DOLLAR

Blaze destroys three Seaside homes

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

for 14 adults and two children affected by the fire.

Fast-moving blaze

Fire departments and emergency personnel from Seaside, Cannon Beach, Gearhart, Astoria and Hamlet responded to the alarm Sunday morning at 2:33 a.m. Ultimately more than 50 firefighters responded to the fast-moving fire which destroyed three homes and badly damaged a fourth.

Three other homes nearby had minor

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Firefighters respond to a blaze in Seaside that destroyed three homes.

David Doney
For The Daily
Astorian

SEASIDE — In the aftermath of a Sunday morning blaze on 11th Avenue, fire investigators from throughout the county are meeting this morning to determine a cause, Seaside Division Chief Chris Dugan said.

"It's fire marshal, chiefs and officials from throughout the county," Dugan said. "It's such a large fire, there will be a lot of work as far as doing the investigation."

The American Red Cross Cascades Region provided temporary lodging and assistance

Plenty of parks, not enough time



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

People walk along the playground of Alderbrook Park during a parks tour Saturday morning. The tour covered several locations from the Alderbrook Lagoon to the Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.

Parks and rec director leads tour of Astoria's 63 parks, sites

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Parks and Recreation Department maintains 63 sites in the community — parks, trails, restrooms, facilities and cemeteries — but dedicates only three full-time employees to the task.

Citywide and beyond, the department's maintenance crew mows the lawns, whacks the weeds, trims the trees, rakes the leaves, clears the litter, cleans the bathrooms, inspects the playgrounds, empties the garbage cans, removes the vagrant camps, replaces the facility equipment, keeps the community halls habitable and performs 150 cemetery burials a year.

"It's quite an undertaking," Angela Cosby, parks and recreation director, said.

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Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Pam Pearce, manager at the Astoria Aquatic Center, talks during a tour of the center Saturday morning. The center was the first many stops on the parks tour.

Seaside wants room to grow

City planners look at several sites to expand

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — By state law, Seaside's urban boundaries are required to expand to accommodate a growing population. But what will growth look like in 20 years?

Rather than projecting two decades ahead, the Planning Commission is considering a more conservative approach expansion by looking at a 14-year projection for the city's future land needs.

This approach would allow the city's potential expansion to have less of an impact on the South Wahanna Road area, whose residents comprise a majority of the opposition to the project.

For a 14-year land-needs analysis, the city needs to apply to bring an additional 141 acres into the urban growth boundary, consultant Don Hanson of Otak, told the commission last week. To satisfy the city's projected population in 20 years, an analysis showed about 208 acres.

"We can back our 20-year demand down to where it would be a 14-year demand and go with that," City Planner Kevin Cupples said.

This would show the state that the city is considering public input and testimony, he said. "And then we can re-evaluate that seven years down the line, or 10 years down the line."

Dispersing the impact

Since the commission started considering the expansion, members focused on the Southeast Hills site, to the south and east of Spruce Drive and Wahanna Road. They

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Artist explores writing as he finds his inner child



Dani Palmer/EO Media Group

Bill Steidel poses with his new children's book, "Whose Move," at his gallery in Cannon Beach.

From a family of teachers, out pops an artist

CANNON BEACH — The bell overhead chimes as a woman in a yellow raincoat steps inside Steidel's Art, a smile on her face as she tells her friend "You have to see this. I've bought some of his pieces. I love them."

Bill Steidel, 88, is well-known for his art, but that isn't all he does. Culminating a decades-long work in progress, Steidel released his first published children's book this fall titled "Whose Move."



The book is a story about a boy and dragon, accompanied and enhanced by Steidel's illustrations.

"The stories have been around for years and years," he said.

Steidel has drawn since he was in elementary school. His third-grade teacher would let him draw in class, where he'd focus on fairy tale themes. A junior high teacher encouraged him to enter contests. He won

consecutive years and went on to encourage him to go to college for art, which he did at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

His parents were academicians. Many in his family, including siblings, became educators.

"All of a sudden out pops a child that doesn't want to do anything but draw pictures," he said. "They told me they didn't know what to do with me."

But they "backed me up" when he chose a different path.

After college, he illustrated his first book with Simon and Schuster. Eventually, with "itchy feet," he ended up

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