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Justine McGee takes orders at the Bridgewater Bistro.

Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Proposed subdivision pitched in Seaside

Traffic safety a concern

By R.J. MARX
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety were the top concerns among planning commissioners as owners of the Cross Creek subdivision on N. Roosevelt sought a conditional use permit for a 72-unit complex.

The property comprises about 4 1/2 acres and is located near the TLC Fibre Federal Credit Union building near Neawanna Creek. Neighboring businesses include Randall Lee's Flooring America, Ticor Title and Seaside Car & Boat Wash.

Lots would be sold to builders, with units anticipated to be leased at \$1,200 to \$1,400 a month. Eight buildings with six units each and six buildings with four units each are proposed at the site.

The big thing missing from the owners' submission, Planning Commissioner Kathy Kleczek said, are measures designed to ensure pedestrian and bicycle safety at the entrance from U.S. Highway 101.

"When you create residences over there, you're going to have more and more people moving in that area by foot, and by bicycle, and none of these plans take those people into account," Kleczek said. "And that to me is a huge concern. When you're accelerating to get off the highway or accelerating to get onto the highway, and you've got somebody walking or biking through that same intersection, you're creating a crash condition that is now vehicular and pedestrian or bicycle."

See Subdivision, Page A6

Restaurants juggle hours as labor shortage causes strain

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

Tony Kischner has been involved in the restaurant industry for over 50 years. But the conundrum he and his wife, Ann, are facing at Bridgewater Bistro is something they haven't encountered.

With coronavirus restrictions lifted and the bustle of summer tourism in Astoria, it may seem like restaurants have finally put the struggle of the pandemic behind them. Yet for many, a labor shortage and other lingering challenges have prevented a return to normalcy.

"I've never seen anything like this," Tony Kischner said.

After Bridgewater lost staff in late spring for various reasons, the

'IT'S A HARD ENOUGH BUSINESS ALREADY DEALING WITH THE SUMMER PRESSURE.'

Ann Kischner | co-owner of Bridgewater Bistro

Kischners sought to replace them. They were surprised to come up empty. Not only were they unable to find experienced line cooks and servers, there was even a lack of applications from high school students interested in bussing and dishwasher jobs.

The interest they received for jobs

that typically require experience came from people who had never worked in restaurants.

"It's a hard enough business already dealing with the summer pressure," Ann Kischner said.

Several restaurants on the North Coast are facing similar obstacles. Some have temporarily closed or reduced hours at a time when business could be booming. A few have taken to social media to vent with anecdotes about people who apply for jobs but do not show up for interviews or who accept jobs but fail to appear for shifts.

The Oregon Employment Department, in a special research report released last week, said the state lost 286,000 jobs and unemployment hit

See Restaurants, Page A6



LEFT: Diane Dunn organizes reservations at the Bridgewater Bistro. RIGHT: Sarah Grundman buses a table at the Bridgewater Bistro.



AstoriUS Day

Downtown celebration set for Friday

By GRIFFIN REILLY
The Astorian

The Astoria Downtown Historic District Association is hosting a celebration Friday as a replacement and expansion for the annual sidewalk sale.

Business owners and event organizers hope the event — dubbed "AstoriUS Day" — can reinvigorate downtown after over a year of coronavirus restrictions.

"We want it to be a way to reconnect with and rediscover downtown Astoria," said Jeannine Grafton, the owner of RiverSea Gallery. "Let's get back downtown and find each other again."

See AstoriUS Day, Page A6

Teenager branches into landscaping

Carter received scholarship help

By GRIFFIN REILLY
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Westin Carter speaks with fervor as he illustrates how he hopes his business can expand local market share. His goals are precise. He's certain he can continue his company's success.

He's also only 18. A recent graduate of Seaside High School, Carter received a



\$2,000 scholarship from the Clatsop County Master Gardener Association. The award recognized his "significant horticultural skills and entrepreneurial acumen" in leading his landscaping business, Local Lawnboy LLC.

Carter describes the scholarship as incredibly generous, and appreciates how it gave him the opportunity to talk about his passions for plants and business.

"As an 18-year-old it's sometimes hard to relate to my friends

when I talk about whether or not to plant a hydrangea," he said. "This scholarship really let me show what I've learned over the years."

Carter credits Janet Wiloughby, a former client and a member of the master gardener association, with pushing him to apply for the scholarship as a senior.

"I don't think he approaches anything halfway," she said. "I thought I was a workhorse, but I pale in comparison to Westin."

Carter's business venture began six years ago with a bit of inspiration from his grandfather, Brent Wilson, who ascended the ranks in the banking industry in his career.

See Carter, Page A6



Westin Carter and Shelby Treick, a counselor at Seaside High School.

