## Sanders: 'The goal here is a living wage for every American worker'

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majority of Oregon's 74 delegates and provide a boost to his populist campaign.

Kentucky Democrats also vote Tuesday.

#### Minimum wage

Although Oregon recently approved a three-tiered minimum wage that puts the eventual top rate at \$14.75 an hour in the Portland area but sets lower bars in rural and coastal regions, Sanders said his administration would try to raise the federal wage even

Asked if this goal is realistic, given that a relatively progressive state like Oregon recognizes regional economic disparities, Sanders delivered a variation on his stump speech.

'What I have said is that I want to see an America where, if somebody works 40 hours a week, they are earning a living wage, and to my mind a living wage is \$15 an hour," he said. "I don't think we can get there tomorrow, but, if elected president, I will do my best to make sure that, within the next sev-



AP Photo/Ryan Kang

Democratic presidential candidate U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., pauses while audience members cheer during a rally in Springfield in April.

eral years, \$15 an hour minimum wage is the law in every state in this country.

"I think, that's where we should be striving for," he continued, "because what we are seeing in this country is growing income and wealth inequality. People on top are doing phenomenally well, while millions of Americans are working longer hours for low wages.

So the goal here is a living wage for every American worker, and that is, to my mind, 15 bucks an hour."

#### **Economics**

With respect to the need for balance between the North Coast's traditional economy based on fishing and logging and the demand to conserve those natural resources, Sanders acknowledged the dilemma.

"That is the challenge," he said. "I think we are all — I hope all of us are — concerned about the environment, and yet we're also concerned about good-paying jobs. And I think what this requires is a very strong cooperative relationship between the federal government, the state government and the local government.

"Right now, at a time when the middle class of this country is disappearing, and we're seeing more and more income and wealth inequality, there has to be a very significant focus on the creation of good-paying

He added that the need for jobs is why he introduced legislation, the Rebuild America Act, to put people to work repairing the country's infrastructure - roads, bridges, water systems and wastewater plants — while building a rail system.

"Jobs, to my mind, are very important. There's gotta be a balance, as you indicated. But we also need to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, and when we do that, we can create a heck of a lot of jobs in Oregon and throughout this country," he said.

#### Why Sanders?

Asked how Oregonians would benefit from a Sanders administration, the presidential hopeful pointed to a suite of proposals that would impact the entire nation rather than Oregon specifically:

Instituting a \$15 national minimum wage; making public colleges and universities tuition-free; demanding that the country's wealthiest people and largest corporations pay more taxes; guaranteeing healthcare for all citizens through a Medicare-forall plan; combating climate change; and helping to lead the world in moving energy systems away from fossil fuels and toward sustainable energy.

"So I think what you're looking at is an administration prepared to stand up to the greed of Wall Street, to the greed of corporate America, and create a government that begins to work for all of us, not just the 1 percent," he

# **Housing:** 'I think these will be sold out before they're even built'

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cities have struggled to find solutions. Economic experts have cautioned that the lack of housing could hinder job growth and economic development.

The units in Cannon Beach would be for people in the area's median-income, not low-income, range. The housing is for residents who make 75 to 105 percent of the county's average income, City Manager Brant Kucera said.

Carleton said the two sites would be similar in construction costs, and would both require city zone changes.

'This is what the city might do, if they wanted to, on these properties," consultant Teri Silva said.

Since February, the task force has been brainstorming ways to close the city's workforce housing gap.

"This is the first hope I've had of seeing anything concrete coming out of any of the discussions we've had in the past year and a half," Kucera said.



Carleton Hart Architecture/Submitted Graphic A design option for potential affordable housing units that cover part of the Spruce Street parking lot in downtown

"We could continue to have these discussions for the next 10 years if we wanted to, but we need a starting point."

Cannon Beach.

The task force, formed to make recommendations to increase affordable housing, had its first meeting in January 2015.

A 2014 Cannon Beach housing needs survey found 92 percent of restaurant owners and 79 percent of hospitality business owners said finding housing is a problem for employees.

