

## New flood maps needed to avoid sanctions

Communities benefit overall from latest mapping data

By ERICK BENGEL  
The Daily Astorian

**S**EASIDE — Residents in Gearhart, Seaside, Cannon Beach, Clatsop County and those in Warrenton's Diking District No. 1 will be unable to buy flood insurance, renew existing flood insurance policies and will face additional consequences unless their jurisdiction adopts new federal flood insurance rate maps.

The urgent message resonated at an open house Monday at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, where locals looked over draft revisions to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's maps that identify flood risk along the coast.

Adoption of the maps — which will be used to set flood insurance rates and shape community development decisions — will involve new flood hazard ordinances.

"It's pretty dire if the cities and county are unable to move forward with the adoption of these ordinances," said Patrick Wingard, regional representative for the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

A community that fails to adopt the maps will be suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program and face a host of sanctions.

Not only will residents be ineligible for flood insurance, the community will not qualify for federal grants or loans for development in flood hazard areas, or for federal disaster assistance to repair insurable flood-damaged buildings in those areas.

"If you are suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program, that affects folks' ability to get mortgages; it affects the business climate, the local economy and the regional economy," Wingard said.

### Happy results

The communities will mostly benefit from the mapping updates, which are the result of a countywide study that began in 2009 and incorporate the latest topographic technology.

The bottom line: Far more land was removed from the 100-year flood plain, which has a 1 percent chance of flooding in any given year and a 26 percent chance of flooding during the life of a 30-year mortgage, according to Heather Hansen, the county's flood plain manager.

"Each of the cities here that have been involved in this particular study area saw reduction," said Jed Roberts, a flood mapping coordinator with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

Warrenton's Diking District No. 1 — now provisionally accredited by FEMA — boasts a 9.2 percent net reduction in flood hazard area; Gearhart a 7.7 percent reduction; Seaside an 8 percent reduction; and Cannon Beach a 27.4 percent reduction.

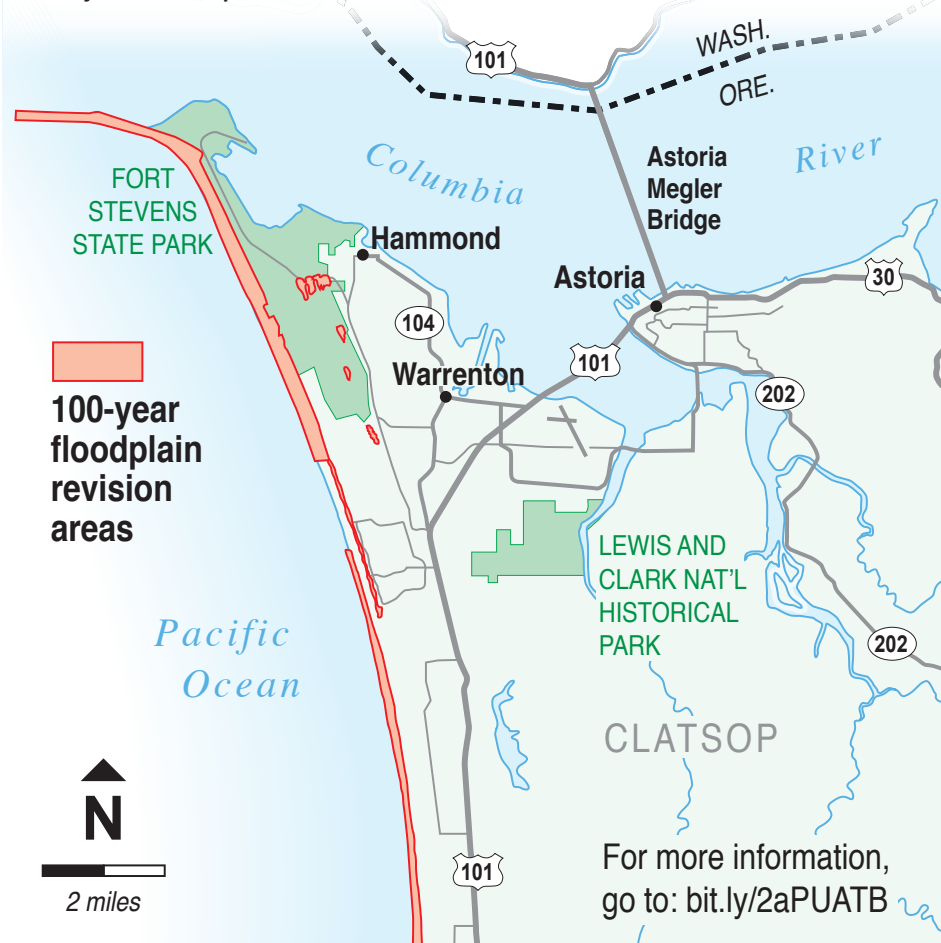
Robin Risley, a Realtor who sits on the Cannon Beach and Clatsop County planning commissions, expects many property owners in Seaside and Cannon Beach to be "happily surprised" by the results.

