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ONE DOLLAR

THE HOUSING CRUNCH

SHORTAGE IN SEASIDE DIVIDES HOMEOWNERS, LABOR FORCE



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Seaside is facing a housing crunch, especially for the large service industry feeding the tourism business.

Cannon Beach prioritizes housing for local workforce

There's 'no easy solution' to high prices and a scarce inventory

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach, a city known for carefully protecting an image as an idyllic coastal getaway, has taken a practical approach to the housing crunch.

The city has prioritized workforce housing and a task force is analyzing potential options on three city-owned properties.

In a citizen survey this year, 76 percent responded that it is necessary or important for the city to assist with developing affordable housing. The City Council has set a goal to add 25 affordable units by 2018, and 25 more by 2020. "It is absolutely essential for the health of Clatsop County that we begin to address affordable housing," City Manager Brant Kucera said.



Brant Kucera

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MORE INSIDE: VACATION RENTALS, SECOND HOMES PLAY BIG ROLE IN GEARHART • PAGE 4A



ABOUT THIS SERIES

The housing crunch is everywhere in Clatsop County and impacts all walks of life.

This week, The Daily Astorian examines the housing crunch through the eyes of elected officials, economic experts, real-estate professionals, developers, homeowners and renters.

The series will explore the forces driving the issue, along with what is — and is not — possible for the North Coast to achieve. And, the coverage does not end this week, as the Astorian tracks the challenges and solutions going forward.

COMING FRIDAY

• County sees barriers to housing solutions

Limited availability leads to call for solutions

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Even having connections doesn't help when it comes to finding a rental in Seaside.

"I was in a position where I needed housing, to find a house," said City Councilor Seth Morrisey, a lifelong resident. "I couldn't even get something on the high end. No amount of money could get me a place to live. I just knew there was a big problem."

According to the Oregon Employment Department, demographic statistics show an aging, affluent population of mostly second homeowners who occupy the housing stock yet drive the demand for labor.

That shortage has left seasonal, part-time and lower-wage workers squeezed out.

The need is clear especially for the large service industry feeding the tourism business. With 1,300 rooms in Seaside, and dozens of restaurants, shops and outlets to meet the needs of tourism, thousands of workers both seasonal and year-round are competing for living space.

"I sympathize with the business owners who can't even find staff who can afford to live in the area," Morrisey said. "There are huge waiting lists. Unless you can buy, there's no way you can find a place."

City Council President Don Johnson said workforce housing is a top priority.

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Seth Morrisey

Candidates weigh in on housing gridlock

Contenders recognize complex problem

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Candidates for local and state office participated in a friendly public forum Wednesday at Clatsop Community College, and the first question addressed today's defining issue: the housing crunch.

The panel discussion, hosted by the American Association of University Women, included Bruce Jones and Cory Pederson, the political newcomers vying for the Astoria City Council Ward 4 seat; Tom Brownson, the unopposed Ward 2 candidate; and the state House of Representatives District 32 candidates, Democratic incumbent Deborah Boone and Republican challenger Bruce Bobek.

Moderator Patricia Garner, the association's state public policy representative, asked the speakers what specific strategies, tools or policies they would support to tackle the lack of housing options available for Astorians and Oregonians, and which organizations the city should partner with to implement those strategies.

See CANDIDATES, Page 9A

Americans are eating more fish

Astoria top commercial fish port on West Coast

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
For The Daily Astorian

Americans ate nearly a pound more seafood per capita in 2015 than in 2014 even as West Coast commercial fishermen spent much of last year grappling with unfavorable ocean conditions, a decline in landings in a number of fisheries and the rise of a marine toxin that shut down valuable Dungeness crab fisheries.

Still, across the nation, 2015 was an "above average year," reported Richard Merrick, a chief scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and co-author of a study of 2015 fishery statistics in the U.S.

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Richard Merrick

Oregon surfer punched shark in gills to survive

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Joseph Tanner was resting his arms on his surf board, his lower body dangling in the water, when something grabbed his right leg and yanked him under the waves.

In an instant, Tanner knew he was being attacked by a shark in the chilly waters off the northern Oregon coast and he wondered if he would die, he recalled Wednesday, nearly three weeks after the Oct. 10 attack north of Cannon Beach.

The shark had his leg in its jaw — a bite that would later measure 26 inches from his



Joseph Tanner survived a shark attack while surfing on the Oregon Coast this month.

upper thigh to his ankle — and as Tanner struggled to break free, he remembered that he should try to punch the shark in the nose or poke it in the eye.

"I opened my eyes and there

were gills in front of me. I can't reach the nose and I can't reach the eyeballs, so I just started hitting the gills," said the 29-year-old.

The shark released him and he screamed a warning to his friends who were surfing about 40 feet away, then began paddling to shore on his board.

He was terrified the shark was following him, tracking him by the blood streaming from his mangled leg.

Friends later told him he paddled about 200 yards — a five-minute ordeal — before catching a wave and riding it in for the last 40 yards, he said.

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Photos by Stephanie Yao Long/The Oregonian
Joseph Tanner, who survived a shark bite while surfing on the Oregon Coast on Oct. 10 shows his scars while speaking with the media at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland where he is a critical care nurse, Wednesday.

