



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 5

WEEKEND EDITION // FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2017

ONE DOLLAR

County preps assistant manager for top job

Steele is also the budget and finance director

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Manager Cameron Moore held one of his regular check-in meetings with Budget and Finance Director Monica Steele last

summer. Moore usually asks employees at these one-on-one talks about their future plans and goals. At this meeting, though, he was specifically curious about Steele's interest in one position: his own.

"Have you ever thought about a job like this?" he asked her. Steele answered quickly. "Yeah, someday I'd like to have your job," she said.

Steele may have taken a step closer to that goal this week when

she began her new duties as assistant county manager. She will continue in her role as budget and finance director while helping Moore conduct administrative tasks.

While Moore and Steele view the move as an immediate improvement, as well as a necessary step in succession planning, some county elected officials have raised concerns.

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Monica Steele, pictured here speaking at a recent meeting of the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, is the new assistant county manager. Steele will also continue in her role as the county's budget and finance director.

Colin Murphey
The Daily Astorian

Trail of discovery



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Tanya Gephart begins her trek on the Oregon Coast Trail near Seaside. She is among dozens of backpackers hiking the trail, some of whom have abandoned the Pacific Crest Trail to escape snow and high water.

Hikers are hopping from the famous Pacific Crest Trail to the Oregon Coast Trail

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

At the end of June, a woman picked up three young backpackers walking along the highway near Gearhart.

They had been hiking the Pacific Crest Trail — a 2,650-mile-long path that twists up the West Coast from the Mexico border to Canada — but heavy snow-

fall in the Sierra Nevada mountain range stopped them 700 miles in.

Rather than stop hiking, they decided to hop over to the lesser-known Oregon Coast Trail. And they aren't alone.

"Everyone is coming here," they told their driver.

This spring, dozens of hikers snowed out of California's mountains or, as the snow melts, faced with dangerous river crossings, have abandoned the Pacific

Crest Trail and jumped over to the Oregon Coast Trail.

But the trail isn't ready for them.

'PCT refugees'

As he stretches next to a sign pointing back toward Arch Cape, Ryley Delgado has just been voted his group's sweatiest hiker. Again. He shrugs. The hikers

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Green light, go!

Transportation deal heads to governor

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — A \$5.3 billion statewide transportation package is headed to Gov. Kate Brown for a signature after the state Senate passed the bill 22-7 Thursday.

"This is a critical and most important piece of legislation. This is the piece of legislation... the 2017 session will be known for 20, 30, 40 years from now," said state Sen. Rod Monroe, D-Portland, one of 14 lawmakers who crafted the plan.

The House of Representatives passed the bill 39-20 Wednesday.

10-year plan

Due to tax hikes and new taxes, the bill required a three-fifths majority vote in each chamber, according to the Oregon Constitution.

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AP Photo/Don Ryan

Cars travel Interstate 5 on the morning commute heading into Portland in December. The Oregon Senate on Thursday approved a \$5.3 billion transportation package. It now goes to the governor for her signature.

Repeal of Gearhart vacation rental rules heads to voters



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Vacasa rental sign on a Gearhart home.

Opponents clear hurdle for November

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — Voters in November will get to decide the fate of Gearhart's vacation rental rules.

The bid to repeal and replace the regulations issued last fall gathered enough valid signatures to put the measure on the ballot.

The initiative was presented to the City Council Wednesday night. City councilors had three options: pass

the repeal and replace ordinance; reject the ordinance and allow voters to decide in November; or reject the ordinance and come up with a competing alternative.

The council unanimously voted to reject the ordinance and put it on the ballot.

"We fully expected the City Council to reject our ordinance," Jim Whittemore, who owns a short-term rental property, said Thursday. "Now it is on the ballot. We submitted 242 signatures, which is significant."

According to the revised summary, submitted by David Townsend, Brian and Joy Sigler and Sarah Nebeker, the ballot measure would

repeal the special regulations on vacation rentals related to off-street parking, residential appearance, garbage service, septic-sewer capacity inspections and cesspool requirements not required of other city residents.

"Our message will show that we care as much about Gearhart as full-time residents do," Whittemore said. "We always have. I think that once residents see how much 82 vacation homeowners pay in property taxes and that we will pay close to \$50,000 a year for police and fire services, which equates to \$500,000 over the next 10 years — that our

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LIFE IS FAIR AUGUST 1-5