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ONE DOLLAR

Warming centers struggle to find help

Astoria and Warrenton shelters need volunteers

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Warming Center closed for the night after organizers couldn't find enough volunteers Saturday.

Dan Parkison, the president of the warming center's board, spent hours on the phone and internet, trying to find help, before he and the other board members made the decision to close.

With more paid staff on hand this year, the warming center at First United Methodist Church actually needs fewer volunteers than in the past. But people are not volunteering this year like there were last year.

'THERE WERE A LOT OF STUNNED PEOPLE. I COULD SEE THAT IN THEIR FACES.'

Dan Parkison | president of the warming center's board

The Warrenton Warming Center is also struggling to find volunteers. The two shelters operate under simple, and similar, mission statements: To get people off the streets when temperatures dip dangerously low. The Astoria center includes factors like rainfall in temperature assessments, allowing more flexibility with when it decides to open. Already, the center has opened for five different nights since the start of the season in mid-November. Warrenton has not opened at all, yet.

There are over 200 people on the Astoria center's volunteer list, of which less than 10 are "really dedicated," Parkison said. He worries about wearing out those few dedicated people, and wearing out staff. After gathering feedback from current and past volunteers, he and board members are now scrutinizing how they recruit and communicate with volunteers.

"We can take this one instance (of closing) and react to it and respond to it so we do a better job," Parkison said.

See **WARMING CENTERS**, Page 4A



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
The Astoria Warming Center at the First United Methodist Church had to close Saturday because of a lack of volunteers.

The bigger picture



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Nick Betts puts the finishing touches on a paint job for Coaster Construction at a home in Cannon Beach.

Developer proposes code changes in Cannon Beach to encourage affordable housing

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — It's been almost a year since the Sea Lark Apartments burned down, and the owner, Mike Clark of Coaster Properties, is looking to rebuild.

The fourplex on North Larch Street was one of the city's few affordable housing options. Clark hopes to maintain the affordable rent while expanding the complex to eight units.

But there are some hurdles. Increasing density would be easier with three stories, which is hard to execute with the city's 28-foot building height restriction. Clark would also need a parking variance, since there is not enough room on the property for the parking the city requires for eight units.

It's details like this that made Clark decide to not only request a variance to rebuild the Sea Lark, but to propose a variety of zoning or ordinance changes he believes would make it easier for private developers to build workforce housing, said Rainmar Bartl, a former city planner who represents Clark. "He's been frustrated trying to get something started," Bartl said. "So he's decided to address the bigger picture."

Bartl and Clark proposed the changes to parking and landscaping requirements, height restrictions and zoning at a Planning Commission work session last week. Some commissioners expressed reserva-



Aaron Olson paints the ceiling of a new home in Cannon Beach for Coaster Construction.

tions about how the changes would affect "the character of Cannon Beach," but ultimately decided to hold a public hearing in late January.

Proposed changes

City councilors named creating more affordable housing the No. 1 priority last year.

A housing study commissioned by the city found that second homes make up 60 percent of housing. Of the 722 homes occupied by full-time residents, only 45

percent were rentals. According to the study, the city's housing problem is a lack of affordable housing for the "missing middle."

"These are nurses, police, firefighters, city staff and other community professionals; they may be relatively highly paid and make too much money to income qualify for publicly subsidized housing but too little money to afford market rate rental units," the report states.

See **HOUSING**, Page 4A

'IF YOU'RE GOING TO RELY ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SOLVE THIS, IT FINANCIALLY HAS TO WORK OUT FOR THEM.'

Rainmar Bartl | a former city planner who represents Mike Clark of Coaster Properties

Deer hunting limited after tough winter

Steps taken to help wildlife populations

By **BOB MOEN**
Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Hunting guide Mike Clark normally has more than 20 clients lined up each fall for trips deep into Wyoming's western wilderness to shoot mule deer, prized by hunters for their size and impressive antlers.

But unusually cold weather and heavy snowfall that blan-

keted much of the Western U.S. last winter killed off many young deer. And that prompted wildlife officials throughout the Rocky Mountain states to take measures such as reducing the number of hunting permits to try to help devastated wildlife populations rebound.

Clark took only six mule deer hunters out in September and October who were lucky enough to get permits. He estimated that he lost 40 percent of his income as a result. If it wasn't for the hunters he was guiding this year to shoot elk that generally survived the brutal winter, Clark said,

"We'd pretty much be selling out."

In one remote part of Wyoming's backcountry where peaks soar to 11,000 feet, state wildlife managers documented the loss of all fawns they had been monitoring in a mule deer herd.

To help the herd recover, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission reduced the number of deer permits for out-of-state residents from 600 to 400 in the area where Clark operates, cut the hunting season to 22 days and limited hunters to killing older bucks.

See **HUNTING**, Page 4A



Keith Kohl/Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Elk feed at the Wenaha Wildlife Area near Troy in January. Wildlife managers in some Western states cut back hunting this fall in areas where big game herds suffered above-normal losses during the 2016-17 winter.

