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ONE DOLLAR



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
Construction workers make progress on a housing development in Astoria near the Old Youngs Bay Bridge on Tuesday. There are two buildings within the complex under construction, with a third building planned for the site.

Probe finds Thompson crossed boundary

Incident with county employee in June

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County Commissioner Lianne Thompson “crossed the boundary of acceptable decorum” when she allegedly placed her hands on a county employee and spoke in a loud and frustrated tone about County Manager Cameron Moore after a Red Cross meeting at Fort Clatsop in June, an internal investigation has found.

The county employee, who has not been publicly identified, did not feel threatened or intimidated but thought Thompson’s behavior was “bizarre.”

The county Board of Commissioners will discuss the findings of the internal investigation at an executive session later this month. If commissioners choose to take any disciplinary action against Thompson, the board would make an announcement during a public meeting.

The incident exposes tension between Commissioner Thompson, some of her

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Lianne Thompson

A deeper dive into the housing crunch

New \$100,000 study will look at county markets

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County is trying to figure out a familiar problem: As the North Coast rides a boom of development and tourism, where will everyone live?

On Wednesday night, the county’s Board of Commissioners approved a comprehensive study of local housing needs in partnership with Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside and Cannon Beach.

“What does (housing crisis) mean? How do you define that?” asked County Manager Cameron Moore at an Astoria City Council meeting earlier this month. “Do we understand where we are short on housing and where we have abundance? I don’t think we do.”

The idea came from Tillamook County, which completed its own comprehensive housing study in March. Consultants found that Tillamook had to account for two distinct housing markets, a low-wage economy that limited what housing residents could rent or buy, scarce land supply, tired-looking housing stock and other issues. They also provided 10 recommen-



An apartment complex in Astoria near the Old Youngs Bay Bridge takes shape. The development is part of a growing movement in local communities to increase the amount of available housing in the area.

dations for how Tillamook could begin to address its housing woes.

Moore hopes to achieve something similar in Clatsop County.

“I haven’t been to a meeting where housing doesn’t come up,” he said.

The county commission voted 3-0 in favor of the study. But Commissioners Kathleen Sullivan and Lianne Thompson abstained from voting because they said they did not feel strongly enough against the study to vote “no.” Sullivan wanted to table the discussion, saying private corporations like the Walmart moving into

Warrenton should contribute.

The agreement asks the cities to contribute \$10,000 each for the housing study. The county will pitch in \$50,000 and expects total costs to come to around \$100,000. Tillamook County started out with a budget of \$100,000 for its study and ended up spending roughly \$60,000, Moore said. The leftover money was put toward implementing the first recommendation: To create and fund a countywide housing coordinator position.

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Internship program to connect area students to jobs

Business, education leaders partner

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County business and education leaders are forming a countywide paid internship program to place more students in local jobs.

The effort started over the summer, when Hampton Affiliates hosted two interns who worked on projects in the Warrenton mill and learned about marketing and other aspects of the timber company.

“We’ve had a strong partnership with Hampton Affiliates for the last couple of years,” said Craig Hoppes, superintendent of the Astoria School District. “It sort of came down to the question of whether we’re preparing kids for college ... or whether we’re preparing kids right out of high school for the workforce.”

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Craig Hoppes

County students’ grades decline in English, math, science

Local performance mirrored statewide student test results

By BETSY HAMMOND
The Oregonian

Oregon students lost ground in reading, writing and math over the past year, according to test results released today.

Particularly in the elementary grades, fewer students achieved proficiency on end-of-year exams designed to show whether they are on track to be ready for college and the world of work.

No grade level showed substantial improvement from 2016.

Clatsop County schools mirrored the state, with most grades showing declines in college

and career readiness in English, language arts, mathematics and science.

Astoria fifth- and 11th-graders largely outperformed the state average in English and language arts but fell behind in math, with a third or fewer students college and career ready.

Warrenton-Hammond students fell behind on English and language arts but nearly matched state averages in mathematics, especially in later grades. Seaside fifth-, eighth- and 11th-graders outperformed the state average on English and language arts, but fewer than 30 percent of those grade levels reached proficiency in mathematics.

How well Oregon schools prepared high school juniors, who have just a year before they face college or the job market, was less than clear. Roughly 6,000 students, or about 15 percent of the junior class, skipped the tests, which

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

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