Though some acreage was added to the flood plain, much of it is undevelopable anyway, like property along the ocean that may

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## Draft FEMA flood maps

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, has issued draft preliminary maps showing revisions to the 100-year floodplain.



Source: Clatsop County Webmaps

Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group



Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

Property owners and community officials attended an open house at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center that addressed FEMA's new draft flood insurance rate maps.

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Patrick Wingard

regional representative for the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

## Scandi monument planned downtown

Pitch is for Peoples Park

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

The rich history of Scandinavians in Astoria could be marked by a downtown park.

The Scandinavian Immigrant Park would be off Marine Drive between 15th and 16th streets at what is now Peoples Park. An arch with the inscription "From Scandinavia to Astoria" would be the dominant architectural feature, along with a maypole, a plaza and bas-relief sculpture panels depicting early immigrants as fishermen, loggers, cannery workers and merchants.



Submitted Graphic

More than a third of Astoria's population around the turn of the 20th century were Scandinavian, and while the annual Scandinavian Midsummer Festival celebrates cultural heritage, there is no monument to the men and women who came from Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland in search of opportunity.

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## Cannon Beach weighs housing options

By LYRA FONTAINE  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach affordable housing task force has zeroed in on rental housing for middle-income residents, moving closer to identifying locations for workforce units and concentrating on areas outside of downtown to conserve parking and provide lower-cost alternatives.

City goals include providing 25 affordable housing units by 2018, then adding 25 more units by 2020.

"I think what makes Cannon Beach unique is that you own the land," Todd Johnston, Northwest Oregon Housing Authority executive director and a task force member, said at a meeting last week. "What has made it difficult in other communities is there's no place to build. A developer would have to come in and purchase the land."

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## Global warming polarizes more than abortion

This story is part of *Divided America*, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

By SETH BORENSTEIN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Temperatures are rising in America, along with the temperatures.

Two decades ago, the issue of climate change wasn't as contentious. The leading U.S. Senate proponent of taking action on global warming was Republican John McCain. George W. Bush wasn't as zealous on the issue as his Democratic opponent for pres-

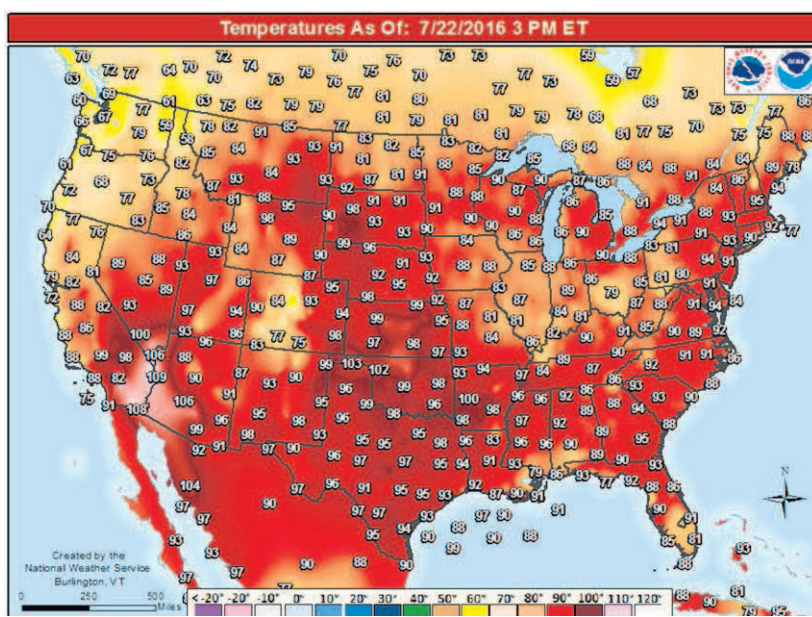


ident in 2000, Al Gore, but he, too, talked of regulating carbon dioxide.

Then the Earth got even hotter, repeatedly breaking temperature records. But instead of drawing closer together, politicians polarized.

Democrats (and scientists) became more convinced that global warming was a real, man-made threat. But Republicans and Tea Party activists became more convinced that it was — to quote the repeated

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This image provided by the National Weather Service shows temperatures in the continental United States as of 3 p.m. on July 22. The weather outlook for the following three months shows above normal temperatures across the country.

National Weather Service via AP