



Astoria planners give an OK to homestay

Panel queries impact on housing shortage

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Planning Commission on Tuesday unanimously approved a homestay lodging permit — and challenged the theory that residential homestays play a leading part in the city's housing crunch.

The commission gave Lacy Brown, a teacher in the Warrenton-Hammond School District, permission to run a two-bedroom homestay in her Second Street house. She and her husband plan to host guests periodically, most likely during the summer when school is out, Brown said. Homestays must be owner-occupied, and, when guests are on-site, property owners must be, too.

The commission's unanimous vote comes at a time when homestay lodging in residential neighborhoods is a controversial issue.

City Councilors Cindy Price and Zetty Nemlowill have come out against these businesses, arguing that, in a city with few housing options, spare living quarters should be filled with long-term renters rather than tourists willing to pay high rates for a short-term visit. The councilors have advocated for limiting future residential homestays to tenants staying at least 30 days.

In a post on astoriaforum.org, Price urged residents to appear at Tuesday's Planning Commission meeting to request that no additional homestay lodging permits be granted until the City Council decides how to regulate the establishments. She later clarified that she was not speaking out against Brown's application but against Astoria's homestay boom.

Brown said she and her husband, Aaron, want to operate their homestay "just to welcome people from all over the country, and all over the world, to this beautiful city, and just to show them what made us fall in love with this area."

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Art WITH A MESSAGE



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Alyssa Logan, a student at Clatsop Community College, poses Wednesday next to the T-shirt she made for the Clothesline Project.

Clothesline Project calls attention to domestic abuse

APRIL AWARENESS

The Harbor will kick off Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April by lighting the Astoria Column the teal. The group will hold a march at 5:30 p.m. April 18 from Baked Alaska's annex building to the Barbey Maritime Center and back.

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Alyssa Logan said she came from a family where women didn't usually speak up about their treatment. But that was before taking Mindy Stokes' women's studies classes at Clatsop Community College.

Now a self-described feminist, Logan helped Stokes and other volunteers on the third-floor lobby of Towler Hall hang T-shirts with messages decrying domestic abuse as part of the Clothesline Project, a nationwide awareness campaign on the issue of domestic violence.

The shirts will hang in Towler Hall through March 22.

Stopping the silence

The messages of Logan's two T-shirts — "Stop the Silence" and "You are not alone" — speak to her own transformation from a timid young woman into a feminist. Logan said she took Stokes' class amid the backdrop of the presidential race.

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The Daily Astorian/File Photo

The Warrenton-Hammond School Board must figure out what to do in the long term to alleviate crowding at Warrenton High and Grade schools. The district has grown by 20 percent over the past decade.

Warrenton schools look for space to grow

Higher ground not an option

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Moving a new school campus to higher ground to avoid a tsunami, like in Seaside, is likely out of the question for the quickly growing Warrenton-Hammond School District.

The school board and Superintendent Mark Jeffery are now looking at what the district can do with

a \$20 million to \$30 million bond.

The district met last month with school bond expert Carol Samuels, managing director of financial services firm Piper Jaffray & Co. Jeffery said Samuels explained the district cannot ask for a bond larger than 10 percent of the district's assessed value.

Jeffery said the value of all assessed property in the district is \$690 million.

"The highest bond we could even ask for was right at \$69 million," he said.

Jeffery said Samuels recom-

mended \$20 million to \$30 million at most, based on previous bonds that had passed.

Seaside School District passed a \$99.7 million bond in November to build a new K-12 campus in the hills on donated land from Weyerhaeuser. But Jeffery said the Seaside School District, which includes Seaside, Gearhart and Cannon Beach, has an assessed property base of around \$3.3 billion.

Warrenton has taken out a \$2 million full faith and credit bond — similar to a loan — to add class-

room space over the next five years. Business Manager Mike Moha has said the bond will be paid for by redirecting money from building maintenance.

Hemmed in

The school board met Tuesday with local civil engineer Jim Rankin to discuss what could be done with a potential \$20 million to \$30 million bond to alleviate overcrowding. The district's enrollment has grown 20 percent

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'Pearl Harbor Bill' kept the memory alive

Survivor brought memorial to Seaside bridge

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Bill Thomas, who survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, spent much of his life making sure no one would forget the ones who died.

Thomas brought World War II history alive for new generations by sharing his experience and he led the way on a Pearl Harbor plaque on the First Avenue Bridge in Seaside that was dedicated in 2000.



Submitted Photo

A plaque honoring veterans of Pearl Harbor is displayed on First Avenue in Seaside.

On Saturday, friends and veterans will remember Thomas — who died at 95 in December — at Seaside's American Legion Post 99.

"Bill personified the proud patriotic soldier who was equally proud of his service and always wanted to keep the memory of the men and women who lost their lives in Pearl Harbor," Russ Vandenberg, general manager of the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, said Tuesday.

"Bill was clearly part of the greatest generation," state Sen. Betsy Johnson said. "He was a great American, a terrific guy and part of my parents' generation that made the world safe for democracy."

"Everyone knew 'Pearl Harbor Bill,'" his friend Eric Beal, an American Legion committee chairman and owner of North Coast



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

Bill Thomas, a Pearl Harbor survivor, salutes as Boy Scout Troop 642 lowers the flag to half-staff during the Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance ceremony at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center in 2015.

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