

IN BRIEF

Astoria Library offers underground archive tours

The Astoria Library is providing tours of its basement archives for American Archives Month.

Library Director Jimmy Pearson will offer tours at 10 and 11:15 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 14 and Oct. 21. Tours are limited to 10 people. Call 503-325-7323 to reserve a place.

The library recently received a \$17,327 grant from the Oregon Cultural Trust to assist with processing and preservation. The archival project has received nearly \$80,000 in grants overall.

"I would say in two years we'll have it where I want it to be," Pearson said.

That will include a website, keyword-searchable documents and MacBooks for viewing archives in the library.

— *The Astorian*

Peninsula sands produce bivalve windfall

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The first fall clam dig of the season didn't disappoint.

Crisp weather, calm tides and clear morning conditions culminated in fast and frequent limits from Seaview to Oysterville over the weekend, the first of several digs slated for the Long Beach Peninsula this fall.

The three mornings attracted a big crowd that made an estimated 18,900 clam-digging trips, resulting in a harvest of 281,800 clams. This includes about 19,700 that were dug up but not kept — which the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife counts as wastage and applies against the overall season quota of around 5.2 million.

"Success was high for most everyone," Dan Ayres, the state coastal shellfish manager, said.

An average of 14.9 clams were retained per person, meaning virtually all diggers achieved a 15-clam limit. The average size was 3.8 inches.

"The average size was on the small side, as we expected. These clams will continue to grow and that will be noticeable in the months ahead," Ayres said. "I worked with my crew collecting catch and effort data on Saturday and was impressed with how many people thanked us for the chance to get out and dig and surprisingly there were actually very few complaints about the small size of the clams."

— *Chinook Observer*

More vaping lung illness cases reported in Oregon

State health officials say three additional cases of severe lung illnesses linked to vaping have been reported, bringing the total to eight.

The Oregon Health Authority said last week that two Oregon victims had died. That escalation prompted the state, lawmakers and Gov. Kate Brown to launch a barrage of anti-vaping messaging, including calls for action.

The Oregonian reported the five victims Oregon officials disclosed last week all shopped at legal retail marijuana stores. A health authority spokesman did not say if the three new cases did, too.

The state on Friday proposed a six-month ban on vaping products, part of a six-point list of options for the governor's consideration for stemming the tide of vaping-related illnesses.

Last week, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee directed the state Board of Health to exercise its emergency authority to ban all flavored vaping products, including those with THC.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there are more than 800 confirmed and probable cases nationwide.

— *Associated Press*

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• Robert Francis Cole, 43, of Astoria, was arrested Tuesday at his home for assault in the third degree and disorderly conduct in the second degree. Police said Cole drove home following a fight at Capricorn Pub and Fine Foods in Astoria. The victim was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital for significant injuries.

DUII

• Josh Mons Engeltad, 43, of Sherwood, was

arrested Tuesday for driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving, failure to perform duties of a driver in an accident with property damage and driving while suspended and revoked. His blood alcohol content was 0.19%. Police said he was involved in a hit and run earlier on U.S. Highway 26. Engeltad's car had extensive damage but he continued to drive away. The other vehicle sustained little to no damage.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

THURSDAY

Astoria Design Review Commission, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

Seaside Parks

Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Residents critical of state over Norriston Heights timber sale

Clearcut on hold for at least a year

By **NICOLE BALES**
The Astorian

Representatives from the Oregon Department of Forestry met with Arch Cape residents Monday following the decision to delay the Norriston Heights timber sale.

The discussion was facilitated by Clatsop County commissioners and staff who hope this will be the first of many talks until a solution is found. The state had planned a modified clearcut of more than 70 acres on the east side of U.S. Highway 101 between Arcadia Beach and Hug Point.

About 20 people would be affected by the timber sale, but more than 50 people attended the meeting in Astoria.

Among those in the audi-

ence were concerned residents along the North Coast and representatives from environmental groups and from Hampton Lumber.

Residents reiterated their concerns about the proposed clearcut and shared their disappointment in what they consider the Department of Forestry's lack of transparency.

Many said they are thankful the department delayed the sale, but would prefer permanent protection of the land instead of a suggested land exchange.

Jewell and Rockaway Beach residents cautioned against a land exchange, sharing claims about the impact of clearcuts on their drinking water.

The Department of Forestry had little to say and spent most of the discussion listening.

The timber sale is important to Hampton Lumber, as they are a purchaser of the timber produced from

the Department of Forestry's timber sale program, said Doug Cooper, the vice president of resources for Hampton Lumber.

But he also said the department should do a better job communicating with residents.

"I really do believe there is a lot more care and protection that the department puts into their timber sales, how they're laid out, all the concerns that they addressed that I don't think you were able to hear about today," Cooper said.

"Going forward, I would hope the staff do take the opportunity to inform people and tell them everything that they do in the timber sale moving forward."

