



»INSIDE

Astorian



150TH YEAR, NO. 24

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022

\$1.50

COPELAND COMMONS

Location may complicate gap funding

Property is outside urban renewal district

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

The City Council was supportive last week of using urban renewal dollars to help an Astoria nonprofit close a funding gap for an affordable housing project downtown.

However, after a further look, the city discovered that the former hotel building on Marine Drive that the nonprofit Copeland Commons is looking to renovate is outside of the city's Astor East Urban Renewal District.

The district's boundaries extend to 14th Street

between Marine Drive and Exchange Street. The building the nonprofit is looking to renovate is just west of 12th Street.

Interim City Manager Paul Benoit said expanding the urban renewal district to include the property would be the city's best tool to assist the project.

He said the process is laborious, fairly expensive, would likely involve consultants and take up to several months.

"All that said, we have done it before and could do it again for a worthwhile project," Benoit said in an email.

Andy Davis, a board member of Copeland

See Copeland, Page A6

Contractor to campaign for City Council

Haefker a candidate for Ward 3

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Kris Haefker, a general contractor and housing provider, will run for the Astoria City Council in the November election.

Haefker will campaign for the downtown Ward 3 seat held by City Councilor Joan Herman. Herman has chosen not to seek a second, four-year term.

Elisabeth Adams, the owner of Wild Roots Movement & Massage downtown, announced her intent to run in July.

Haefker, originally from Portland, purchased his first property in Astoria on Grand Avenue in 2002. He repaired the vacant and dilapidated historic building and converted it into rental housing.

Haefker said he looked for a fixer-upper in Astoria after remembering the times he visited as a child with his father, who

was a window dresser for Butch's For Sir, a men's clothing store downtown.

He continued to take on big projects — essentially reconstructing numerous other historic buildings that fell into disrepair. He moved into one of them and works out of the basement. Haefker continues to maintain the buildings and has also completed work on many other homes throughout the city.

"I've become a housing provider, not that that was really my ambition," Haefker said. "I have become a housing provider because I love to fix up old buildings. So

See Haefker, Page A6



Kris Haefker



MORE INSIDE

Morrisey, Solem announce City Council campaigns in Seaside • A6



Garlic covered in snow on April 11 at 46 North Farm.

Farmers fatigued after unusual spring

Cold, wet weather caused disruptions

By ALEXIS WEISEND
The Astorian

Teresa Retzlaff, the owner of 46 North Farm in Olney, waited for that moment all farmers watch for in spring when it's dry enough to turn the beds over and mow down the cover crop to prepare for planting.

But as that moment was delayed, she became worried.

Then, her early spring plants were hit by an unexpected snowfall on April 11, stunting or killing many of her plants. A frost came in May when the last frost of the season usually comes in

April. The rain lasted until June.

Only about a quarter of her perennials could be harvested.

"I've been growing on the Oregon Coast for almost 20 years, and I don't think I've ever experienced a spring quite like this," she said.

With smaller summer harvests, farmers like Retzlaff are still feeling the effects of strange spring weather months later.

Tomatoes, corn, berries and other items have been sparse at farmers markets usually filled with a variety of produce.

North Coast Food Web, a nonprofit that runs an online farmers market, had a tough

time finding vendors this year and has sold less produce from local farmers due to the later season, Caitlin Seyfried, the food partnerships manager, said.

No farming year is typical, but people across the board have been impacted this year.

"It was like one thing after another ...," Retzlaff said. "It was very depressing, very worrying. And like I said, I've been through some really bad springs before and I've seen snow, you know, like a light snow in April before. I've seen like frosts that are late. I mean

See Farmers, Page A6

'I'VE BEEN THROUGH SOME REALLY BAD SPRINGS BEFORE AND I'VE SEEN SNOW, YOU KNOW, LIKE A LIGHT SNOW IN APRIL BEFORE. I'VE SEEN LIKE FROSTS THAT ARE LATE. I MEAN I'VE SEEN ELEMENTS OF ALL OF THESE THINGS, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM ALL IN ONE YEAR. IT WAS CRAZY. IT WAS REALLY UNEXPECTED.'

Teresa Retzlaff | owner of 46 North Farm in Olney

Advocates for domestic violence survivors look to help with housing, health care

Outreach is bilingual and bicultural

By ALEXIS WEISEND
The Astorian

The Harbor has hired a housing navigator and community health worker who are bilingual and bicultural to help survivors of domestic violence find housing and health care.

The new positions are intended to help address barriers within the Hispanic community.

"Just connecting with somebody that can help you navigate



systems and know that you're not alone when you do that, it's such a huge help and a benefit of the well-being of the individual or the families," Maritza Romero, the Latinx program director for The Harbor, said.

The housing navigator was hired in partnership with the Fair Housing Council of Oregon, a statewide civil rights organization, allowing The Harbor to assist people facing housing discrimination and help with landlord-tenant issues. The navigator connects people to local resources and agencies that can help them

'JUST CONNECTING WITH SOMEBODY THAT CAN HELP YOU NAVIGATE SYSTEMS AND KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT ALONE WHEN YOU DO THAT, IT'S SUCH A HUGE HELP AND A BENEFIT OF THE WELL-BEING OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR THE FAMILIES.'

Maritza Romero | Latinx program director for The Harbor

find housing and build or restore credit.

Romero said the housing crisis in Clatsop County already makes finding housing difficult. But people leaving situations of domestic violence face additional challenges, such as a loss of income or the need for child care.

The community health worker

will do community outreach, educating people on where they can access health care and how domestic violence can affect mental and physical health.

Having the housing navigator and community health worker be bilingual and bicultural was important to The Harbor. Language or immigration status for

survivors in the Hispanic community can be barriers to accessing housing and health care, Romero said.

It can be easier for survivors to talk about their situation with representatives of their community, she said.

"I know I lived and I've seen those struggles. Right?" Romero said. "So I feel that our community is able to connect with a bicultural, bilingual better."

Being visible through community outreach is a critical component of the new roles. Through presentations and community meetings, the housing navigator and community health worker educate people on their rights and available resources.

See Harbor, Page A2



7 29467 20121 7