

the Astorian

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\$1.50



Astoria senior Colton McMaster broke the meet records in the discus and shot put events at The Astorian Invitational on Thursday at Astoria High School. It was the first time the meet had been held since 2019 due to the pandemic. See the story on A5.

Lydia Ely/The Astorian

City's listening sessions explore housing options

State law directs city to make changes

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Astoria held the first of four listening sessions designed to inform development code changes that remove barriers for new housing construction.

Since the city's population tipped over 10,000, Astoria has been designated as a medium-sized city, meaning it must comply with state legislation for similar sized cities, which includes allowing duplexes on residential lots that allow single-family homes. The

city must also expand middle housing land division opportunities.

The changes in state law are designed to increase housing affordability and availability across Oregon.

Over the next several months, the city hopes to adjust the code to satisfy state law and incorporate recommendations made in Clatsop County's 2019 housing study. The city has until the end of the year to adopt the changes, otherwise the state code will automatically take effect.

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Arch Cape acquires timberland to help protect drinking water

'ARCH CAPE FOREST IS A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR ALL THE SMALL COMMUNITIES ON THE COAST. SHOWING THERE IS A WAY TO SECURE A CLEAN, CLEAR ABUNDANT WATER FUTURE FOR OUR TOWNS.'

Katie Voelke | executive director of the North Coast Land Conservancy

A \$4.7 million purchase by the water district

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The Arch Cape Water District Board on Thursday signed off on a \$4.7 million purchase of 1,441 acres of commercial timberland in the Arch Cape watershed, a move to protect drinking water that was years in the making.

During the meeting, the board also accepted \$2 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funds from Business Oregon, the final funding needed to purchase the property. The purchase

is primarily funded by the U.S. Forest Service, which invested \$3.5 million in the conservation project through the forest legacy program.

The project will turn the timberlands around the source of Arch Cape's drinking water into a community forest. The water district, which oversees 295 water connections, plans to significantly scale back logging and provide recreational opportunities while protecting water and wildlife habitat.

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Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Arch Cape will take greater control over its watershed.

WARRENTON

City commissioner faces ethics probe

Newton accepted infill on vacant lot

By ETHAN MYERS
The Astorian

WARRENTON — City Commissioner Rick Newton is under investigation by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission for the infill he received from a city-approved project.

Last summer, Big River Construction removed the infill from a road reconstruction project on S.W.

Alder Avenue. The project manager communicated with Newton before dumping the infill on a neighboring vacant lot owned by Newton and his girlfriend, who were planning to build housing units.

After a preliminary review of the case, the Ethics Commission voted unanimously this month

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Candidates for state House represent GOP's different paths



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Cyrus Javadi is a dentist in Tillamook.



Glenn Gaither is a retired corrections officer in Seaside.

Javadi, Gaither compete in primary

By ERICK BENGEL
The Astorian

In the Republican primary for state House District 32, Cyrus Javadi, a dentist in Tillamook, and Glenn Gaither, a retired corrections officer in Seaside, represent the different paths their party has taken in recent years.

Javadi, who has lived in Astoria, believes that, as a small-business owner, he has

insight into the needs of the North Coast's business community and workforce in the wake of destabilizing pandemic shutdowns.

If elected, Javadi said he would work to be responsive to people in the district and try to ensure that proposed

bill won't harm constituents. "I want the impact to be as small as possible and look for ways to get government out of the way when it is doing nothing other than obstructing and slowing things down," he said. Another priority, he

said, would be reexamining land use laws to address the region's lack of affordable housing.

Gaither is more focused on social and cultural issues. He was initially motivated to run, he said, because of what he saw taking place in Oregon school districts, particularly around topics such as sexuality and race.

A graduate of Knappa High School, Gaither has worked with the Knappa

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