Nadia Gardner, an Arch Cape resident and environmental advocate, agreed.

"I'm disappointed actually in ODF today," she said.

"Look at all the people in this room that you

could have presented to and shared what your process is and what your process has been for Norriston to show some of the steps you've taken to mitigate some of the concerns here. Because I do think every time you're in the room with the public this is an opportunity as representatives of a public agency to speak to us."

She asked for more dialogue in the future.

Liz Dent, the state forests division chief, said the department's focus is on moving forward methodically and thoughtfully to find a solution that has the "greatest permanent value."

She said the department is looking at ways to improve outreach and engagement. She also assured people that the timber sale was modified to exceed the department's standards.

"I don't think anyone kind of wants to be in this spot again a year from now," Dent said.

Vacation rental fees could soar in Seaside

Money would pay for compliance

By **R.J. MARX**
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Vacation rental license fees could go up 500% or more in January.

The annual fees vary from \$75 to \$150, depending on a rental property's occupancy. The fee could jump to \$500 to pay for a new code enforcement officer who would conduct inspections and enforcement.

The City Council and Planning Commission convened a workshop Monday to develop new guidelines to help promote affordable long-term rentals and workforce housing and reduce complaints relating to noise, litter and parking.

"Some of these concerns that have been brought up are the livability of the areas where there are" vacation rentals, David Posalski, the vice chairman of the Planning Commission, said. "That's really what these ideas are trying to address."

Raising the annual



R.J. Marx/The Astorian

Members of the Seaside Planning Commission and the City Council met Monday at City Hall.

license fee found unanimous support.

"It's not going to do any good to change the ordinances if we don't have this person in place," City Councilor Dana Phillips said of a code enforcement officer.

Inspection fees, currently at \$84, could also be hiked or incorporated into the overall cost of the annual license.

At the workshop, Planning Director Kevin Cupples laid out options designed to increase the stock of workforce housing and cut down on quality-of-life complaints.

While vacation rentals are not supported east of Neawanna Street, North and South Holladay Drive and South Roosevelt, areas west of U.S. Highway 101 could see fur-

ther limits on density, including a neighborhood cap.

For example, if the limit was 40%, four properties within a zone could receive conditional use permits as vacation rentals, Posalski said.

In calculating boundaries, officials could measure either a suggested 100 feet or 200 feet from the subject property site.

Areas on the Prom designated resort-residential would be exempt, as hotels are permitted outright.

Parking limits and the elimination of "stacked" parking in long driveways could also be added to the list of restrictions.

Other changes could be a limit of one vacation rental

permit per property owner, a requirement for a local emergency contact and annual compliance inspections.

While policy changes will be the topic of future Planning Commission sessions, the license fee will be a matter for a City Council vote.

Timing could be an issue, as business license applications will be mailed out in November.

Public hearings will be scheduled for Oct. 14 and Oct. 28.

Business licenses are usually sent out Nov. 15. "We may need to shorten the period people have to send it in, but it will still be reasonable," City Manager Mark Winstanley said.

Even if the council does approve funding, hiring a code enforcement officer could be a difficult process, Winstanley said.

"You're not hiring somebody who looks at this job and says, 'This is going to be fun.' It is a difficult job to fill," he said. "You'd be doing very well if you hired somebody by the beginning of 2020. I think that's the earliest."

Cannon Beach makes it illegal to feed wild animals

Rabbits not the only problem

By **NICOLE BALES**
The Astorian

CANNON BEACH — Although it may be tempting to feed cute wild animals, Cannon Beach is calling an end to it.

City councilors approved an ordinance Tuesday night making it illegal to feed wild animals. The restrictions include people placing food on their property for the animals.

Wild animals are described as birds, raccoons, squirrels, opossums and rabbits, among others.

Although rabbits have historically raised havoc in Cannon Beach, they are not the only ones people are feeding. "I think the rabbits were



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Cannon Beach is making it illegal to feed wild animals.

just the straw that broke the camel's back," Mayor Sam Steidel said.

Warrenton passed a similar ordinance in 2016 to discourage people from feeding elk. Gearhart followed earlier this year.

For Cannon Beach, it's

about not attracting wild animals and educating the public on why it is harmful to feed them.

The ordinance would classify attracting or feeding wildlife as a public nuisance. The violation will be a misdemeanor with a maximum fine

of \$500.

For the first year, the city will enforce the ban through warnings and education, but after that, people will start being cited.

People are still allowed to feed songbirds as long as the food is in a container that prevents access from wild animals.

People can also continue to feed wild animals they have kept under a valid permit issued by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Steidel said people have been thinking about an ordinance for a while. More recently, residents grew frustrated with people feeding seagulls because it creates a mess and is costly to clean.

"Also there's an aspect of being healthy for the animals," he said. "If you start feeding them all french fries, it's not natural for them."

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