"We have staff right now that are critical to what we are I think we should do them doing that cannot find a place member Ken McQuhae said. work for us this summer, which housing available.

provides serious issues for us as a business," said Jason Menke, co-owner of Sea Level Bakery. "We can't operate without

Menke said he was encouraged by the designs, and suggested that the affordable housing units be open for small business owners like him to lease and rent to employees.

"The need is out there," said Todd Johnston, task force member and Northwest Oregon Housing Authority executive director. People have returned vouchers the housing authorboth," resident and task force to live and might not be able to ity gave them since there is no ile compared to what we have



Carleton Hart Architecture/Submitted Graphic

One design option for potential affordable housing units elevated over the Spruce Street parking lot in downtown Cannon Beach.

The city can't grow without affordable housing, Kucera said, adding, "I think these will be sold out before they're even

### **Potential sites**

Residents offered suggestions and concerns during the public comment period.

Downtown businesses may oppose the Spruce Street housing due to fewer parking spaces, resident Nancy McCarthy said, and a plan for parking is needed.

To me, it looks very sterhere as a community," Jan Siebert-Wahrmund said. "I don't think it's a good idea to put everyone together. I would much rather be in a neighborhood that has different income levels around."

Siebert-Wahrmund tioned placing the Spruce Street housing in the tsunami zone and whether the city had enough water to service new units. She asked for greater community input.

"It's not as simple as it seems to be talked about today," she said.

## **Moving forward**

Silva said the city could fund the development.

keep the units affordable by putting strict, specific regulatory restrictions on the lease. Potential renters could be screened to make sure they work in Cannon Beach and meet certain criteria.

The next task force meeting is June 8.

Silva plans to run numbers to see if the concepts are financially feasible, as an estimated cost is not yet known, and will prepare a document with the group's recommendations for the City Council. Mark Barnes, the city planner, will consider potential city code adjustments to make the designs possible.

"Know that all of this is conceptual," Silva said.

Affordable housing will be discussed at the city's strategic planning sessions at the end of May. Kucera said the council will likely consider "at least one of those concepts.'

Rents would pay for the mortgage to build the housing, so the development would be no cost to taxpayers, Kucera said after the meeting.

Because the units would not be federally subsidized low-in come housing, the city would

THE DAILY **ASTORIAN** 



Evening listings **TUESDAY** 

TUESDA	ΥE	VENING				A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach							<b>M</b> AY 17
Α	L	6 рм	6:30	7 рм	7:30	8 рм	8:30	9 рм	9:30	10 рм	10:30	11 PM	11:30
(2) KATU	<b>(2</b> )	KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Fresh Off-Boat (N)	Real O'Neals (N)	Agents of SHIELD '	"Absolution/ Ascensio	n" S.H.I.E.L.D. takes o	on Hive. (SF) (N)	KATU News at 11	(:35) Jimmy Kimme
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KING	<b>(5</b> )	NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	The Voice "Live Sen	nifinal Results" (N)	Chicago Med "Timi	ing" (SF) (N)	Chicago Fire "Supe	rhero" (SF) (N)	KING 5 News	(:35) Tonight Show
(6) KOIN	<u>-</u>	KOIN 6 News at 6	<b>CBS Evening News</b>	Extra	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Family First"	(SF) (N)	NCIS:NO "Sleeping"	With the Enemy" (N)	Person of Interest	"Shotseeker" (N)	KOIN 6 News @ 11	(:35) S. Colbert
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KRCW				Modern Family	Modern Family							(:05) Two 1/2 Men	
(I) KOPB										Frontline "The Secret History of ISIS" (N)			
(E) KPTV				Family Feud	Family Feud			Coupled "Chemistry 101" (P) (N)		10 O'Clock News			Loves Ray
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(EZ) FAM		34) (4:00) Pitch Perfect ★★★ Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009, Advent							Stitchers "The Guest" (N) The 700 Club				
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46 A&E			Storage Wars		Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars: Best		Storage Wars (N)		(:05) Storage Wars		
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48 DISC		Deadliest Catch "M		Deadliest Catch "1		Deadliest Catch "C						Deadliest Catch "V	
49 NGEO		Life Below Zero "Br		Boonies "Blood and		The Boonies "Wors		Life Below Zero "B		Life Below Zero "S		Life Below Zero "B	
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53 FNC												Paid Program	
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