



THE DAILY ASTORIAN

145TH YEAR, NO. 223

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018

ONE DOLLAR

County manager defends himself

Moore outlines manager's role

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Cameron Moore remembered Wednesday how he studied the Clatsop County charter on his flight from Illinois to interview for the county manager job in 2016.

Nearly 2 1/2 years later, he views that moment in a less optimistic light. "So many times since I've been here, I've looked back and said, 'What a waste of time that seemed to be,'" Moore said, "but I think there are some things in the charter that are really important."

Public and private clashes between commissioners — many involving Moore — came to a head in April when the county manager chose to skip a Board of Commissioners meeting. Though county managers traditionally are expected to attend meetings to provide commissioners with information, he specifically cited criticism from Commissioners Kathleen Sullivan and Lianne Thompson in explaining the decision.

Moore, who had offered to resign over the feuds before, has since apologized for missing the meeting, though he did not back away from his comments. The comments exemplified the county manager's increasing willingness to publicize what he has called "rude" and "unprofessional" behavior by the commissioners.

At one point, Moore threatened legal action against the county over their statements and actions and asked for a financial deal to leave his position, sources said.

See MOORE, Page 7A

The Port of Astoria seizes an opportunity at Tongue Point



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A welder with WCT Marine & Construction works on a ship in a hangar at North Tongue Point.

Opportunity zone would encourage investment

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Gov. Kate Brown has nominated a census tract covering a large swath of eastern Astoria from the Columbia River Maritime Museum to North Tongue Point as one of Oregon's 86 opportunity zones.

If confirmed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the federal designation could lead to an infusion of money by investors hoping to lower their capital gains tax burden.

Opportunity zones were created by the federal tax overhaul endorsed by

See TONGUE POINT, Page 7A



Clark Caffall works on his vessel in the shipyard at North Tongue Point.

County to establish fund to help homeless

Property sale will provide seed money

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Following a nearly monthlong delay, Clatsop County will create a fund to help the homeless.

In a 4-1 vote Wednesday, county commissioners approved an idea to sell a 14-acre parcel in Hammond that could bring in more than \$500,000. About 12 percent of the revenue from the sale could be used to establish the homelessness fund.

Though the county has the 19th-largest population in the state, it has fifth-largest homeless population, according to 2017 statistics from Clatsop Community Action, a nonprofit that helps people find resources like housing.

"Currently financial resources are lacking to address either short or long-term strategies to reduce homelessness," County Manager Cameron Moore wrote in a summary presented to commissioners. "Clatsop County has an obligation to support and assist in addressing community needs such as homelessness with whatever resources we can make available."

Moore said, for instance, that money from the fund could go toward a new homeless shelter and re-entry program in a former Uniontown boarding house, which may hold up to 70 people. Helping Hands, a nonprofit that works with homeless people, recently bought the boarding house and plans to remodel it at an estimated \$350,000 price tag.

"I think we can really make this a community effort to try to address homelessness," Moore said.

Commissioners, in a 2-2 vote, rejected the idea when it was first presented at an April meeting. Commissioner Lisa Clement, who was absent for the April meeting, voted in favor of the proposal Wednesday.

Commissioners Lianne Thompson and Kathleen Sullivan voted "no" in April, asking for more time to discuss specifics about the fund, such as which organizations will receive money. Thompson reversed her vote Wednesday, while Sullivan maintained that the issue has still not been adequately discussed.

See FUND, Page 7A

Cannon Beach, chamber divided over visitor center

City wants chamber to take bigger role

By BRENNIA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The city and the chamber of commerce are at odds over how to fund the Visitor Information Center.

For the past 30 years, the city has funded operations, which amounts to about \$160,000 a

year. For the first time, the city proposed spending \$40,000, and has asked the chamber to cover the remaining \$120,000 with lodging tax dollars. The change would cut into the chamber's promotion program, which is financed by the lodging tax.

Paying \$120,000 to operate the Visitor Information Center would dip into about a third of the chamber's fund, which is anticipated to have \$385,655 earmarked to promote tourism during the offseason next year.

Since 2015, the amount of lodging taxes paid to the city

has increased by double digits almost every quarter, in part because of the team's marketing efforts, chamber board president Greg Swedenborg said. He argues the change in funding for the Visitor Information Center will substantially influence the ability to do marketing and promotion.

"Paying \$120,000 this year would make us come to a screeching halt," Swedenborg said during a budget hearing Wednesday.

See CENTER, Page 4A



Cannon Beach wants the chamber of commerce to take greater responsibility for financing a visitor center.



29467 20121