



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Joey Patenaude hosts his radio show Blues In The Daylight on Coast Community Radio Monday in Astoria.

Housing options closer to approval

Astoria council weighs tiny homes and ADUs

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria City Council, in light of input from the Lower Columbia Preservation Society on Monday, chose to extend a public hearing on code amendments that would allow residents to build and rent out tiny homes and other dwellings on their property.

Under the proposed development code changes meant to help reduce the city's housing shortage, property owners could set up an accessory dwelling unit for long-term renters. The new units would include converted spaces — such as attics, basements and garages — and detached structures, such as tiny homes.



The code currently allows these units "in certain zones under strict conditions," Community Development Director Kevin Cronin wrote in a staff report. Cronin, who drafted the amendments, said that freeing up development by permitting ADUs would help tackle, however modestly, the city's goal of creating housing that Astorians can afford.

The meeting followed a City Council work session where Cronin and Jim Long, Bend's affordable housing manager, discussed the merits of a construction excise tax on commercial and industrial building permit valuation. The tax would raise money for affordable housing projects.

'I think the time is now to take action to add housing units for Astorians.'

Zetty Nemlowill
Astoria city councilor

Last fall, the Planning Commission recommended the dwellings units be prohibited from use as homestay, or short-term, lodging — such as Airbnb rentals — and that the new amendments should be reviewed after one year.

Support with conditions

Doug Thompson, a former Astoria city councilor and board member of the Lower Columbia Preservation Society, said the organization would support ADUs under certain conditions.

For example, the structures should only be sited in the rear or interior side yards of the main building — away from public right-of-ways — and that existing ADUs should not be grandfathered into the homestay lodging ban. The preservation society wants to preserve the character of Astoria's historic neighborhoods.

Fully supporting the preservation society's revisions, City Councilor Cindy Price also suggested removing tiny homes — a relatively new housing trend — as an ADU option for now.

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UP IN THE AIR

KMUN, others face fallout from Trump budget that nixes funds

By ERICK BENDEL
The Daily Astorian

Coast Community Radio, a nonprofit station that serves northwest Oregon and southwest Washington, would take a severe financial hit under President Donald Trump's proposed budget blueprint, which eliminates federal funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.



Joanne Rideout

Historically, public broadcasting, which underwrites public radio and television nationwide, has represented up to one-third of Coast Community Radio's funding, depending on how much revenue the station generates, according to General Manager Joanne Rideout.

For this fiscal year, the station is slated to receive \$116,000 in CPB grants, about 26 percent of the organization's \$441,000 budget.

Coast Community Radio is one of hundreds of community-based media services across the nation that faces a precipitous — and potentially fatal — loss of funding if the Corporation for Public Broadcasting gets zeroed out.

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Coast Community Radio Volunteer Leroy Strickland talks to contributors on the phone during their spring pledge drive Monday in Astoria.

Soaring water rates on the North Coast

Cannon Beach water, wastewater and stormwater rates could increase up to 40 percent.

R.J. Marx
The Daily Astorian



Cannon Beach changes drive proposed hikes

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — If Cannon Beach residents soon feel a little more of their money trick-

ling away, they might look to their water bills.

Residents face hikes of up to 40 percent in July to fund needed water, wastewater and storm-drain repairs and maintenance.

The City Council plans to endorse those capital improvements at its upcoming April 4 meeting.

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Music shop owner sues radiologist, alleges negligence

Christie seeks \$9.4 million after stroke

By DERRICK DEPLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

An Astoria music shop owner has filed a \$9.4 million medical malpractice lawsuit against Columbia Memorial Hospital, alleging a top radiologist was negligent and missed signs of a stroke.

John Pierce Christie, who owns Mallalternative, a music shop downtown, was taken to the hospital in August with

slurred speech, drooling and a left facial droop. Dr. William Armington, a radiologist with Pacific Coast Imaging, a partner of the hospital, reported after an MRI and magnetic resonance angiography that there were no abnormalities, according to the lawsuit.

Several hours later, Christie was transferred to Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland where, the lawsuit claims, stroke neurology looked at the scan from Columbia Memorial and detected blockage to the basilar artery, which provides blood to the brain and central nervous system. A follow-up MRI/MRA showed further damage.

Christie suffered respiratory failure and acute hypoxia and went into a coma, according to the lawsuit, leaving him with a traumatic brain injury and partial paralysis that requires extensive medical care.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Circuit Court, alleges that Christie's treatment for neurological care was delayed by Armington's and Columbia Memorial's negligence. Christie is asking for economic damages of \$4.4 million and noneconomic damages, such as pain and suffering, of \$5 million.

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Heather and Pierce Christie