

# Short-term rental rules to be clarified in Cannon Beach

Planning Commission denied code amendment

By LYRA FONTAINE  
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The City Council hopes to make short-term rental regulations “clear and understandable” by the end of the year.

The city is working on code amendments to streamline permitting processes. A proposed change would stop short-term rental decisions from being considered land-use issues, shifting review from the Planning Commission to the City Council.

The amendment seeks to make the permitting and appeals process smoother for property owners and administrators, City Planner Mark Barnes said. Appeals would likely go to Circuit Court instead of the Land Use Board of Appeals.

Planning commissioners opposed the change at their August meeting.

“I believe that it would have a serious adverse effect on due process rights of local

citizens on what is a very important issue,” said Commissioner Lisa Kerr, who made a motion to deny the ordinance change.

“I think the whole community should be more involved in that decision and you’re eliminating one of the steps,” Commissioner Robin Risley said.

During public testimony, City Council candidate Herb Florer said the consequences of the proposed change are uncertain and could “remove local avenues for hearings and appeals.”

“Without full knowledge of the potential ramifications of the change, we feel that this is unnecessary,” Florer said.

Barnes said short-term rentals are more similar to business licenses than planning or zoning decisions. “I think there’s some value in streamlining and simplifying this process,” he said at the meeting.

The Planning Commission voted to keep short-term rental regulations in the zoning ordinance. The council could reject the recommendation.

The City Council will likely hold a work session in October to discuss more substantive changes to the city’s short-term rental program.



Mark Barnes

# Hilltop principal on leave after holiday weekend arrest

Suspected of drunken driving

By NATALIE ST. JOHN  
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Though teachers in the Ocean Beach School District have said his tenure as the new principal of Hilltop School was off to a promising start, Darin Adams was placed on administrative leave on the second day of school.

According to police and court records, Adams, 53, was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence during a traffic stop in Long Beach Friday.

Adams was at Hilltop on Tuesday, the first day of school, but had been placed on leave by Wednesday.

“We’re currently conducting an investigation of reports of an incident that occurred away from school property, unrelated to the employee’s duties. We do not have any further information at this time and have just begun our first few days of school. The employee is on a routine administrative leave during the pending investigation by the district,” Superintendent Jenny Risner said in an email.

has received recognition for his leadership.

**Details of the arrest**

According to the citation, a Washington State Patrol trooper pulled Adams over on State Route 103 near Milepost 1 at about 10:45 p.m. on Friday night after he noticed that Adams was allegedly driving without his headlights on. During the stop, the officer believed that Adams showed signs of alcohol intoxication and subsequently placed him under arrest. In an email, Pacific County Sheriff’s Office Chief Criminal Deputy Pat Matlock said Adams was administratively booked into Pacific County Jail early on Saturday, then released a short time later.

The principal pleaded not guilty to one count of DUI, a gross misdemeanor, during an arraignment Wednesday in South District Court. Visibly upset, Adams sat quietly in the back of the courtroom as he waited to be called before the judge, and did not speak during the hearing.

**A veteran administrator**

Adams, who was hired last spring, is an experienced middle school administrator who

the changes made the middle school feel more chaotic than other district campuses, and ultimately took a toll on morale.

**State and district rules**

What happens from here will depend largely on how Risner and the school board decide to respond to the findings of the Washington State Patrol report, and their own independent investigation. Even if he is eventually convicted, Adams’ alleged offense likely won’t trigger state-level action. According to Nathan Olson, a spokesman for the Washington Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction, district leaders make most hiring, firing and disciplinary decisions. They generally are only required to alert the state when there are clear signs that a teacher or principal is not fit to work in any educational setting. In those cases, the state conducts its own investigation.

“A DUI, to a large extent, is considered a minor enough offense that it’s probably not going to affect a principal’s certification,” Olson explained. “We don’t deal with employment. We deal with whether or not a teacher or principal should keep his or her certificate.”

“There’s absolutely nothing we can do with the high school data. We can’t draw any reasonable conclusions because the participation rate was below 50 percent,” Dave Van Loo, the district’s director of school improvement, told The Bulletin newspaper.

# Oregon students show slight improvement

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon students performed slightly better on state tests than they did a year ago, scores released Thursday show.

The exams taken by nearly 300,000 students this spring are designed to reflect how well schools helped students meet rigorous Common Core standards in English and math.

Fifty-five percent of students met the standards in English — up 1 percentage point from 2015. Forty-two percent of students were up to standards in math, also an increase of 1 percentage point.

Though the improvement was minor, Oregon schools chief Salam Noor noted that it was enjoyed by all types of students, including minorities, students with disabilities and those living in poverty.

“What is most exciting about this year’s results is the progress made by students across the board, including those from groups that have historically performed at lower levels than their peers,” Noor said.

The tests are taken by students in third through eighth grades and 11th grade. Compared with results from 2015, more third-graders mastered mathematics and more fifth-graders mastered English.

High school juniors improved in English and math. But those 11th-grade results

aren’t as reliable because many juniors declined to take the exams. Many see the exams as an unwelcome duplication of SAT, ACT, Advanced Placement tests or similar tests that also measure college readiness, said Heather Beck, the superintendent of the Lake Oswego School District and a strong proponent of Common Core standards.

Reacting to concerns that schools overemphasize testing, legislators passed a law that took effect Jan. 1 that allows parents to opt their children out of taking the tests for any reason. Previ-

ously, students could only be excused for religious or medical reasons.

As a result, Portland, Eugene and several other districts had participation rates below 90 percent.

Bend’s three high schools recorded some of the lowest participation rates in the state.

# Ethanol replaces crude oil at Clatskanie port

Associated Press

LONGVIEW, Wash. — Global Partners has replaced crude oil with ethanol at its Port Westward terminal near Clatskanie, Oregon, which has reopened for business.

The Daily News reports the terminal closed in January because of plummeting oil prices, and Global Partners laid off more than half its workforce there. Port Westward reopened and began receiving shipments of the flammable gasoline additive this summer.

The Oregon Department of Transportation reported

that 95 rail cars carrying ethanol moved along the Columbia County rail line to Port Westward in June.

Trains that previously carried crude oil from Portland to Port Westward had prompted concerns from residents along the 60-mile route about risks of derailment and explosions.

Global Partners’ switch to ethanol also comes after it was fined \$100,000 last year for handling excessive amounts of crude oil.

The company declined to comment.

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