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ONE DOLLAR



Vacation rental properties are common near the waterfront in Cannon Beach.

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Vacation rental permits stagnate in Cannon Beach, defying perception

Growth seen in Seaside and Arch Cape

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Vacation rentals have surged in popularity on the North Coast, part of a pattern of tremendous growth in an industry expected to be worth \$36.6 billion nationally by the end of the year.

Seaside issued about 430 vacation rental permits last year, compared to 350 seven years ago, about a 23 percent increase.

In rural Clatsop County, vacation rentals went from 93 in 2010 to 161 last year, half of which were in Arch Cape.

But in Cannon Beach, contrary to public perception, the number of permitted vacation rentals has actually plateaued, sitting at about 200 a year for the past five years.

For people involved in the vacation rental industry, there isn't a clear answer why permits in Cannon Beach remain flat.

Unlike some communities, such as Gearhart and Manzanita, Cannon Beach does not cap the number of standard permits and the number of second homes remains largely unchanged.

Somewhat complicated regulations could possibly be a deterrent for property owners, City Planner Mark Barnes said, but not a large one.

"Whenever I talk to someone getting their first rental permit, I warn them,



Cannon Beach remains a popular destination for tourism on the Oregon Coast.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$36.6B **430** **200**

the expected worth nationally of the vacation rental industry by the end of the year

the number of vacation rental permits issued in Seaside last year, compared to 350 seven years ago

the number of vacation rental permits issued in Cannon Beach, which hasn't gone up or down by much in the past five years

"This is really complicated," he said. "In my five years here I've never had anyone throw up their hands and say it's not worth it... so my general feeling is our rules are not much of a disincentive."

Local property managers and real estate

agents echo this sentiment for the most part, arguing that in Cannon Beach the difference lies in the type of customer and the types of homes available.

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Clam digs off until March

State concerned about small clams

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Anyone hoping to dig for razor clams on Clatsop County beaches will have to wait until March.

The closure, announced by the state on Thursday, applies to an 18-mile stretch of beach between Tillamook Head in Seaside and the mouth of the Columbia River.

Fishery managers had already delayed the reopening of the season after a stock assessment revealed large numbers of small clams.

The Clatsop beaches are home to productive clam beds and are a popular destination for diggers. Clams harvested account for 95 percent of the razor clams pulled in Oregon. Razor clamming typically reopens on Oct. 1 each year after an annual conservation closure from July through September.

After the stock assessment results were made public in September, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife hosted a public meeting in Seaside last week, asking for feedback on potential management actions, including the closure of the season until spring.

See **CLAM DIGS**, Page 7A

Warrenton students shine in state report cards

Competency measured in English and math

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

Students in the Warrenton-Hammond School District once again rose to the top academically among Clatsop County schools in state report cards.

The accountability reports measure competency in English language arts and math, along with progress on metrics such as attendance and graduation.

The state Department of Education came under fire after The Oregonian revealed a plan by state schools chief Colt Gill not

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A monument to Scandinavian immigrants starts to take shape at a downtown park

Construction expected at \$1 million

By **KATIE FRANKOWICZ**
The Daily Astorian

Complete with birch trees, river views, steamer trunks and trolleys, the design for a park to celebrate Astoria's Scandinavian roots is ready.

The blueprint will be vetted by the Parks Advisory Board and the Historic Landmarks Commission and could reach

the City Council by December.

For the people involved, the downtown park has been a much-longed for recognition of their ancestors' history, something they wanted to build "before it was too late" — before descendants, traditions and stories disappear.

"Astoria is changing so quickly," Janet Bowler, vice chair of the Scandinavian Heritage Park Committee, said. "I think that is what's the real push here."

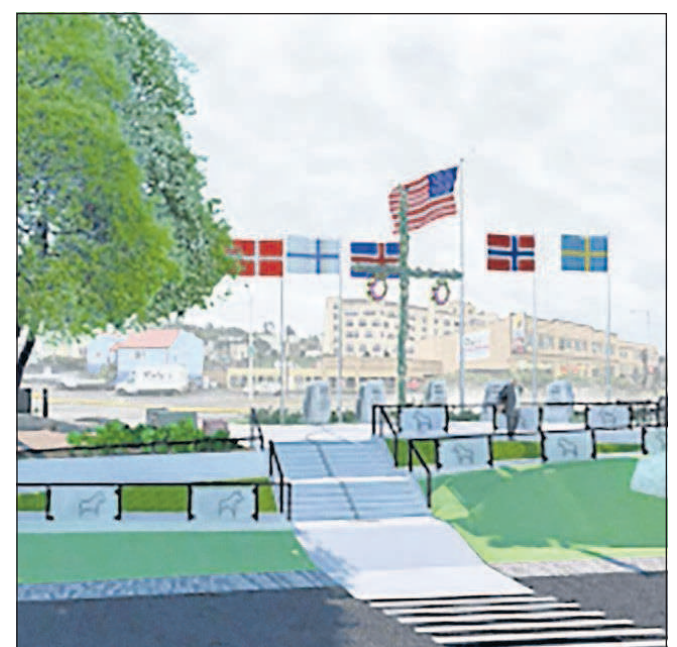
If all goes according to plan, the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association, the group behind the park, hopes con-

struction could go out for bid as early as March with groundbreaking in July, depending on funding.

It would be developed in Peoples' Park, a small, grassy, tree-filled wedge between Marine Drive and the Astoria Riverwalk near 16th Street. It is little used except by Filling Empty Bellies, a nonprofit that serves lunch to the homeless six days a week.

In the same way the Garden of Surging Waves on Duane Street tells the stories of Chinese immigrants to Astoria, the

See **MONUMENT**, Page 7A



The West Studio

A rendering of the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Park.

